

Global Studies Major Proposal

Laura Owen

I would like to propose a global studies major because of my passion for the languages, cultures, and traditions of people around the world. From the traveling I have done in high school and the classes I have taken at Hendrix on global religions and literature, I have found a fascination with trying to understand the way other cultures view the world. I would like to dedicate my focus at college to learning more about the major cultures of the non-Western world, as well as the phenomenon of globalization and how it affects non-Western people. Although the International Relations and Global Studies major provided some of this, I would like to focus more exclusively on the day-to-day interactions of ordinary people than on the political and business workings of institutions. I feel that the new International Relations major, while good and useful within its own right, needs a humanities-based counterpart, which my interdisciplinary major would satisfy.

In this major, I will take classes in many disciplines, including literature, religion, anthropology, politics, and history. Some classes will be of a general global nature, spanning the ideas of many cultures, to give myself a better view of the world as a whole. I have included Sociological Research Methods, as well as an independent study on globalization, which will serve to tie the cultures together thematically. I also plan to take regional classes to go into more depth within certain cultures, specifically those of Latin America, Asia, and Africa. In addition to these classes, I will be taking courses such as Environmental Philosophy and International Human Rights to add an ethical dimension to my view of cultures and globalization.

I aim to have all of these courses culminate in an independent thesis paper, which will serve as my capstone experience. In this paper, I will draw upon the theme of globalization and apply it as a case study to one or two of the regional cultures I found most interesting. Though I have yet to delve into the idea of globalization, I am hopeful that this paper will give me a deeper and more sympathetic understanding of the non-Western world and what its future holds.

I feel confident that this interdisciplinary global studies major will provide both the breadth and the depth that a liberal arts education aims for, with enough varied classes to gain other perspectives as well as a methods course to give the major cohesion and meaning.

General Global Courses:

*RELI 110	Religion in a Global Context
*ENGL 265	Masterpieces of World Literature
*PHIL 270	Environmental Philosophy
RELI 270	Ecotheology: Religion, Animals, and Earth
POLI 326	International Human Rights
SOCI 335	Sociological Research Methods
POLI 499	Theories of Globalization (Independent Study)

Regional Courses:

*CHIN 110-140	Beginning and Intermediate Chinese I & II
HIST 245	Imperial China
HIST 325	Africa and the Americas
PHIL 270	Philosophies of India
ANTH 235	Peoples and Cultures of Latin America

Senior Capstone Experience:

RELI 499	Independent Thesis Paper
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*Already taken courses

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Dr. Ian King, Committee Member

Professor Han Zhao, Committee Member