

**Old Dominion University  
Graduate Program in  
International Studies (GPIS)**

Master of Arts (M.A.)  
Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)  
Certificate Programs

*Program Handbook*

*Revised 10/03/2024*

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## Technical Standards

Student admitted to the international studies programs are expected to complete course requirements, which necessitate the physical and mental abilities listed below. Any student who thinks they are unable to fulfill course requirements or does not possess one or more of the following skills is encouraged to consult with their instructor(s), academic advisor, and the office of Educational Accessibility concerning any flexibility in program requirements and possible accommodation through technical aids and/or personal assistance.

- 1) Comprehend and assimilate large amounts of material communicated via lectures, discussions, and readings.
- 2) Understand abstract concepts and be able to apply them to concrete situations.
- 3) Organize conceptual and information and be able to communicate it effectively, orally and in writing.
- 4) Be able to design and carry out an original research project.
- 5) Be able to acquire or maintain foreign language proficiency.
- 6) Be able to understand and analyze topical and substantive matters from an international perspective.
- 7) Be able to learn and utilize critical thinking skills effectively.

## Milestones and Responsibilities

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Academic Integrity refers to honesty and respect in intellectual life. All students are expected to uphold the ODU Honor Code in every regard. According to the ODU Catalog, “Academic dishonesty, including but not limited to plagiarism and all forms of academic cheating...” constitutes violations of the Honor System. Suspected violations of the Honor Code will be reported to the Honor Council.

The following activities constitute lying and/or cheating: turning in material prepared by or purchased from another person or company, deliberately falsifying data, distorting supporting documentation, inappropriately collaborating with another person wit

ALL students are required to complete the Plagiarism Module on the ODU Libraries Information Literacy Tutorials:  
<https://canvas.odu.edu/enroll/9TCLW3>.

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Students must register for classes using the appropriate CRN (Course Registration Number) and faculty name. Students enrolled in the M.A. program MUST



# Classroom Etiquette

To ensure a successful classroom experience, and engage in a productive learning environment, please keep the following “do’s and don’ts” in mind:

## Do

- Pay attention! Maintain eye contact with the speaker on the screen.
- Be prepared to take notes and have course materials available.
- Be respectful, honest, and friendly to your classmates.
- Be on time to class. Communicate with the instructor if you will be late.
- Turn off/silence cell phone or completely remove from desktop to minimize distractions.
- Refrain from eating, and slurping, as it is disturbing

## Master of Art (M.A.) Requirements

The M.A. requires 33 credits, of which at least 27 must be at the graduate level. The required course work for all M.A. students includes the basic methodology course but does not include any courses needed for demonstrating foreign language competency. M.A. candidates writing theses will incorporate into their 33-credit program six credits of thesis research (IS 699). Students pursuing a non-thesis track will take a four- and 1/2-hour comprehensive examination after the completion of course work.

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## M.A. Fields of Concentrations and Coordinators

Dr. Angélica J. Huizar ([ahuizar@odu.edu](mailto:ahuizar@odu.edu)), Dr. Cathy Wu ([xwu@odu.edu](mailto:xwu@odu.edu))

Comparative Cultural and Political Studies offers an interdisciplinary approach from the fields of Comparative Politics and Cultural Studies. The focus of Comparative Politics is on the study of political institutions, processes, and behaviours. It is devoted to understanding and analyzing similarities and differences in the practice of politics and in the characteristics of political institutions, economic structures and processes, and values across temporal and geographical space. It strikes a balance between developing the most general statements possible about political life and applying them to the understanding of political phenomena in specific places and times. Similarly, key to a Cultural Studies approach is the assumption that the study of culture in all its complexity requires cross-disciplinary work and an understanding that



The focus of this research seminar will be on the role of normative ideas in international relations. Students will be introduced to the growing literature on normative approaches to international relations and the traditional literature on the practical and philosophical problems of ethical action in the relations of states. Although several policy applications will be considered, the primary focus will be on the theoretical incorporation of normative ideas into our understanding of state action in the anarchic international environment.

This course examines Latin American politics from comparative and historical perspectives. Focus is placed on various manifestations of political authority in the region and the major societal challenges to state power. The course reviews and critiques alternative theoretical approaches to the study of state-societal relations in Latin America.

An examination of the relationship between democratic politics, democratic ideals, and international relations. Subjects covered will include trends and processes of democratization and their implications for international relations, the distinctiveness of democratic states in their international behavior, the impact of the international environment on the internal politics of democratic states, and the problems of democracy in global governance.

Explores the international relations of the Middle East from World War I to the present. Examines the origins of the Arab Israeli and Persian Gulf Wars and their modern dimensions. Examines the role of oil, outside powers and religion.

An analysis of France ex-colonies as they moved from colonization, and decolonization to independence. An overview of political, historical, cinematic, and literary texts with a focus on France's relationship with its ex-colonies, and its ex-colonies' struggles in a post-decolonized world up until contemporary times.

This class explores the complex relationships between immigration, globalization, nationalism, and media at the turn of the 21st Century. Students distinguish between different forms of migration and experiences of travel. It explores how media has depicted

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Dr. Regina Karp ([rkarp@odu.edu](mailto:rkarp@odu.edu))

During the past decade, international security studies have undergone rapid transformation. No longer beholden to the study of East-









Principles of combat modeling and simulation. Introduction including history, basic definitions, and best practice. Algorithms for modeling movement, sensing effects and behavior. Overview of modern combat models. Interoperability and integration into operational environments. Prerequisites: MSIM 603.

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The end of the Cold War has ushered tremendous political changes and an equally broad intellectual debate on the meaning of these changes. What will be the basic rules of international politics? Will the future resemble



chemical and biological weapons, adherence to nuclear non-proliferation agreements, and ethnic conflict are discussed. Doctoral candidates are urged, but not required, to take at least one history course dealing with the pre-1945 years.

- x Students selecting this field must complete IS 734 U.S. Grand Strategy
- x M.A. students must select TWO more courses within the field.
- x Students who wish to take courses other than those listed below are advised to consult the field coordinator.
- x Students are advised that they can enrich their classroom experience through Independent Study/Directed Research projects with the agreement and under the supervision of the field coordinator.

This course is intended to first identify the distinguishing characteristics of globalization. It then attempts to examine its implications on several critical issues, including the future of democracy, income distribution and ethnic, class, and gender relations.

The graduate program director approves the constitution of the committee and ensures that all committee members are



# PhD Fields of Concentrations and Coordinators

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Dr. Angélica J. Huizar ([ahuizar@odu.edu](mailto:ahuizar@odu.edu)), Dr. Cathy Wu ([xwu@odu.edu](mailto:xwu@odu.edu))

Comparative Cultural and Political Studies offers an interdisciplinary approach from the fields of Comparative Politics and Cultural Studies. The focus of Comparative Politics is on the study of political institutions, processes, and behaviors. It is devoted to understanding and analyzing similarities and differences in the practice of politics and in the characteristics of political institutions, economic structures and processes, and values across temporal and geographical space. It strikes a balance between developing the most general statements possible about political life and applying them to the understanding of political phenomena in specific places and times. Similarly, key to a Cultural Studies approach is the assumption that the study of culture i

The focus of this research seminar will be on the role of normative ideas in international relations. Students will be introduced to the growing literature on normative approaches to international relations as well as the traditional literature on the practical and philosophical problems of ethical action in the relations of states. Although several policy applications will be considered, the primary focus will be on the theoretical incorporation of normative ideas into our understanding of state action in the anarchic international environment.

Course examines the key roles played by media technologies in implementing and promoting international development programs, as well as some of the concerns these initiatives have raised in terms of media literacy, cultural sovereignty, and information access.

Independent research directed by professors. Prerequisites: approval of the director.

Methodological and theoretical preparation designed to assist students in writing a dissertation. Prerequisites: approval of director or instructor.

This course will introduce the student to the political, social, cultural, and ethical issues involved in disease prevention and health promotion globally. Specific emphasis will be on incidence/prevalence, morbidity/mortality, and identified health problems in specific regions and countries. This course will also identify international health prerogatives aimed at improving health status through education and intervention.

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Dr. Regina Karp ([rkarp@odu.edu](mailto:rkarp@odu.edu))

During the past decade, international security studies have undergone rapid transformation. No longer beholden to the study of East-West competition, the security field has become increasingly diverse regarding the themes and issues it embraces as well as the community of scholars it involves. As a result, many intellectual foundations have been questioned and the field has been opened to a variety of innovations.

This field aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of the various discourses in security studies enabling students to undertake independent and original work of their own. Students learn to critically examine different epistemologies and theories as well as to apply and test competing explanations of security choices. Students will engage traditional realist and liberal theories as well as ideate oralist propositions.

Students are also advised that they can enrich their classroom experience through Independent Study/Directed Research projects with the agreement and under the supervision of the field coordinator.

- x Students selecting this field must take IS 802 Approaches to Collective Security their required field course.
- x PhD students must choose FOUR more courses if primary and TWO more courses if secondary concentration.
- x Students who wish to take courses other than those listed below are advised to consult the field coordinator.
- x Students are advised that they can enrich their classroom experience through Independent Study/Directed Research projects with the agreement and under the supervision of the field coordinator.

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IS 802	Approaches to Collective Security
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IS 807	Interdependence, Power, and Transnationalism
IS 808	Asian Politics
IS 821	New World Order: Chaos and Coherence
IS 834	U.S. Grand Strategy
IS 835	International Relations of the Middle East
IS 890	Advanced Seminar Conflict & Cooperation
IS 897	Independent Research in International Studies
IS 898	Directed Research

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This seminar explores the origins of the idea of collective security, examines the attempts to organize international security collectively and assesses possibilities and opportunities for collective security arrangements after the Cold War.







Methodological and theoretical preparation designed to assist students in writing a dissertation. Prerequisites: approval of director or instructor.

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Dr. Jesse Richman ([jrichman@odu.edu](mailto:jrichman@odu.edu))

The modeling and simulation (or "M&S") concentration provides students access to some of the most innovative research in international studies. M&S arose as a field of study in response to three complementary trends over the last thirty years. First, the various economic, demographic, cultural and technological processes of globalization have given rise to a range of transnational phenomena that increasingly occur outside the territorial confines of nation-states. The growth of such transnational phenomena has given rise to an important second trend: the growing recognition among scholars of international studies of the inadequacy of traditional levels and methods of analysis predicated upon the territorial logic of sovereign states. Scholars today increasingly seek to develop new methods of analysis. The third trend--the explosive growth of affordable and powerful microcomputing--has equipped researchers with a range of new technologies and methods to understand contemporary international and global phenomena. Together, these three trends have synthesized the field of M&S in international studies.

The M&S in international studies concentration provides GPIS students with an education in the most innovative methods

An introduction to the modeling and simulation discipline. Introduction to discrete event simulation (DES) including simulation methodology, input data modeling, output data analysis, and an overview of DES tools.

modeling and simulation can provide another method of analysis allows students to delve deeper into their understanding of "what happened" and to explore their conception of "what if."

Independent research directed by professors. Prerequisites: approval of the director.

Methodological and theoretical preparation designed to assist students in writing a dissertation. Prerequisites: approval of director or instructor.

Principles of combat modeling and simulation. Introduction including history, basic definitions, and best practice. Algorithms for modeling movement, sensing effects and behavior. Overview of modern combat models. Interoperability and integration into operational environments. Prerequisites: MSIM 603.

Modeling Global Events introduces modeling and simulation as a tool for expanding our understanding of events that have shaped the global environment of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Students will review real-world case studies and then analyze these case studies via system dynamics, agent-based, social network, and game theory modeling paradigms. This course is designed to develop empirical research skills, conceptual modeling expertise, and model construction. Students will understand how to analyze, verify, and validate a model.

Social science data frequently have a hierarchical or multilevel structure because of sampling designs or repeated measures. The purpose of the course is to introduce students to the basic principles and applications of hierarchical linear modeling in social science research. Topics covered include an introduction to multilevel analyses, random intercept models, random slope models, hypotheses testing, hierarchical models for limited dependent variables, model fitting, three-level models, and repeated-measures applications.

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Dr. Regina Karp ([rkarp@odu.edu](mailto:rkarp@odu.edu))

Strategic leadership is a critical quality in government and private sectors. This Concentration seeks to enhance student ability to think and act strategically. The Concentration in Strategic Leadership equips students with the knowledge and skills to ass



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IS 834 U.S. Grand Strategy

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IS 801 Global Change and American Foreign Policy  
 IS 802 Approaches to Collective Security  
 IS 803 Ethics and International Relations  
 IS 821 New World Order: Chaos and Coherence  
 IS 840 Political Economy of Development  
 IS 841 Globalization and Social Change in the World System  
 IS 895 Russia and the World  
 IS 897 Independent Reseas2.88 11.5us

Methodological and theoretical preparation designed to assist students in writing a dissertation. Prerequisites: approval of director or instructor.

## **PhD Comprehensive Examination**

The PhD candidacy examination may not be scheduled before students have completed all core and methodology requirements, nor may the PhD candidacy examination be scheduled prior to the last semester in which regular course work is taken. PhD students are also required to fulfill the foreign language requirement before taking the candidacy examination. PhD examinations are scheduled twice a year. PhD students failing the written examination on the first attempt may retake the written exam only once, no earlier than the following semester. Doctoral candidates are expected





The oral dissertation defense is scheduled for the time and place approved in the request for the dissertation defense. A two-week lead time is required for scheduling. This information is published in the appropriate University news media. The oral dissertation defense is open to the University community; all interested members are encouraged to attend the examination.

The aim of the defense is to explore with the candidate the methodological and substantive contributions of the already approved dissertation. Majority approval by the examiners constitutes successful completion of the defense of the dissertation. In case of failure, the dissertation committee may recommend that the candidate be dropped or be allowed re-examination no earlier than three months after the first examination.

Satisfactory performance on this examination and adherence to the regulations and the requirements for the degree. The Dissertation Acceptance and Processing Form must be submitted to the Office of the Registrar with the completed dissertation upon completion of requirements for the degree.

Conclusion	Summarizing and interpreting overall findings and offering recommendations for policy and/or further research	Integrating the findings of the three papers, interpreting their collective contributions, and offering recommendations for policy and/or further research
References/Resources	+	Included in each of the three papers
Appendices	Optional	Optional

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At the time of the dissertation defense, at least one of the three papers must have been accepted for publication or be published in a major international studies journal, including the cross-subfield, or prominent subfield journals. The other papers must be evaluated by the committee to be of publishable quality. Students must consult with their committees and receive approval on proposed publication venues for publications that will constitute the dissertation. The article titles and potential journals for submission must be agreed upon by the student and the d

# Dissertation Checklist

Modeling, Analysis, and Simulation Center. The M&S in international studies concentration could be pursued by students in several ways, which are outlined below. In each case, courses would be selected in close consultation with the M&S track coordinator. Modeling and simulation in the social sciences generally, and in international studies particularly, takes several different forms. The most prominent of these are Statistical modeling, Formal modeling/game theory, Simulation/agent-based modeling, Geographic/spatial modeling, Network analysis, and Event simulation exercises. [More Information](#)

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Careers in International Development involve working for a variety of organizations, both locally in the United States and abroad, mandated to support development efforts in lesser developed nations on topical issues such as humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, public health, poverty alleviation, debt relief, good governance, and economic development.

Prospective employers include government agencies such as the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID); international and nongovernmental organizations such as the United Nations Development Program, United Nations Population Division, World Bank, Asian Development Bank, Inter-American Development Bank, Oxfam International and local affiliates, International Committee of the Red Cross, Physicians for Peace, and World Vision. The categories of employment often include skills such as program management, procurement, logistics, and monitoring and evaluation.

[More Information](#)

## Professional Development (PDP) ~~(required)~~ ~~(1-4)~~ ~~(1-6)~~ ~~(1-8)~~

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Dissertations and theses must be submitted electronically for review by the Arts and Letters style editors. Submit the dissertation/thesis and D5/M3 form by completing the form at <http://bit.ly/submitoduthesis>. All formatting corrections required by the style editor must be completed by this date.

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## Additional University Services

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An active ODU email account is required for all students. All university communication is sent directly to your ODU email. Students are responsible for maintaining their email accounts and deleting SPAM periodically. Students need to notify [ITS@odu.edu](mailto:ITS@odu.edu)

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[FeedODU](#) is a Student Engagement & Enrollment Services initiative which addresses food insecurity on campus by connecting Monarchs to a network of food resources, education, and support. Food insecurity is defined as not having reliable access to enough affordable, nutritious food. Food insecurity can affect students' ability to be successful in college and focus on completing their degree program. FeedODU seeks to ensure that every Monarch can get the most of their education by connecting students who are experiencing food insecurity to food resources on campus.

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The Office of Housing & Residence Life offers an option for graduate students who wish to reside on the main campus.

