Global Studies News

A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

This spring we continued the strong tradition of sending off our seniors with a year-end celebration and a variety of student-centered events, such as the honor society induction. In this issue, you’ll read about the best of a Global Studies (GT) education, namely how GT opportunities transformed students’ views of themselves and the world they live in. For two students, their views shifted during a local internship and at a US Naval Academy conference in the USA, while for a third, his were remade farther afield, as part of studying in South Africa.

With these fresh perspectives of the globe, domestic opportunities, and of themselves, our graduating seniors are setting off in many different directions. You can read about future Peace Corps Volunteers, prestigious scholarships they’ve won, and imminent graduate study in Europe and here. And those are only the plans we’ve captured here. (There’s much more in the newsletter, too.)

With bittersweet feelings, we bid farewell to the Global Studies seniors, so many of whom regretted how the pandemic had forced the loss of a “normal” college experience. Thus, they cherished their final year so much more. It is sweet because we know they will continue to learn and grow, and change the world around them. They will continue to be “men and women for others,” the spirit of Loyola as a Catholic university in the Jesuit tradition.

Best,

Carsten Vala, Ph.D.
Director, Global Studies Program

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For Faculty:
How to Submit New Courses to Global Studies

Faculty wishing to submit courses for consideration to the Global Studies curriculum should e-mail the Director with the following:

- course name and number;
- a sample syllabus (or detailed course description, if the syllabus does not yet exist), and the area(s) of the GT curriculum that the course would fulfill (for example: a new 300-level non-Western History course might serve as an Analytical course as well as a Topic 2 course).

Faculty from any department may submit courses at any time. Courses are reviewed on a rolling basis.

NEW GLOBAL STUDIES COURSES

HS470 Sem: European Imperial Societies, Topical 3
HS495 Sem: East Asia in the Global 1960s, Analytica, Topical 1, Topical 2, Topical 3
PS309 Political Economy of Development, Topical 3
PS336 Politics and Globalization of Taiwan, Topical 1, Topical 3
PS358 Global Environmental Politics, Topical 1

CHANGES TO THE HISTORY CURRICULUM

The History Department has changed their curriculum, effective for Catalogue year 2022—2023. Because of this you will see most classes reflected twice in student planning. It may be easier to go to our website (https://www.loyola.edu/academics/global-studies/curriculum/major) to see which class of the two you should register for. Each HS course that is being offered will be bolded if it is offered in the upcoming semester. Then after the class it will tell which students can register for it. Example:

One of the following history courses

- **HS100 Encountering the Past** (open to students using the 2022 - 2023 academic catalogue and beyond)
- **HS101 Making of the Modern World: Europe** (open to students using the academic catalogue year prior to 2022 - 2023)
- **HS103 Making of the Modern World: United States II** (open to students using the academic catalogue year prior to 2022 - 2023)

Please email nfenchak@loyola.edu if you have any questions about this.
FACULTY NEWS


Dr. Nune Hovhannisyan and Dr. Fabio Mendez, of the Economics Department recently had an article titled “Earnings Losses of Displaced Workers in Times of Crises” accepted for publication in Contemporary Economic Policy.

Nina Kushner and Andrew Israel Ross, eds., Histories of French Sexuality: Enlightenment to the Present (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2023).


Dr. David Carey was selected as an alternate on a Fulbright award to Edinburgh, Scotland.


Student Review of SC376 Israel-Palestine: Conflict Narratives, Media Framing and Peacebuilding

Caroline Smuts, ’25

This past fall I had the pleasure of taking Dr. Michelle Gawerc’s Sociology 376 course “Israel-Palestine: Conflict Narratives, Media Framing & Peacebuilding”. This course takes you through the history of the Palestinian and Jewish people, how the conflict between the two peoples began, how the conflict escalated, and what the conflict looks like today. While learning this information you use the sociological lens to view this conflict with a sociological mind. During the course we read published works from the perspectives of both parties as well as literature from outside perspectives. Dr. Gawerc does an amazing job guiding students through this process and ensures that her students really understand the concepts and information being taught in this course. Before taking this course, I had some knowledge of this conflict and what I thought was the cause of the dispute. After taking this course, my knowledge was vastly expanded and my opinion on the cause was no longer black and white.
Elena Johnston, Class of 2024 (Global Studies and Communication)

Elena will be doing a Pathways Public Affairs Internship at USAID Bureau of Europe and Eurasia.

Juan Lopez, Class of 2024

Juan will be doing the Maymester in Taiwan where they will overnight in a Buddhist temple and visit several government tech parks and TSMC, the largest semiconductor factory in the world.

After a week at home in Puerto Rico, Juan will be participating in a fellowship program at the University of Washington for seven weeks as a PPIA fellow for the Junior Summer Institute. He will be taking Masters level classes for people who plan to get into a career in public policy. Upon his return, he hopes to help rising Global Studies majors with their applications.

Jeremy Ahearn, Class of 2023

Congratulations to Jeremy for being the 2023 Global Studies medalist. This award is given to a Global Studies Major each year based on GPA in Global Studies courses, cumulative GPA and overall performance.

After graduating from Loyola, Jeremy will begin in September at the London School of Economics for a MSc in Development Studies.

Anna Young, Class of 2023

Anna Young won a Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship award. Anna will spend the 2023—2024 academic year working as an English Teaching Assistant in Spain.

Annabella Ritter-Pleitez, Class of 2025 (Global Studies and Political Science)

Annabella presented and won first place at the Undergraduate Research Colloquium. She presented on the Serbia-Kosovo conflict and her research focused on the national identities of both the Serbs and the Albanians who live there. While Annabella was on a study abroad trip with Dr. Schneider in the Balkans she was curious about why the conflict still persists, so her research question focused on why Kosovo is so crucial to both of these ethnic groups. She concluded with how Serbia’s claim to Kosovo and Kosovo’s claim to independence are ingrained in not only the government levels but also in each individual, and as a result, there may not be a satisfactory solution anytime soon.

Caroline Smuts, Class of 2025

Caroline won a Gilman Scholarship for Study Abroad. The Gilman is sponsored by the State Department, and it’s extremely competitive. Caroline was the only Loyola applicant to receive the award during this cycle. Caroline will be studying in Belgium in the Fall of 2023.

Nathan Sellers, Class of 2023

Nathan will be commissioning as a Second Lieutenant Military Intelligence Officer in the Army National Guard. In the Fall he will be attending American University’s School of International Service for an MA in U.S. Foreign Policy and National Security.

Sam Branyan, Class of 2023

Sam was accepted to serve as Peace Corps Volunteer in Colombia starting September 2023.

Sam Cubias, Class of 2023

Sam was accepted to serve as Peace Corps Volunteer in Fiji starting in September 2023.
**Internship with the Esperanza Center**

Rebecca Grunski ’23

I started interning with the Esperanza Center as a grant processing intern this semester. I am taking the internship class through the writing department, as I am a writing minor as well as a GT major. Doing an internship through this class has allowed me to intern for an outside organization whilst having a Loyola supervisor which has been very comforting. So far, I have been focusing on creating a guide for future volunteers and employees about the grant process as a whole, as well as the grant processes that the Esperanza Center uses within their various departments. I was also given the opportunity to write and submit a formal grant proposal which was a very exciting opportunity. This internship has allowed me to foster many connections both within the Esperanza Center and the nonprofit sector as a whole. It has been amazing getting to connect with so many people doing wonderful work in the nonprofit sector. I have also developed a wonderful relationship with my supervisor, and because I go into the office to do some of my hours, I have really gotten a taste of life in the workplace. After graduation, I am hoping to pursue a career with a nonprofit organization, and I feel like this internship has provided me with the skills needed to advance my career.

**United States Naval Academy Foreign Affairs Conference**

Isabel Coan, ’24 Global Studies and Political Science Major

This past April, I had the honor to attend the 63rd annual Naval Academy Foreign Affairs Conference, in Annapolis, Maryland. This was the first ever academic conference that I had been invited to, so to say I was nervous is an understatement. However, as the conference start date grew closer, I found myself more worried about getting along with the people I met at the conference – specifically the military personnel in attendance – whom I was about to participate in various academic discussions with. You see, I have no real personal connection to the United States military. None of my direct family members served nor did I have any friends who were active in the service. That, combined with my own political beliefs, had led me to have a rather negative view of the United States military, those who served, and the role of the U.S. military overseas. I was nervous about having to reconcile this preconceived notion I had with the various military delegates I would be spending the next four days with. I was worried we would be able to find no common ground.

Needless to say, this anxiety was completely misplaced. I had the most wonderful week at the Naval Academy. I was part of a roundtable titled *In the Shadow of Darkness: How Political Dissent Affects the Conduct of War*, led by Midshipman Second Class Peter Shaner. Midshipman Shaner led us through various discussions in which both military and civilian delegates alike were able to share their unique perspectives and beliefs about the military and war as a whole. Everyone in my group was extremely respectful and well-spoken – the conversations were intense but informative. In the end, I not only made new lifelong friends, but my perspective on the U.S. Military and those who serve completely changed. The military delegates provided us with a behind-the-scenes look at the Navy, answering any questions we had, and were not afraid to engage us in debates that were critical of the military. I learned that there is so much more than meets the eye – that my previous belief of the military was one-sided and clouded by negative media portrayals. I am so grateful for NAFAC and the experience I gained during that week in Annapolis.
Alumni Panel

On March 14 the Global Studies program invited four recent alumni to speak to students about, “What to do with a Global Studies degree?” Three panelists were in person, while a fourth zoomed in from California. They offered insightful advice on websites and career strategies to those in the packed Political Science lounge area. Students ate pizza and came away reassured that, in one colorful metaphor, that there are “many paths up the mountain,” rather than a single way to success.

Model UN Club

Have you joined the Model UN Club? Loyola’s Model UN Club is dedicated to public speaking, diplomacy, and foreign affairs and creates an environment open to any and all students who yearn to participate in the world around them.
There were 6 groups this year for the Capstone Poster Session. The Seniors presented their posters during Academic Excellence weekend on Saturday, April 22nd.

Olivia Malley, Maria Ciarrocchi and Abigail McGraw presented their poster on a Sexual Assault Awareness Panel.

Sébastien Limbourg and Jeremy Ahearn presented “Grey to Green: Beauty & Bounty in Baltimore.”

Samantha Viel and Samuel Branyan presented “The Role of Community Organizations in Alleviating Barriers for Spanish-Speaking Immigrants.”

Doran O’Meara and Chiamaka Godfrey-Nwachukwu presented “A Grassroots Solution to Urban Food Deserts.”

Nathan Sellers, Taylor Schwindinger, Sam Cubias and Isa Gholston presented “Smoothing out the Path.”

Anna Young, Amaris Greene, Rebecca Grunski and Elizabeth Dean presented “Rendez-vous: Haiti, Solidarity in Action.”
Adding Colour to Life
Samuel Branyan ’23

My greatest teachers in South Africa were Coloured. No, not black people or brown- or light-skinned people that I’m grouping under a derogatory term. No. Coloured, the proud culture, community, and “race” that originated in Cape Town, South Africa, where I lived for four months. My Coloured teachers passed along lessons of history, religion, their country and continent, humor, love, intelligence, values, life. As I write to you all, fellow Loyola humans, about my time abroad, it only seems right that I pull from the lessons and people that made me rethink humanity and the world.

Where to begin? Let’s start with this: the people in the sunny picture gave me a saying once. They told me “If you ever find a Coloured person that’s serious, they’re not Coloured.” I learned this inherent Coloured humor early in my time abroad, as virtually every conversation that I shared with a Coloured person or group was embedded with witty, bashful, but loving humor. This was true both for the goofy friends in these pictures here and those I met on hikes, road trips, and kickboxing classes. One group hit this point home the most. In a hotel lobby on the “Garden Route,” South Africa’s famous stretch of land on the east coast of Cape Town, three Coloured men stopped my Taiwanese friend Hao and I as we were walking to our room with a loud joke about our foreign jackets. They made it clear that they were kidding – as they would for the next three hours – and insisted that we sat down for drinks. In between the constant play and humor that ensued for the rest of the night, the men were inspired to tell Hao and I about the history of Coloured people in South Africa, which is a story of a community that evolved through colonizers mixing with indigenous Africans and east-Asian slaves, two colonial regimes, displacement and discrimination during apartheid, and now tension with the country’s majority-black political environment. They retained and shaped their own identity through this all, and the men explained that they now stand tall in it. This interaction with the men has stuck with me; it was both a laughing core-workout and a conversational class in humor and history.

Alongside this humor and history, most of my interactions with Coloured friends and strangers were lessons in values. In many of the conversations that I had with the friends in these pictures, they would not hesitate to tell me what they believed about the right ways to treat friends, love other people, design their days, prioritize family, and make difficult decisions. As the weeks passed in Cape Town, I began to realize that many of these strong values were connected to Islamic faith, which is the founding religion of many of the earliest Coloured populations in Cape Town. This connection made the most sense when I was amongst my Muslim brothers pictured alongside this essay. Perhaps the greatest value that they taught me is hospitality. Now, I had always found every Coloured person in Cape Town very hospitable and insistent on welcoming me as a foreigner. My Muslim friends took that hospitality to the next level, however. Towards the end of my time in Cape Town, they insisted on taking me out for dinner before I left. On that night, my brother Luqmaan picked me up at my apartment, and we met up with our brother Ra’eez at a restaurant in Cape Town’s downtown. Before the meal finished, they decided that they would complete their evening prayer. In perhaps the most gracious move I can imagine, they turned to me and asked, “do you want to come pray with us?” Without hesitation, I said “absolutely,” and followed them into a local mosque in Cape Town’s famous Bo-Kapp neighborhood a few minutes later. Upon entering, they guided me through every step of their routine and prayer and encouraged me to ask any questions. Most of the time, however, I just followed along silently, because I felt such a strong energy and connection with myself, my friends, the mosque, the sounds of the prayer, and my spirituality. I remember this energy well, and I think it has significantly changed me. I’m so eternally grateful that they shared this experience and energy with me. I look back at the night as my favorite time in Cape Town.

After that night, we were connected more deeply. I saw them a few more times before I left, and even said goodbye to Luqmaan at the security line of the airport on the way home. He had driven me to my departure plane ride in a final symbol of incredible warmth. I’m devastated that I can’t be amongst these friends right now. Yet, I am incredibly grateful for how they taught me to be hospitable, to share my values, my faith, and my favorite things, and to be incredibly welcoming.

Now you might understand why hearing the word “Coloured” produces a spark in my eyes and a warmth in my heart. Coloured is the chosen identity of some of my greatest teachers and some of my greatest friends in this life.
Sigma Iota Rho, Class of 2023 Inductees

On April 25 the following students were inducted into Sigma Iota Rho:

Jeremy P. Ahearn
Samuel Adelani Branyan
Isa Gholston
Amaris Makena Greene
Rebecca Grunski
Olivia Malley
Taylor Anne Schwindinger
Nathan Sellers
Samantha Viel
Anna Kathleen Young

Dr. Betsy Schmidt, Professor Emeritus of the History Department, discussed her unconventional path to becoming a Professor of African History. Professors Michelle Gawerc and Janine Holc also came to support the students.

Congratulations!!!

Alumni News

Lily Calabrese ’22 will study an MA at Kings College in London.

Emma Sarazin ‘22 begins an MA in Political Science at Marquette University this fall, funded by a Trinity Fellowship.

Katherine Stockton-Juarez ‘21 starts an MA in Sociology at the George Washington University this fall.

We love hearing updates from our Global Studies students and alumni. Current students, please keep us in mind while updating your CVs and before and after graduation. If you receive any awards, internships, acceptance into a graduate program, or whether you are traveling on a trip of a lifetime, graduating from grad school or working in a field that you dreamt of as a Global Studies major, we would love to hear how you are doing—so please let us know what we can include in our future newsletters! Please email any updates to:

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