The minor in International Studies is an interdisciplinary minor meant to complement any major on campus either by adding international perspectives and competencies to any chosen field of specialization. It provides a broad appreciation of contemporary global issues such as war and terrorism, human rights, refugees and migration, international trade, and climate change. Students will take two International Studies core courses and choose electives from three areas of study: (1) politics and economics; (2) geography, history and the environment; and (3) society, culture, foreign languages and literatures. Through these learning experiences, students acquire important skills and knowledge to prepare them for success in future careers and a life of active world citizenship in our globalized society.

**Minor in International Studies**

The International Studies Minor is directed by Dr. Tay Keong Tan, Professor of Political Science. It is highly recommended that students meet with Dr. Tan to discuss their program of study in the International Studies minor and develop plans for completing either INST 488, International Studies: Senior Project or INST 490, Senior Seminar on Global Issues. One of these courses is completed during the student’s last two years of study (ideally in the last semester) at Radford University, and it demonstrates the culmination of the international knowledge and experiences gained.

INST 488, International Studies: Senior Project may be a research paper, a work of art or multi-media presentation, a film, or a series of articles. The senior project proposal must be submitted to the Director of the International Studies minor for approval in the semester prior to the student’s enrollment. Students must secure the commitment of a faculty member to supervise their senior project. They are encouraged to give a public presentation of their work in some forum or public meeting. Grades for the Senior Project must be “B-" or better to satisfy this requirement.

INST 490, Senior Seminar on Global Issues, is a new capstone course created for the International Studies minor. It will build upon the transnational issues and globalization focus from the foundation course, INST 101, Introduction to International Studies, allowing students to go into international issues in greater depth. In this senior seminar, participants will learn to analyze the major international trends, global events, and complex challenges facing the world. Among the likely topics addressed in this seminar are the forces of capitalism and globalization, human rights, corruption, poverty, gender equality, armed conflicts, international terrorism, and issues relating to forced labor, refugees and migrant workers. Specific topics of the seminar change each semester in accordance with the interests of instructors and needs of the department.
Requirements

Requirements for the minor in International Studies total 18 semester hours, including:

A. INST 101 Introduction to International Studies

B. International Studies required electives: 12 semester hours, one course chosen from each of the following areas plus an additional course chosen from any of the areas:
   * Politics and Economics
   * Geography, History and the Environment
   * Society, Culture, Foreign Languages and Literatures

C. Capstone Experience chosen from:
   * INST 488, International Studies: Senior Project
   * INST 490, Senior Seminar on Global Issues

Foreign Language:

The study of foreign language is important in the understanding of international issues, and as such, students are encouraged to complement their minor with foreign language study.

Study Abroad:

Students are strongly encouraged to study abroad as part of their International Studies minor. Students will benefit immeasurably from seeing in the real world the issues they’ve been studying in their textbooks. The Director of International Studies will work with students to determine how overseas coursework and faculty-led travel/study can be used to satisfy the requirements for the minor.