

# Academic Assessment Plan

## B.A. Program in International Studies

May 2016

### Mission and Vision

In his acclaimed 1966 work, *The Arrogance of Power*, Senator J. William Fulbright wrote, “The highest function of higher education is what might be called the teaching of things in perspective, toward the purposes of enriching the life of the individual, cultivating the free and enquiring mind, and advancing the effort to bring reason, justice, and humanity into the relations of men and nations.”

It is the mission of the Fulbright College Program in International Studies to live up to that charge through an interdisciplinary exploration of the world and its peoples, including its cultures, economics, politics, societies, and the environment. It utilizes such varied subjects as anthropology, economics, geography, history, political science, sociology, and world languages, and it draws on the resources and expertise of many academic departments across campus. Students in the program cultivate intercultural competency and gain international experience through internships, language study, and study abroad. And they become engaged in critical global issues through classroom learning, service opportunities, and research experiences.

### Program Goals

1. **International Focus:** Lead students to develop a broad understanding of the world in which we live, with the ability to think, read, and write critically about the interactions between nations and states, and the global challenges that we collectively face;
2. **Interdisciplinary Focus:** Teach students to understand how different academic fields work together to study foreign affairs, the changing world order, global ecologies and economies, and the interaction of peoples and cultures across political and physical boundaries;
3. **Area Studies Focus:** Direct students to deepen their knowledge of at least one world area outside the United States, including Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, and the Middle East ;
4. **Experience and Skills Focus:** Facilitate student efforts to apply skills and gain experience relevant to International Studies through language training, study abroad, internships, service opportunities, and research;
5. **Intercultural Focus:** Cultivate students’ ability to apply their knowledge and skills in order to communicate, interact, and cooperate in meaningful and sensitive ways with people of diverse backgrounds, cultures, faiths, languages, and nationalities.

### Learning Outcomes

International Studies students will:

1. Cultivate broad, interdisciplinary understanding of international cultures, economics, geographies, histories, politics, and societies through coursework in the International Studies core and through advanced courses in multiple humanities and social science fields, including but not limited to Economics, Geography, History, and Political Science;

2. Develop deeper understanding of a chosen world area through participation in an area studies program (i.e. African and African-American Studies, Asian Studies, European Studies, Latin American and Latino Studies, and Middle East Studies);
3. Learn to think, research, and analyze critically through engagement with area studies, international affairs, and global issues;
4. Develop effective written and oral communications skills;
5. Engage with the world and build intercultural competencies through such high-impact practices as research, study abroad, internships, and service-learning;
6. Become functionally competent in at least one modern world language other than English.

## Assessment of Student Learning

### *Direct Methods*

- **INST 2013 Introduction to International Studies (gateway):** every International Studies major must take the introductory course, which is designed to provide a fundamental understanding of international affairs, disciplinary approaches to global issues, and the contours of contemporary area studies (*Meets Learning Outcomes 1, 3, and 4*).
- **INST 4003 International Studies Seminar (capstone):** every International Studies major must take the International Studies Seminar to meet the Fulbright College Writing Requirement for graduation. Because the course includes a topical research component, it provides the ideal opportunity to assess the skills and knowledge base students have attained as they come to the close of their undergraduate degree (*Meets Learning Outcomes 1, 3, and 4*).
- **Area Studies Requirement:** every International Studies major successfully complete a minimum of 9 hours of courses from one of the Fulbright College Area Studies Programs (*Meets Learning Outcome 2*).
- **Gateway Survey (attached):** this will serve as an entry survey to be collected from all students in the INST 2013 introductory course to assess the expectations and plans for new International Studies majors and to gauge their readiness for meeting the desired learning outcomes. The results will then be compiled and reviewed by the Director of International Studies and by the International Studies Steering Committee (*Meets Learning Outcomes 1-6*).
- **Capstone Survey (attached):** this will serve as an exit survey to be collected from all students in the INST 4003 International Studies Seminars. The results will then be compiled and reviewed by the Director of the International Studies Program and by the International Studies Steering Committee (*Meets Learning Outcomes 1-6*).
- **Advanced Language Courses:** students will demonstrate fundamental language competency by successfully passing at least two advanced (3000-level or above) courses in a single world language other than English (*Meets Learning Outcome 6*).

### *Indirect Methods*

- **Course Grades and Student GPA:** information on grades from INST 2013 and INST 4003 sections will allow the program to measure the quality of student learning in the International Studies core. The program will also collect the overall GPAs of international studies majors in INST 2013 and INST 4003 at the end of each semester to establish

long-term trends on International Studies students' academic attainment (*Meets Learning Outcomes 1-4*).

- **Honors Research Participation:** the program will collect information on graduating Honors students, including their research focus, topics, and honors level, to assess the depth and breadth of work completed by our top students (*Meets Learning Outcome 5*).
- **Study Abroad Participation:** the program will track the number of International Studies students who participate in a study abroad program each academic year in order to determine the engagement our majors have with off-campus and international programs (*Meets Learning Outcome 5*).
- **Internship Participation:** the program will track the number of International Studies students who complete an internship each academic year in order to determine the engagement our majors have with relevant work experience (*Meets Learning Outcome 5*).

### **Assessment Timeline**

- Instructors in INST 2013 and INST 4003 sections will report their course grade averages to the Director of International Studies at the end of each semester, and the Director will report those to the Dean of Fulbright College by June 1st each year.
- The INST 2013 and INST 4003 will administer the gateway and capstone surveys to students in the courses. The Director will then compile the results for an annual assessment report to be submitted to the Fulbright Dean by 1 June each year.
- The Director of International Studies will collect data on student study abroad and internship experiences by May of each year and submit that data with the June report.

### **Use of Results**

- The Director of International Studies, in consultation with the INST Steering Committee, will include an analysis of the reported findings and recommend new strategies or curricular changes as suggested in the results.

## International Studies Gateway Survey

Term: \_\_\_\_\_

INST 2013 Section: \_\_\_\_\_

Current Class Status: (freshman, sophomore, junior, senior): \_\_\_\_\_

1. Why did you decide to become an International Studies Major in Fulbright College? What, if any, was your previous college and major
2. What types of international experience did you possess before declaring the major (e.g. language training, travel abroad, service in international organizations, etc.)?
3. Do you plan to designate a co-major in addition to International Studies? If so, which co-major do you plan to declare and why?
4. Which area study do you plan to study as part of your major? Why did you choose this world area?
5. Which world language do you plan to study as part of your major? Why have you chosen this language? Do you plan to study additional languages?
6. Do you plan to study abroad during your undergraduate years? If so, where would you wish to go and why?
7. Do you plan to participate in an internship during your undergraduate years? If so, what expectations do you have for your internship experience?
8. In what ways do you anticipate participating in extracurricular clubs or service opportunities (on or off campus) during your undergraduate studies?
9. What are your current plans after graduation?
10. To what extent did the INST 2013 Introduction to International Studies course provide you with a fundamental understanding of international affairs and global issues?

## International Studies Capstone Survey

Term: \_\_\_\_\_

INST 4003/4003H Section: \_\_\_\_\_

Expected Graduation Date: \_\_\_\_\_

1. My International Studies major has increased my general understanding of international affairs and global issues.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
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2. My International Studies major has increased my appreciation of global cultures.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
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3. My International Studies major has increased my understanding of global economics.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
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4. My International Studies major has increased my familiarity with world geography.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
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5. My International Studies major has increased my knowledge of modern world history.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
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6. My International Studies major has increased my understanding of global politics.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
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7. My International Studies major has led me to deepen my knowledge of my chosen area studies focus.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
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8. How would you rate your spoken proficiency in your selected foreign language?

Beginner	Intermediate	Advanced
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9. How would you rate your reading proficiency in your selected foreign language?

Beginner	Intermediate	Advanced
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10. How would you rate your writing proficiency in your selected foreign language?

Beginner	Intermediate	Advanced
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11. My International Studies major has prepared me to succeed in my post-graduation plans.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
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12. If you had a second major, which co-major did you choose and why?

13. What, in your view, are the strongest aspects of the International Studies Program?

14. What, in your view, are the weakest aspects of the International Studies Program?

15. To which country(ies) and with which program(s) did you study abroad?

16. In which internships did you participate related to International Studies?

17. In which service opportunities or extracurricular organizations related to International Studies did you participate?

18. To what extent did the INST 4003/4003H International Studies Seminar allow you either to develop or apply your knowledge and skills as an International Studies major?

19. What are your post-graduation plans?

20. Please provide any other comments on the International Studies major.