

Global Studies

The MA degree in Global Studies (GS) is a one-year Masters program. It is an interdisciplinary program designed to provide the fundamentals of contemporary international issues as well as detailed knowledge on particular world regions or countries. The MA degree in Global Studies provides wide flexibility in crafting an individual interdisciplinary program. Students tailor the content of their programs within a defined framework to suit their interests. Specific course work is chosen in consultation with a faculty adviser.

Applying for Graduate Admission

Thank you for considering UC Berkeley for graduate study! UC Berkeley offers more than 120 graduate programs representing the breadth and depth of interdisciplinary scholarship. The Graduate Division hosts a complete list (<https://grad.berkeley.edu/admissions/choosing-your-program/list/>) of graduate academic programs, departments, degrees offered, and application deadlines can be found on the Graduate Division website.

Prospective students must submit an online application to be considered for admission, in addition to any supplemental materials specific to the program for which they are applying. The online application and steps to take to apply can be found on the Graduate Division website (<https://grad.berkeley.edu/admissions/steps-to-apply/>).

Admission Requirements

The minimum graduate admission requirements are:

1. A bachelor's degree or recognized equivalent from an accredited institution;
2. A satisfactory scholastic average, usually a minimum grade-point average (GPA) of 3.0 (B) on a 4.0 scale; and
3. Enough undergraduate training to do graduate work in your chosen field.

For a list of requirements to complete your graduate application, please see the Graduate Division's Admissions Requirements page (<https://grad.berkeley.edu/admissions/steps-to-apply/requirements/>). It is also important to check with the program or department of interest, as they may have additional requirements specific to their program of study and degree. Department contact information can be found here (<https://guide.berkeley.edu/archive/2024-25/graduate/degree-programs/>).

Where to apply?

Visit the Berkeley Graduate Division application page (<http://grad.berkeley.edu/admissions/apply/>).

1. Students must COMPLETE a minimum of 24 units, at least twelve of which must be graduate-level course work (courses numbered 200-299). Two-thirds of *all* course work must be letter-graded. Thus no more than a third of all units may be taken on an S/U or P/NP grading basis.
2. Students are required to complete two Global Studies proseminars, one in the fall, the other in the spring. They must also enroll in at least two social science and two area studies courses (in the same area).
3. Capstone – The Capstone project focuses on synthesizing the material from students' coursework and independent research on

their declared region of interest. This project includes two parts: a Capstone paper and a Conference presentation. Students will write a 20-25 page Capstone paper during the Spring term (Due one week before the conference) and present their paper on a panel at the Capstone Conference in early May.

Possible courses include:

AFRICAM 240	Special Topics in Cultural Studies of the Diaspora	1-4
AFRICAM 299	Individual Study or Research	1-4
ANTHRO 250A	Seminars in Social and Cultural Anthropology: Psychological Anthropology	4
ANTHRO 250V	Seminars in Social and Cultural Anthropology: Tourism	4
ANTHRO 250X	Seminars in Social and Cultural Anthropology: Special Topics	4
ANTHRO 280B	Seminars in Area Studies: Africa	4
ANTHRO 299	Directed Research	1-12
CHICANO 159	Mexican Immigration	4
CY PLAN 284	Urban Theory	3
DEV ENG 215	Global Poverty: Challenges and Hopes in the New Millennium	4
DEVP 221	Climate, Energy and Development	3
DEVP C253	International Economic Development Policy	3
EDUC 290A	Special Topics Seminars: Policy, Organization, Measurement, and Evaluation	1-4
ECON 162	The Chinese Economy	3
ECON 210B	Topics in European Economic History	3
ECON 281	Seminar in International Trade and Finance	3
ENGIN 157AC	Engineering, The Environment, and Society	4
ENE,RES 273	Research Methods in Social Sciences	3
ENE,RES 290	Seminar in Energy and Resources	1-4
ESPM 260	Governance of Global Production	3
ETH STD 240	Series in Comparative Transnational Theories and Methods	4
GEOG C155	Race, Space, and Inequality	4
GEOG 167AC	Decolonial Border Geographies	4
GLOBAL 210	MA Seminar for Global Studies	4
GLOBAL 150Q	Special Topics In Asia	4
GLOBAL 154M	Special Topics: Global Middle East	4
HISTORY 103F	Proseminar: Problems in Interpretation in the Several Fields of History: Asia	4
HISTORY 103U	Proseminar: Problems in Interpretation in the Several Fields of History: Comparative History	4
HISTORY 130	American Foreign Policy	4
HISTORY 152A	Topics in the History of the British Isles: Ireland Since the Union	4
HISTORY 280B	Advanced Studies: Sources/General Literature of the Several Fields: Europe	4
HISTORY 280F	Advanced Studies: Sources/General Literature of the Several Fields: Asia	4
HISTORY 280H	Advanced Studies: Sources/General Literature of the Several Fields: Africa	4
HISTORY 280M	Advanced Studies: Sources/General Literature of the Several Fields: Middle East	4

HISTORY 280U	Advanced Studies: Sources/General Literature of the Several Fields: Studies in Comparative History	4
HISTORY 283	Historical Method and Theory	4
HISTORY 285B	Research Seminars: Europe	4
IAS 299	Directed Reading	1-4
INFO 290	Special Topics in Information	1-4
MELC 298	Seminar	1-4
NUC ENG C285	Nuclear Security: The Nexus Between Policy and Technology	4
PB HLTH 206D	Programs and Policies in Global Nutrition	3
PB HLTH 211	Health and Human Rights	3
POL SCI 144	American Foreign Policy Toward Asia	4
POL SCI 146A	African Politics	4
POL SCI C203	Subnational and Urban Politics in Low and Middle-Income Countries	4
POL SCI 209A	Comparative Political Economy	4
POL SCI 210	Selected Topics in Comparative Politics	4
POL SCI 211	Special Topics in Political Theory	4
POL SCI 211A	The Law of Nations	4
POL SCI 212C	History of Political Thought: Modern (French Revolution through World War II)	4
POL SCI 215A	Approaches to Contemporary Political Theory	4
POL SCI 220A	Theories of International Relations	4
POL SCI 221	International Security	4
POL SCI 222	Religion and International Relations	4
POL SCI 226A	International Political Economy	4
POL SCI 228	Civil Conflict and International Intervention	4
POL SCI 244C	Approaches to Chinese Politics	4
POL SCI 245B	International Relations in East Asia	4
POL SCI 247G	The Comparative Politics of the Welfare State	4
POL SCI 249A	Special Topics in Area Studies	4
POL SCI 274	American Political Development	4
POL SCI 292	Directed Advanced Study	0.5-12
POL SCI 290	Dissertation Research	4
PUB POL 240A	Decision Analysis, Modeling, and Quantitative Methods	4
PUB POL 255	Introduction to Security Policy	4
PUB POL 286	US National Security Policy	4
PUB POL 290	Special Topics in Public Policy	1-4
SEASIAN 175	Chinese Diaspora in Southeast Asia	4
SOCIOL 145	Social Change	4
SOCIOL 169C	Cross-Cultural Communications	3-4
SOCIOL 179	Selected Topics in Area Studies	4
SOCIOL 280A	Advanced Study in Substantive Sociological Fields: Law	3
SOCIOL 280P	Advanced Study in Substantive Sociological Fields: Area Studies	3
SOCIOL 280Y	Sociology of Globalization	3
SOCIOL 280Z	Advanced Study in Substantive Sociological Fields: Social Policy	3

Global Studies Courses

GLOBAL 210 MA Seminar for Global Studies 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Spring 2025, Fall 2024

This reading seminar, required of all MA students in Global Studies, will approach a particular topic in global studies each year. Covering a variety of themes, students will engage with the literature of the field, and begin to study the ways in which particular problems have been approached from a variety of disciplinary perspectives in the social sciences.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 2 hours of seminar per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 5 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Global Studies/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

GLOBAL 210E Europe/Russia In Global Context 3 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Spring 2024

This course seeks to introduce Global Studies majors to the regions of Europe and Russia and its significance to the larger study of the globe. The course will be divided into three parts based on the three concentrations within the Global Studies major: Society and Culture, Development, Peace and Conflict. Each of these sections, examines key topics for understanding the region and its relationship to other parts of the globe.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Global Studies/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

GLOBAL 210L Latin America In Global Context 3 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Spring 2024

This course examines the region of Latin America and the Caribbean and its significance to the larger study of the globe. The course will be divided into three parts based on the three concentrations within the Global Studies program: Society and Culture, Development, Peace and Conflict. Each of these sections examines key topics for understanding the region and its relationship to other parts of the globe.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Global Studies/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

GLOBAL 210M Middle East In Global Context 3 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Spring 2024

This course provides an introduction to the Middle East region, broadly defined. It takes an interdisciplinary approach, joining the fields of history, political science, anthropology, religious studies, economics, and Middle Eastern studies. Students will be introduced to major historical themes in the study of Middle Eastern societies that are relevant in understanding contemporary intellectual debates and the origins, nature, and trajectory of war and peace in the region. Focusing on the 20th century, the course explores how the modern Middle East evolved politically, socially, and economically into a region burdened by webs of power and influence.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Global Studies/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

GLOBAL 250Q Special Topics In Asia 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Fall 2023

Advanced multidisciplinary research in current issues and topics related to Asia. This Global Studies course will focus on specific issues related to Asia with appropriate comparative material included. Topics will change depending on the instructor teaching.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes. Students may enroll in multiple sections of this course within the same semester.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Global Studies/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

GLOBAL 254M Special Topics: Global Middle East 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Fall 2023

This course explores special topics, based on current research and interests and is focused on at least one global region. Using a social science perspective, students will engage in critical thinking about the way in which a particular region, or subset of a region, interacts with other states and societies.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes. Students may enroll in multiple sections of this course within the same semester.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Global Studies/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

GLOBAL 273 International Human Rights 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Fall 2023

This course will explore the philosophical evolution of human rights principles in the realm of political theory and the influence of such principles as they have transformed into a coherent body of law. We will focus specifically on issues in international human rights law; the approach will be both thematic and comparative. Topics will include but are not limited to: human rights diplomacy; the influence of human rights in international legal practice; cultural and minority rights; genocide and the world community; cultural relativism and national sovereignty; international law and international relations; individual and collective rights; migration, labor, and globalization; and national, international, and nongovernmental organizations.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Global Studies/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

GLOBAL 292 Directed Study and Research 1 - 4 Units

Terms offered: Not yet offered

Directed study and research for graduate students in Global Studies. Primarily for graduate students engaged in an interdisciplinary exploration of Global Studies-related topics in subject matter not covered in available course offerings. The course will involve directed readings and writing of a report.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Consent of instructor

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3-3 hours of seminar per week

Summer:

6 weeks - 2.5-10 hours of seminar per week

8 weeks - 1.5-7.5 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Global Studies/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Formerly known as: Latin American Studies 292

GLOBAL 298 Directed Group Studies for Graduate Students 1 - 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Spring 2023

Group studies of selected topics which vary from year to year.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 1-4 hours of seminar per week

Summer:

6 weeks - 2.5-10 hours of seminar per week

8 weeks - 2-7.5 hours of seminar per week

10 weeks - 1.5-6 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Global Studies/Graduate

Grading: The grading option will be decided by the instructor when the class is offered.

GLOBAL 299 Directed Reading 1 - 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2024

Individual conferences intended to provide directed reading in subject matter not covered by available seminar offerings.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 1-4 hours of independent study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Global Studies/Graduate

Grading: Offered for satisfactory/unsatisfactory grade only.

GLOBAL 375 Professional Training: Teaching in Global Studies 2 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Fall 2023

This course is intended to prepare Global Studies MA students to be instructors in interdisciplinary/multi-departmental courses. It will serve as a forum to discuss problems and create innovative solutions to these problems. Focusing on course construction and operation, specialists from various disciplines will discuss strategies for moving outside of their areas of specialization and into broader areas of Global Studies. Graduate students will be provided training in building their own interdisciplinary courses from the ground up. Organizing syllabi, preparing lectures, devising written assignments, leading discussion sections, constructing evaluative mechanisms and grading them, will all be covered over the course of the semester.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Appointment as a graduate student instructor for one of the Global Studies or Political Economy undergraduate courses

Credit Restrictions: Required for graduate student instructors teaching in the Global Studies or Political Economy programs for the first time.

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit up to a total of 8 units.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 2 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Global Studies/Professional course for teachers or prospective teachers

Grading: Offered for satisfactory/unsatisfactory grade only.