Global capital and new technologies of communication now appear to be eclipsing the power of nation states and transforming personal lives. But today’s globalism and its challenges have important historical antecedents. Oceanic and transcontinental circuits of commerce, warfare, the slave trade, shared technologies, and religious movements have linked Asia, Europe, Africa, and the Americas for more than 500 years. Modern capitalism and the state arose out of this first global world and its manifold interconnections.

The GCHC specialization invites students to explore this historical lineage and its impact on contemporary geopolitics and international institutions, political ideologies, and asymmetries of political and economic power. By combining the History and International Studies degree programs, the GCHC track enables students to acquire a rich and contextually-grounded global education.
GCHC Themes

The History–International Studies double-major and major-minor programs are geared towards students interested in developing a historical perspective on the processes, institutions, and ideas that are shaping the contemporary world.

Key Topics & Themes

- Oceans, Empires, and Circuits of Commerce, Goods, and Commodities
- Borderlands, Cross-Cultural Encounters, and Migration
- Slavery & Other Coerced Labor Regimes
- Transformations of Kinship, Family, and Gender
- Origins and Development of Capitalism
- Late Modernity, Cosmopolitanism, and Diaspora
- Political Ideas and Religious Beliefs in Global Perspective
- Decolonization, "Neo-Imperialism", and the Post-Colonial Condition
- Nations and the Transnational in the Contemporary World

About the Program

The GCHC specialization provides intensive training in historical interpretation and methods, including the use of primary sources in conjunction with sustained historical research. The History Department’s many small seminar-style courses provide systematic opportunities to interact closely with faculty and other students. It also provides the analytic and organizational skills that are the essential prerequisites for post-graduate degrees and careers in business, law, and public affairs.

Program Options & Requirements

The GCHC program requires that students take courses in history, political science, economics and languages. Students can choose between a double-major pathway (earning BA degrees in both International Studies and History) or a major-minor pathway (major in IS and minor in History). For the most up-to-date program requirements, see the “History & International Studies” tab at URL: http://history.jhu.edu/undergraduate/.

Language Requirement

Students must demonstrate proficiency in at least one foreign language. For most students proficiency can be demonstrated by completing two semesters (6 credits) of coursework beyond the intermediate level.

Honors

Students who meet the necessary requirements may receive honors in both majors by participating in the History Department’s honors program. History Majors who seek to graduate with honors must complete a Senior Honors Thesis, a substantial two-semester independent research project that provides the opportunity to work intensively with a single faculty advisor in the History Department.
Required Coursework

Gateway Courses, which must include:

- **History**: two introductory courses (two-100.1xx courses; OR one 100.1xx course and one Freshman Seminar)
- **Economics**: 180.101 (Macro) & 180.102 (Micro)
- **Political Science**: one course from among Contemporary International Politics (190.209), International Politics (190.104/190.213), or Introduction to Comparative Politics (190.102)

One History Methods Sequence:

- 100.193-100.194 Undergraduate Seminar (normally taken in sophomore year)

Additional Courses:

- **History**: five additional electives, usually 100.xxx courses*
- **Political Science**: five additional electives*
- **Economics**: two additional electives*

Advanced Work

- 100.507-100.508 Senior Thesis (honors only) or two additional history courses

*Please note: some non-history department courses can “double count” toward IS & History requirements and some history department courses may double count toward IS Political Science & Economics requirements.

For details on specific requirements and opportunities for double-counting, please see Major in History and IS—Specialization in Connections & Historical Comparisons information sheet at:
http://history.jhu.edu/undergraduate/international-studies-and-history-global-connections-historical-comparisons