



GLOBAL LEADERS OF PENN STATE

Global and International Studies
Monthly Email Newsletter

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WELCOME

by Abigail Picozzi, Managing Editor

Hello! Welcome to the December edition of the Global and International Studies Newsletter for the 2023–24 school year. We’re so excited to continue sharing stories from the GLIS community! In this issue, we are featuring a study abroad story from Nina Castillo, two course highlights for global conflict and culture and identity pathways, upcoming Liberal Arts events for GLIS students, and a Why GLIS? feature from our new team member: Megg Reddy.

If you have any feedback or would like to submit a story, please email glis@psu.edu. We look forward to hearing from you, and cannot wait to continue sharing stories and experiences in GLIS!

EDUCATION ABROAD SPOTLIGHT

by Abigail Picozzi

Nina Castillo '24

**GLIS and International Politics
Global Conflict Pathway**

Nina Castillo, a fourth-year GLIS and International Politics major, spent this past fall semester studying in Milan, Italy. After completing the “Organized Crime in Curaçao” embedded program that took her to Curaçao for a week during the Spring 2023 semester, Castillo knew she wanted to complete a full semester-long program. Thanks to the Liberal Arts Career Enrichment Network and Penn State Global, she was able to receive funding that greatly eased the financial burden of going abroad and allowed her to experience everything Milan has to offer.



Nina Castillo

Castillo said that studying abroad in Milan strongly aligns with her career aspirations as “the global exposure and diverse educational setting have honed my adaptability, cultural competency and interdisciplinary understanding – attributes highly valuable in a dynamic professional landscape,” she said. Alongside professional and personal developments, Nina explained that her and her friends were able to greatly improve upon their Italian which was transformative in achieving full cultural immersion.

Taking the jump to go abroad was no simple task; Nina explained that she took the leap and signed up for this 300-person program without knowing anyone else. Though it was daunting, Castillo explained that by going in with an open mind and staying true to herself, she was able to make new friends with whom she shared her experiences, and even served as a student council representative. With that, she also focused on balancing her coursework so that she could have plenty of time to explore Milan in her free time.

Upon graduation, Castillo will be joining Deloitte in their Washington, D.C. office. “I was able to demonstrate to Deloitte my commitment to embracing new challenges, adapting to diverse environments and fostering a global perspective,” she said. “These skills correlate with a liberal arts education and are directly transferable to collaborative teamwork, cross-cultural communication, and innovative problem-solving—critical elements in today's interconnected workplaces. This experience will undoubtedly empower me to contribute effectively, think creatively and navigate the complexities of an increasingly globalized world within my career path.”

COURSE HIGHLIGHT: THREAT OF TERRORISM AND CRIME

by Olivia Bratton

SRA 211 Threat of Terrorism and Crime Global Conflict Pathway

The Threat of Terrorism and Crime is a Security and Risk Analysis (SRA 211) course in which students are exposed to security threats as well as strategies to counter such issues. Specifically, students become familiar with threats from terrorists and criminal activity, examining the numerous definitions and history of terrorist activity and typical targets of security attacks. Through analysis of the nature and gravity of security threats, students gain skills regarding various levels of crime and the most effective ways to mitigate different scenarios.



SRA 211 aligns perfectly with the Global Conflict pathway for GLIS majors, as it touches on domestic and international aspects of terrorism and criminal activity. Throughout the course, students will collaborate in teams and build skills regarding data collection, analysis, and data fusion, all methods that are highly beneficial in the GLIS field.

The Threat of Terrorism and Crime will likely have you questioning the true definition of terrorism as well as the seriousness among white collar, street, organized, and employee crime. Now in a time when threats are taking never-before-seen forms, it is essential to expand critical thinking and assessment tools in order to stay alert and promote protection. If you are seeking an intriguing and skill-building Global Conflict course, SRA 211 is an ideal choice.

COURSE HIGHLIGHT: LANGUAGE AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

by Valentina Vallejo

AFR 230N - Language and Social Justice

Dive into the transformative realm of AFR 230N, a course dissecting the nexus of language and social justice. This class, rooted in sociolinguistic theories, unravels how language constructs and sustains societal inequalities.

Two core objectives guide the exploration. First, students dissect how language hierarchies emerge and persist, exposing the deliberate structures that underlie linguistic power dynamics. Second, the course navigates the tangible impacts of these hierarchies on educational and legal (in)equality.



Topics span the role of language in shaping identity, human relations, and social institutions, with a focus on real-world consequences. Importantly, AFR 230N motivates student engagement, fostering discussions that draw from personal experiences and observations.

This dynamic course not only imparts theoretical knowledge but cultivates a heightened awareness of language's real-world implications on societal equity. AFR 230N is your guide to understanding and leveraging language for positive social change.

UPCOMING LIBERAL ARTS EVENTS

by Lauren Forbes

Penn State Liberal Arts has a lot of unique upcoming events for February. Here is a snapshot of a few events that are taking place. Head to the [Penn State Liberal Arts Calendar](#) for more information on these events.

V Spehar

Location: HUB-Robeson Center, Flex Theater, 4:30–5:30 p.m.
Event Type: Live Podcast

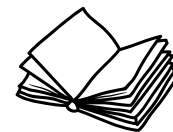


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Vitus "V" Spehar is an accomplished TikToker, political advocate, and general good friend. Their core brand, "Under The Desk News," started as a series expanding on major events in a nutshell and quickly became younger generations' go-to source for news. V's in-depth citizen journalism led them to collaborate with notable figures like former President Obama, President Biden, and a dozen-plus members of Congress to inform and push for civic participation lucidly.

Srdja Popovic Lecture

Location: Lewis Katz Building, Sutliff Auditorium, 4:30 p.m.
Event Type: Lecture



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"A Magic Formula for Social Change? How Humor, Dilemma Actions, and Creative Tactics Can Save Democracy"

Srdja Popovic's talk presents material that stems from recent collaborative research he has conducted with the Center's Director, Sophia A. McClennen, professor of international affairs and comparative literature, and Joseph Wright, professor of political science.

Reception and Book Signing to Follow Talk

ONGOING: Drop-In or Pop-In Career Support

Location: 101 Sparks Building, or pop into Zoom.
Event Type: Career Counseling



Not sure if your résumé is as competitive as it can be? Want some help with your job or internship search? Not even sure where to start?

The Liberal Arts Career Enrichment Network career coaches will be available for fifteen-minute sessions to help you in your career development!

WHY GLIS?

by Megg Reddy

Megg Reddy '25 **Global and International Studies** **Culture and Identity pathway**

When Megg initially arrived at Penn State, she was considering majoring in Business or Marketing without a specific rationale behind that choice. Her father was a businessman, and having spent considerable time at his office during her upbringing, influenced this inclination. However, upon transferring to Penn State, she discovered a multitude of unexplored options. Seizing the opportunity, she delved deeper into exploring alternative majors. It was during this exploration that she came across Global and International Studies (GLIS). After conducting more thorough research, she knew this was the right major for her to pursue.



Megg Reddy

The GLIS curriculum places a strong emphasis on using scholarly study, research, international communication, and international experience to develop a global perspective. Already having vast experience with a global perspective, Megg thought this would be the perfect major for her. She could use the topics studied in the curriculum and combine it with her past experiences to enrich her knowledge of the global world. In addition to this Megg has always loved volunteering with NGOs and other organizations that focused on humanitarian support in her hometown of Hyderabad, India. The GLIS program's combination of social sciences and humanities that looks at addressing the issues affecting the world today will allow her to turn her passion into a career.

Megg is currently pursuing the culture and identity pathway. She has been traveling the world since the age of 11 and during this time she has lived in and visited over twenty countries and had the opportunity to meet and interact with people from a host of cultures and backgrounds. Getting to experience different cultures from the perspective of locals led to her growing interest in understanding how various cultures interact with each other and among themselves. Megg's dream is to further this knowledge through the courses available at Penn State and build a career in this field.



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Content Writer
GLIS and Political Science majors
Global Conflict pathway
Fourth-Year



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Valentina Vallejo
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If you are interested in submitting a story, please email us at glis@psu.edu.



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