

Global Studies Minor

Executive Summary

Montana State University-Bozeman proposes a new Global Studies Minor for approval by the Board of Regents of the Montana University System. The minor is intended to complement any academic major offered at the University, providing students with the basic international knowledge, skills, and experience to function effectively in the increasingly international careers they will be entering. The minor primarily utilizes existing curriculum and international programs, requiring only minimal curricular expansion. The proposed new minor will be attractive to students who are increasingly seeking substantive international programs, and it should be a draw to prospective students. The costs to implement the minor are negligible because virtually all of its required elements are already in place. For this reason, the minor also raises no significant issues relating to adequacy of resources, assessment, or impact on faculty and facilities.

Objectives and Needs

The Global Studies Minor is intended to provide MSU-Bozeman students with the fundamental international and intercultural skills they need to succeed in the “borderless careers” they will enter in virtually any career path they choose. MSU graduates need to understand how the global society of the 21st Century works. They also need to be able to work and communicate effectively with people from other cultures and languages.

The importance of these issues is illustrated by a report on “Changing Employment Demands and Requirements for College Graduates” issued by Texas A&M in January 1999. The report is the outcome of a series of focus groups held with executives of major employers of Texas A&M graduates. One of the “dominant recommendations made in 90 percent of the focus groups” was that all graduates need to be bilingual or multilingual, that they have multicultural language and skills, and that they are able to live and work successfully outside of the U.S. These needs have been recognized at MSU for many years. A major report from the faculty to the president in May 1992 on enhancing international programs called for establishing “a special optional international degree designation for MSU undergraduate degrees for those completing foreign language and other global education requirements.”

MSU believes that the proposed Global Studies Minor will be a useful “drawing card” for prospective students, particularly for out-of-state students. Prospective students and their parents are increasingly aware of the globalization trends discussed above. This trend is evident in the increased attention the Office of International Program’s sessions have attracted during “MSU Friday” events for prospective students and their families. Many U.S. institutions are making international opportunities a featured element in their recruiting programs.

Development of the Proposal

This proposal is the culmination of more than a year of careful planning and collaboration between MSU and the Office of International Programs (OIP). Starting in Fall 2000, the International Programs Committee (IPC), composed of faculty representatives from most MSU academic colleges, began to discuss the idea of the minor. Working closely with the OIP Director and senior staff, the Committee researched many different existing international degree programs that are offered at U.S. colleges and universities. In addition, the OIP has held several planning sessions with groups of MSU faculty members to ensure that the program's design reflects the faculty's thinking and is workable from their perspective. The Undergraduate Studies Committee unanimously approved the proposal on May 2, 2002.

Overview of the Proposed Global Studies Minor

The concept of the Global Studies Minor is to draw curricular resources together into a defined program that can provide a strong foundation in international studies, foreign languages, and intercultural communication for MSU students, whether they want to be engineers, business executives, ranchers, nurses, or architects. Virtually all of the curricular elements for the proposed minor are already in place, so its resource implications are modest. The minor will require completion of three broad requirements as outlined in the table below and detailed in later sections.

Proposed Requirements for the Global Studies Minor	
<u>International Courses</u>	Students must complete at least 14 credits, including a 3 credit Global Studies Capstone Seminar and elective courses from an approved list of courses from the MSU curriculum that have substantial international content.
<u>Foreign Language</u>	All minors must complete the first semester of the second year of a modern foreign language, 3-4 credits depending on language chosen, or demonstrate equivalent proficiency.
<u>Education Abroad</u>	Students must complete at least 6 credits on an approved education abroad program, including short or long-term study programs, as well as options for internship and undergraduate research abroad.
Total = 23-24 credits depending on language chosen. At least 9 credits required for the Global Studies Minor must be at the upper division (i.e. 300 or above).	

Administration of the Minor

The minor would be housed in the Office of International Programs and OIP would handle all administrative aspects of the minor, including maintaining files, liaison with campus departments and offices, publicity and outreach to students, etc. In addition, OIP staff would supplement the faculty in advising students regarding the minor. OIP, which reports directly to the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, has for many years been a designated academic unit, offering courses for credit under the Intercultural Studies (ICS) rubric. OIP also houses most of the university's study abroad programs, and has extensive experience in providing academic advising and credit for these programs.

The International Programs Committee will also play an important role in the Global Studies Minor. Its most important tasks will be to: 1) review and recommend what MSU courses should be included on the list of courses which will satisfy the minor's international course requirement, and 2) review and recommend what education abroad programs should satisfy the minor's education abroad requirement. In addition, the Committee will advise OIP on any academic issues relating to the minor, such as student petitions for exceptions to stated requirements, etc. Finally, the Committee will provide an important, ongoing communication link between the Global Studies Minor and MSU's academic colleges.

International Courses

As mentioned above, one of the three requirements of the proposed minor is for students to complete 14 credit hours of coursework with substantial international content. A Global Studies Capstone Seminar is required and general electives are selected from an approved list of courses with strong international content.

The Global Studies Capstone Seminar will be a senior level, one semester, three-credit, multidisciplinary course that will be team-taught by four to five MSU faculty members, with one faculty member serving as the seminar coordinator. Each faculty member will lead the seminar for two to three weeks, exploring a different topic (e.g. trends in globalization, sustaining the environment, multi-lateral institutions, North/South issues, international terrorism, etc.). Students will need to complete a substantial paper working with one of the seminar faculty members on a topic approved by the faculty member and the seminar coordinator. A detailed proposal for the seminar will be submitted to the Undergraduate Studies Committee for review and approval during the fall semester 2002.

Regarding the elective courses, an ample array of courses is available across the MSU curriculum that has substantial international content, providing many choices to fit students' particular interests. A tentative list of elective course options is included in the table below. A final list of elective options will be reviewed and approved by the IPC during the fall semester of 2002.

Tentative list of MSU-Bozeman Courses Fulfilling the International Electives Course Requirements for the Global Studies Minor		
ACCT 524 International Accounting	HIST 465 Ecology & Nature in Japan	MLJ 320 Classical Japanese Literature (in Eng.)
AGEC 321 Economy of Ag. Marketing	HIST 467 Women in Asia	MLJ 321 Modern Japanese Lit. (in Eng.)
ANTH 204SG Culture & Society	JS 340 Comparative Justice	MLJ 360 Tale of Genji (in Eng.)
ANTH 326SG Language & Culture	MGMT 245SG Cultural Dimensions of International Business	MLJ 361 Text & Cinema (in Eng.)
ARCH 414 Architecture Study Abroad	MGMT 465 International Practicum	MLS 101 Elementary Spanish I
ARCH 427* Non-Western Arch. History	MKTG 242SG Intro. to Global Markets	MLS 102G Elementary Spanish II
ARNR 201G World Food	MLA 101 Elementary Arabic	MLS 219HG Intermediate Spanish
ART 203F Renaissance through Modern Art History	MLF 101 Elementary French I	MLS 220G Spanish Language & Culture
ART 405FG Arts of Africa	MLF 102G Elementary French II	MLS 301 Spanish Culture & Civilization
ART 407 Islamic Art & Architecture	MLF 219HG Intermediate French	MLS 302 Latin Am. Culture & Civ.
ART 425 Field Study in Art & Art History	MLF 220G French Lang. & Culture	MLS 320 Survey Spanish Literature
ECON 317SG Economic Development	MLF 301 Histoire Civilisation	MLS 321 Contemp. Lat. Am. Lit.
ENGL 311HG World Literature	MLF 302 La France Aujourd'Hui	MLS 360H Don Quixote & Western Tradition (in Eng.)
ENTO 102G Insects & Society	MLF 306H From Reflection to Revolution-18 th Cent. (in Eng.)	MLS 450C Modern Hispanic Literature
GEOG 105SG World Geography	MLF 401 French Literature I	MTA 218FG International Film and Television
GEOG 201SG Human Geography	MLF 402 French Literature II	MUED 519 World Music
HDCF 313 Textile & Clothing Industry In Global Economy	MLF 450C French Literature & Culture	MUS 311 Music History: Classical Through 20 th Century
HDPE 410 Int'l Perspective of History & Philos. In Health, Sport & Phys. Ed.	MLG 101 Elementary German I	MUS 312FG World Music
HIST 109HG Modern Asia	MLG 102G Elementary German II	NAS 325 Native Peoples of the Americas
HIST 110HG Latin American History	MLG 219HG Intermediate German	NURS 469 Cultural Applications In Nursing
HIST 115HG History of Japan	MLG 220G German Lang. & Culture	PHIL 105 Problems of Good & Evil
HIST 305* Modern Mexico	MLG 301 German Culture & Civilization	PHIL 220HG Philosophies of Asia
HIST 316* History of Russia to 1917	MLG 303H Modern German Culture & Society (in Eng.)	POLS 241SG Intro to Int'l Relations
HIST 326* 20 th Century Europe	MLG 315 Survey German Literature	POLS 331 Comp. Democracy
HIST 334* Modern Britain	MLG 320 Contemp. German Literature	POLS 340 Int'l Relations Theory
HIST 361* Civilization of France	MLG 360H Faust in German Tradition	POLS 352 Comp. Public Policy
HIST 362* Modern Germany	MLG 450C German Literature & Culture	POLS 402SG International Law
HIST 371* Early Modern Japan	MLJ 101 Elementary Japanese I	POLS 403 International Organizations
HIST 372* Japan's 19 th Century	MLJ 102G Elementary Japanese II	POLS 441SG Int'l Human Rights
HIST 374 Modern China	MLJ 219G Intermediate Japanese I	RELS 202HG Asian Religions
HIST 375 Modern South Asia	MLJ 220G Intermediate Japanese II	RELS 317HG* Buddhism & Christianity
HIST 409* Japanese Women's History	MLJ 301 Premodern Japanese Civilization (in Eng.)	SOC 308S Population Problems
HIST 410* Latin American Social History	MLJ 315H Intro. to Japanese Literature (in Eng.)	Individual Study in almost any department (470,480,489,490 courses)
HIST 413* Race in Latin America		Internship at 400 level
HIST 460* European Intellectual History		

*Offered only "on demand"

In the future, plans call for the creation of two additional required courses for the Minor – an “Introduction to Global Studies” course and an “Education Abroad Reentry Seminar.” These additional courses will be developed subject to the availability of funding. The Undergraduate Foreign Language and International Studies Program of the U.S. Department of Education offers such funds, and it is a reasonable expectation that MSU can obtain funds for this purpose.

Courses taken abroad will be approved to fulfill the international course requirement of the minor on an individual basis, but the same credits will not be allowed to satisfy both the international course requirement and the education abroad requirement. Transfer courses can also be applied to fulfill the international course requirement on a case-by-case basis.

Foreign Language Requirement

All students electing the Global Studies Minor will have to either complete the first semester of the second year of a foreign language or demonstrate proficiency in such a language at this level. MSU believes that foreign language proficiency is increasingly important in today's global society and that MSU graduates should leave the university with at least minimal proficiency in at least one foreign language.

Although many students coming to MSU have completed at least first year foreign language courses in high school, some students will need to complete first year language courses as prerequisites to undertake the first semester second year course required for the Minor. In these cases, the total number of courses required for completion of the Minor effectively increases beyond the total of 23-24 credits. If a student must complete both the first and second semester of first year modern language, one of these courses will be allowed to apply to the international course requirement in order to prevent the total credits required for completion of the minor from exceeding the 30 credit limit established for minors by the Board of Regents.

The OIP will work closely with the Department of Modern Languages on a case-by-case basis to determine if students have achieved sufficient proficiency in a modern language to satisfy the requirement. Foreign students who elect the minor and whose native language is not English will be deemed as having fulfilled the foreign language requirement.

Education Abroad

Actual experience abroad is a critical element in the Global Studies Minor. Direct experience allows students to develop a fundamental understanding of working and living in a global context. Students develop conversational proficiency in another language best through a study abroad experience. For these reasons, MSU believes it is critical to include at least a 6 credit hour education abroad experience in the Global Studies Minor. The requirement can be satisfied in various ways, ensuring that virtually any MSU student wanting to elect the minor can fulfill the requirement.

It is ideal if students fulfill this requirement through a semester or academic year program at a university abroad. OIP maintains an extraordinary range of options for students and many of these opportunities are based on reciprocal exchanges of tuition and, in some cases, room and board, enabling students to study abroad for slightly more than remaining at MSU. In addition, students eligible for financial aid can generally apply that aid to approved MSU study abroad programs.

Students unable to participate in a long-term study abroad experience can choose among a growing number of short-term programs, generally led by MSU faculty. OIP and the International Programs Committee will review and approve all short-term programs that will fulfill the education abroad requirement to ensure that minimum standards are met.

In addition to study abroad options, the minor proposal allows for students to complete the education abroad component through other types of overseas experience. Internships abroad, provided they involve sufficient MSU faculty supervision, will be considered on a case-by-case basis to fulfill the education abroad requirement. Students will also have the option to fulfill the requirement through faculty supervised research activities abroad.

Adequacy, Accreditation and Assessment Issues

Since the proposed minor is built around existing curriculum and programs, it poses no significant issues regarding adequacy of faculty, facilities, or library holdings. Similarly it poses no additional issues regarding program or institutional accreditation or additional assessment processes. OIP and IPC will conduct a systematic assessment of the Global Studies Minor, including intermediate, end-of-instruction and alumni assessments.

Impact on Faculty, Facilities, Costs, Students, and Other Departments and Campuses

Since the minor imposes few new demands on campus resources because it relies primarily on existing courses and programs, it will have a negligible impact on faculty, facilities, costs, students, and other parts of the campus.

The courses that count toward the minor are drawn from a wide number of departments across the University. It is anticipated that the minor will encourage enrollment in modern language courses, but this is a positive outcome and should not be a substantial problem because capacity exists in these courses to absorb additional enrollments in most languages. Furthermore, many students can fulfill their language requirement for the minor through an approved education abroad program, thus not impacting on campus language classes. The development of additional study abroad opportunities currently underway for students wanting to fulfill the minor's language requirement with Spanish should alleviate the only significant potential problem area.

As indicated in the accompanying Program Proposal Summary Form, the total anticipated additional cost for the minor will be extremely low, since the only direct costs will be for faculty to teach short segments of the proposed new Global Studies Capstone Seminar. These costs will be met by funds from OIP's designated indexes, including income from study abroad programs. Since these programs will be expected to grow because of the minor, the expenses from the minor should be covered by additional income to OIP.

Given the growing awareness of students regarding the importance of international skills in career development, it is anticipated that the minor will have a modest, positive affect on enrollment at MSU-Bozeman. It is estimated that the initial enrollment in the Global Studies Minor will be in the range of 20-30 students, growing to 50-100 and beyond, in the future. However, since the minor primarily utilizes existing curriculum, it does not require a critical mass of students to maintain the academic or financial viability of the program.

There is currently no comparable minor offered within the Montana higher education system, so it raises no issues concerning duplication. However, since the minor is intended as a complementary program to any major, it would be appropriate to establish this program at other campuses within the system.

Conclusion

MSU-Bozeman believes the Global Studies Minor represents an important opportunity for MSU to help students prepare for international careers, and this is increasingly important in the global professional environment of the 21st Century. Thank you very much for your time in reviewing this proposal. We will be very pleased to respond to any questions or suggestions the Board has regarding it.