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Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences Programs

Global Studies (BA)

Location Offered:

Nanaimo

Credential:

Bachelor Degree

Options:

Major, Minor

Program Length:

4 Years

The Program

Globalization is changing who we are and how and where we live and work. To act responsibly in this new world it is becoming increasingly important to be able to view it globally, and to develop knowledge and skills oriented toward ecological and social sustainability.

The Global Studies program examines the causes and effects of, and responses to, globalization from a multidisciplinary perspective, drawing on insights from the academic disciplines of anthropology, economics, geography, political science, and sociology. Courses are individually and/or team-taught by faculty from these social science disciplines and create an inclusive learning and social environment that provides, by its nature, an opportunity for students from diverse backgrounds to learn from each other.

The program is designed to impart skills and knowledge to understand, live and work in an increasingly interdependent and changing world, and focuses on:

- International flows of capital and labour, emergence of transnational corporations, trading blocs, international economic organizations, international business practices and issues, current and alternative economic indicators.
- Social and cultural changes, inequality and social justice concerns, ethnic and intercultural relations, population and health issues, technology and society, social movements, community and international development alternatives.
- World regions of the biophysical and human environments; distribution, supply, and use of natural resources; environmental change, sustainability and human impact; land, agriculture and water development issues; environmental analysis methods.
- Contemporary political systems, prospects for state sovereignty and political change, international conflict, international governmental and non-governmental organizations, prospects for world order, and the continuing development of international law in a variety of key areas, including the environment, human rights, and non-governmental organizations.

Research will be undertaken in applied settings such as fieldwork abroad and service with non-governmental organizations.

Vancouver Island University also provides students with opportunities for international

experience and skill development both in Canada and abroad through:

- internships with governmental, non-governmental, and private organizations engaged in international development work;
- work study abroad;
- language training abroad;
- field school experience.

Global Studies provides excellent preparation for further study or careers in fields such as law, journalism, international business and marketing, international economic and social development, and areas of human rights and social justice.

Program Outline

Suggested Global Studies Specializations

The following four specializations and associated clusters of electives have been suggested by the Faculty for Global Studies Majors and Minors. Each of these provides a different topical focus and related career emphasis.

1. Human Security and Global Governance:

This specialization would prepare students who seek employment in governmental/intergovernmental institutions and NGOs. Human security as it relates to "the responsibility to protect", was adopted by the United Nations. This concept encompasses international policies to solve civil wars, ethnic conflicts, child soldiers, crimes against humanity and war crimes and development.

Suggested electives:

- ANTH 325, 332, 415, 419;
- GEOG 340, 352, 456;
- POLI 300, 301, 330, 400, 440;
- SOCI 360, 430.

2. Human Development

This specialization will provide a specialization opportunity for students who would like to work in public, non-profit, or private sector organizations focusing on social, cultural, and economic development issues. The focus will include community development, education, and health programs, and poverty reduction initiatives. An additional focus is on conducting research as a basis for evaluating social programs and policies.

Suggested electives:

- ANTH 311, 312, 325, 415, 419;
- ECON 320, 323;
- GEOG 340, 344, 346, 446;
- POLI 300, 301, 302, 330, 440;
- SOCI 320, 380, 430.

3. Environment, Sustainable Development and Resource Management

This specialization would address the needs of students who want to pursue careers or academic interest in addressing problems of global climate change, bio diversity loss, global pollution, deforestation, desertification, and other environmental and sustainable development issues. Global Studies courses would address resource management issues from an international and global perspective, including

institutions and strategies for addressing emerging crises. Students would also take courses in other departments depending on their area of interest, e.g., resource management, fisheries, or other related disciplines.

Suggested Electives:

- ANTH 312, 325, 332, 401, 415, 419;
- ECON 320, 323, 330;
- GEOG 350, 352, 456;
- POLI 457;
- SOCI 370, 405.

4. International Economic Relations

This specialization would address globalization issues related to trade, trade liberalization, foreign aid, international debt, transnational corporations, and similar issues. Global Studies would provide courses addressing international institutions, supplemented by courses in business, geography, economics, political science and other departments.

Suggested Electives:

- ANTH 325, 332, 401;
- ECON 306, 360;
- FNCE 423;
- GEOG 340, 350, 352, 456;
- POLI 300, 400, 457;
- SOCI 360.

Requirements for a Major

Students must fulfill all the Institutional B.A. degree requirements, including Degree English Requirements and courses listed below:

Years 1 and 2:

- Minimum of 54 credits with minimum 2.0 ("C") grade point average over the last 24 credits attempted, including ECON 211,212; POLI 200, 201; GLST 210, 211, and 212.
- Fulfillment of the Second Language Requirement (below) *or* 6 credits from CSCI chosen from CSCI 112, 115, 160, and 161
- 3 credits of statistics/research methodology must be chosen from SOCI 250, SSID 250, *or* GEOG 324;
- Recommended courses include: HIST 101, 102, GLST 100.
- **Note:** Students should choose elective courses carefully in order to complete prerequisites of upper-level courses.

Second Language Requirement: knowledge of a second language (other than English) can be met as follows:

- 6 credits of a post-secondary second language in the same language (other than English) from the Modern Languages Studies Department;

OR

- Dual Dogwood certificate in French language study or equivalent.

OR

- mother tongue different from English.

Students should also take note of "The Proficiency in Language and Culture Certificate" offered through the Modern Languages Studies Department. It consists of 15 credits: 4 courses (12 credits) at the first- and second-year level in the language of specialization, and 1 course (3 credits) relating to the culture or cultures associated with that language. Please see the Modern Languages Studies website for details.

Years 3 and 4: GLST 390, 391, 490, 491 and a minimum of 18 additional credits chosen from:

- ANTH 311, 312, 325, 332, 401, 415, 419;
- ECON 306, 320, 323, 330, 360, FNCE 423;
- GEOG 340, 344, 346, 350, 352, 446, 456;
- GLST 380, 381, 492;
- MEDI 301;
- POLI 300, 301, 302, 330, 392, 400, 440;
- SOCI 320, 360, 370, 380, 405, 430;

or other approved upper-level courses with an international focus at the Chair's discretion. Students interested in ethnographic research methodology may want to consider ANTH 326 in addition to their requirements for the major.

Requirements for a Minor

Students must fulfill all the Institutional B.A. degree requirements, including Degree English Requirements and courses listed below:

Years 1 and 2:

- Minimum of 54 credits with minimum 2.0 ("C") grade point average over the last 24 credits attempted, including ECON 100 or GLST 200 (students are exempt from this requirement if they completed ECON 211 and 212), POLI 201, GLST 210, GLST 211, and GLST 212;
- 3 credits of statistics/research methodology must be chosen from SOCI 250, SSID 250, *or* GEOG 324.
- Recommended courses include: HIST 101, 102, GLST 100;

Note: Students should choose elective courses carefully in order to complete prerequisites of upper-level courses.

Years 3 and 4: GLST 390, 391, 490, 491 and a minimum of 6 additional credits chosen from:

- ANTH 311, 312, 325, 332, 401, 415, 419;
- ECON 306, 320, 323, 330, 360, FNCE 423;
- GEOG 340, 344, 346, 350, 352, 446, 456;
- GLST 380, 381, 492;
- MEDI 301;
- POLI 300, 301, 302, 330, 392, 400, 440;
- SOCI 320, 360, 370, 380, 405, 430;

or other approved upper-level courses with an international focus at the Chair's discretion. Students interested in ethnographic research methodology may want to consider ANTH 326 in addition to their requirements for the minor.

