Global Studies News

A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Hello! This is the inaugural newsletter of the Global Studies program here at Loyola University Maryland. Loyola’s Global Studies program, now in its 13th year, is an interdisciplinary program that has grown to become one of the largest and most dynamic majors on campus with over 100 undergraduate students. We also include faculty from many different departments and programs across campus, including Political Science, Economics, History, Sociology, Art History, Theology, Philosophy, Biology, International Business, and more. This newsletter is an attempt to provide a focal point for the many individuals across campus whose hard work makes Global Studies happen at Loyola.

It is also an attempt to share with the broader campus community the accomplishments and initiatives of Global Studies students, faculty, and alumni. As such, I hope you will take a few minutes to read through this issue to learn more about upcoming events, program updates, recent faculty publications and talks, and student reflections on their Global Studies classes at Loyola as well as their experiences abroad.

On that note, it’s been an exciting year with the best yet to come. In September, we hosted a welcome-back event at which students and faculty met, connected, and conversed. In December, we welcomed our new Program Assistant, Nadine Fenchak, who has been a tremendous asset to the program. Looking ahead, on March 18th Loyola will host Mohsin Hamid, author of the bestselling novel Exit West, as the 2019 Hanway Lecture/Humanities Symposium keynote. Then, on April 4th, Global Studies seniors will be inducted into Sigma Iota Rho, the honor society in international relations. The Global Studies Capstone Poster Session will take place on Saturday, 6 April from 12:30-2 PM in McGuire West. At this event, part of Academic Excellence Weekend, graduating seniors will showcase their capstone projects. For the capstone, Global Studies students work together with community partners to develop a project that applies a local solution to a global issue. All members of the Loyola community are invited to check out the compelling and innovative work that Global Studies seniors are doing.

I hope to see you at these upcoming events. Until then, best wishes for a great second half of the semester.

Mary Kate Schneider
Director, Global Studies Program

NEWLY APPROVED GT COURSES

HS 395/TH 215 Violence & Holiness in 20th Century El Salvador—added to Topical 2 & 3 and Analytical
HS 478 Global Histories of Sexuality—added to Topical 3 and Analytical
ML 307D Intro to Comparative Cultures and Literary Studies—added to Topical 3
PL 223 Philosophy of Genocide—added to Topical 3
TH 312 Christian Environmental Ethics—added to Topical 1
As a former International Business major turned Global Studies student, I have run the gamut of courses, many of which I enjoyed and some... not so much. The Global Studies course I have found indispensable to my college career was SC 102: Societies and Institutions with Dr. Jason Singh. To be perfectly honest I was not sure what sociology was before I took it, and I believe I share that sentiment with many fellow students. For me, sociology is the study of how societies function. It is ambiguous and rightly so: it is inclusive of a multitude of studies and required me to draw on knowledge from economics, marketing, communications, management, history, political science, ethics, and philosophy, as well as personal experiences and countless other disciplines. But what made this course truly unforgettable was the self-reflection that it forced.

College is one of the most formative experiences of your life— a time in which you start to create your own identity. Like psychology, sociology provided me a perspective that allows an awareness that fundamentally changed my personal analysis. If you are looking for that class that blows your mind and makes you question the nature of your existence, this is it. In addition, sociology fits perhaps the most important criterion for most students when choosing classes: everything you learn is applicable and useful in life. I find sociology can benefit regardless of in what your study or area of interest is. It answered questions that I wished other courses/studies asked like: Is race important and how is it so? What is inequality? Who becomes successful and how do they get there? Everything I learned in that class seemed crucial to living a good life. But the most essential component of this recommendation is the professor.

There are few professors I have encountered that match his caliber— in both knowledge and care for students—and no class or professor has provided a more enriching experience. I would rather take a boring course with an engaging professor than an interesting class with a boring professor (though many would argue that a good professor makes any subject interesting). Find a caring and engaged professor and take as many courses with them as you can. Finally, a word of warning: nothing valuable comes for free. This is not an “easy” course and there is definitely a solid work load, but it is manageable and reasonable for the most part. What you get out from this course directly relates to how much you put in. Having said this, SC 102: Societies and Institutions with Professor Singh is a course/professor that I recommend to anyone at any level, and a course I regard as essential to my college experience.

**editor’s note: SC 102: Societies and Institutions is a required analytical course for the Global Studies major.**
Award-winning author Mohsin Hamid will deliver the 2019 Hanway Lecture in Global Studies and the Humanities Symposium Keynote Address on Monday, March 18, at 7 p.m. in Loyola’s Reitz Arena.

Hamid was born in Lahore, Pakistan and grew up in Pakistan and California. He attended Princeton University and Harvard Law School and worked in New York and London as a management consultant before returning to Pakistan to pursue writing.

Hamid has published five novels—Exit West, Moth Smoke, The Reluctant Fundamentalist, How to Get Filthy Rich in Rising Asia, and Discontent and Its Civilizations.


The lecture is free and open to the public. However, registration is required. For more information or questions, please email academicevents@loyola.edu.

Persons with disabilities who may require special services should contact the office of disability support services at 410-617-2062 or (TTD) 410-617-2141 at least 48 hours prior to the event.

Global Studies Honorees

Each year, the Global Studies program chooses 3 students to be recognized at the Honors Convocation, held this year during Academic Excellence Weekend on Sunday April 7. The Honorees for the 2018-2019 year are:

- Lena Haaf (‘19)
- Hannah Tubman (‘20)
- Brian Chan (‘21)
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:

Nadine Fenchak,
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GLOBAL STUDIES FACULTY ACCOMPLISHMENTS


SIGMA IOTA RHO INDUCTION

Sigma Iota Rho is a nationally recognized International Relations and Global Studies Honor Society. Sigma Iota Rho strives to promote and reward scholarship and service among students and practitioners of international and global studies and fosters integrity and creative performance in the conduct of world affairs.

Inductees must meet the following requirements:

- Completion of 21 credits towards the Global Studies major at Loyola, and at least 2 courses at the 300 or 400 level;
- Overall cumulative grade point average of 3.3 or higher;
- Cumulative grade point average in global studies course of 3.4 or higher;
- Senior standing.

The following students are eligible for induction this year and will be inducted on April 4th:

Monisha Barnes
Elizabeth Bellar
Nicole Ciepiela
Isabel Cieri
Madeline Crowell
Madeline Cuddy
Lewis Erickson
Emily Griffin

Lena Haaf
Michael Hegarty
Jacob Landis
Hannah Loiselle
Marie Anne Louis-Charles
Isabella Luque
Ethan Miller

Delani Pecchioli
Ann Schuck
Sawyer Scott
Deseri Tsepetis
The Global Studies major is a field of study that acclimates students to global issues and international relations through historical, economic, sociological, and political contexts. In doing so, the major offers incredible opportunities to see these aspects at work in a foreign country, spanning 5 continents. The Study Abroad Program at Loyola University is one of a kind. With more than 60% of the total student population choosing to study abroad and with 28 options in over 20 countries, everybody is bound to find a program that is perfectly suited for them. Loyola’s study abroad programs are typically offered for the fall semester, spring semester, or both in the full-year programs. However, there are also opportunities in the summer, lasting for about one month. As a senior at Loyola who studied abroad for the full year in Leuven, Belgium, I can strongly attest to the many positive experiences that students at Loyola have had while abroad, and I strongly recommend studying abroad at Loyola University Maryland.

While it is incredibly exhilarating to be able to travel to a foreign country, to see wonderful sites, to eat delicious food, and to be completely independent, it is important to also focus on the academic benefits that studying abroad has to offer. Each program has different types of classes, lecture styles, and grading styles. It is important to do some research on the particular University’s academic characteristics to ensure success. While the aspect of studying material in a different living and academic environment can be daunting, it can also be vastly rewarding. Studying abroad introduces new topics, different mindsets, and refreshing ideas that contribute to an academic experience that differs from that of Loyola in substantial ways. While abroad in Leuven, Belgium, I took a masters course on Modern Islamic Thinkers that provided me with direct insight into the Islamic religion from an Algerian native. The class ranged from students in their early 20s to students in their late 60s. Our discussions in class spanned from the dichotomies between traditional and contemporary Muslim ideals to new developments in how the Quran is read and interpreted. The entire experience was original, diverse, and thought-provoking. Although academics are a major part of the study abroad experience, expanding your cultural awareness through travel is also a fundamental factor in living abroad.

Being able to travel is an incredible perk within study abroad. Many of the Loyola programs have class trips where all of the students from Loyola get to travel together to either a new city or new country. In Leuven, we got to go to Paris, Saint-Malo, and Normandy, France as well as Amsterdam in the fall. Then, in the spring, we got to visit Florence and Rome, Italy. These opportunities were wonderful in bringing our Loyola group together and having the chance to see different cultures, try different foods, and be immersed in beautiful cities that exude history. In addition, personal travel is also a possibility and is greatly encouraged. My experience in Leuven with personal travel was vast. I was able to travel to 10 other countries, and many of my friends traveled to even more. Flights, bus rides, and trains were relatively cheap in Belgium (depending on when you bought them) and easy to come by, making spontaneous travels possible. It is also important to travel within the country that you are studying abroad in. This expands your knowledge of your home country and introduces you to different aspects of said country. Traveling is one of the most rewarding characteristics of study abroad because it augments your self-reliance and it teaches you to stay calm in moments of stress as you get to the airport 15 minutes before your plane takes off. All in all, studying abroad at Loyola University Maryland is a once in a lifetime opportunity and doing it will make your college experience a lot more memorable!
THE PRICE OF CHINA’S SUCCESS: THE PERSONAL JOURNEY OF A 1989 TIANANMEN DEMOCRACY LEADER

A student of Peking University in 1989, Zhang Boli was a leader in the Tiananmen Square student movement, serving as president of Tiananmen Square University of Democracy, among other roles. For his participation, he was named among the Chinese government’s 21 most-wanted student movement leaders after the June 4th crackdown. Alone among the 21, he escaped persecution, spending two years evading arrest before fleeing to the United States, where he became a Christian pastor.

Zhang will describe his leadership in China’s 1989 democratic movement, his dramatic escape from China, and reflect on China today.

Zhang Boli will be speaking April 3, 2019 in McGuire Hall (West) from 6—7pm. Questions and answers will be part of the lecture.

SENIOR CAPSTONE PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

The culminating experience of the Global Studies major is the capstone project, undertaken as part of the GT 400 Capstone seminar. Seniors are tasked with the challenge of designing a local solution to a global problem, working in groups and partnering with community agencies in Baltimore City. This year, 33 students are working with organizations including the Baltimore Orchard Project, Soccer Without Borders, House of Ruth, the U.S. Dream Academy, Loyola Sustainability, Ortus Academy, Lakeland Elementary School, Esperanza Center, and the Tahirih Justice Center. Issue areas include immigrant and refugee resettlement, environmental consciousness and sustainability, combating food deserts, and addressing gender-based violence.

Students spend 15 weeks brainstorming, identifying an issue they would like to tackle, reaching out to potential community partners, and then designing and implementing a project—in conjunction with the community partner—that makes a measurable difference in the issue area that students have chosen to target. From this experience, students take away transferable skills that they can apply in their post-Loyola careers, including project management, fundraising, and data analysis skills.

Capstone projects are showcased in an annual poster session, and for the first time, this year’s poster session will be a part of Academic Excellence Weekend on Saturday, April 6 from 12:30 until 2 PM in McGuire West. All are welcome to come and see the work that Global Studies seniors have been doing to make a difference in Baltimore.