



GLOBAL LEADERS OF PENN STATE

GLOBAL AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES PROGRAM

Monthly Email Newsletter



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WELCOME

by Lauren Forbes, Managing Editor

Hello! Welcome to the March edition of the Global and International Studies Newsletter for the 2024–25 school year. We’re so excited to continue sharing stories from the GLIS community! This edition, we have some upcoming Liberal Arts events, a course spotlight, and a student spotlight!

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!



PennState
College of the Liberal Arts

UPCOMING LIBERAL ARTS EVENTS

Penn State Liberal Arts has a lot of unique upcoming events for March. 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.

THURSDAY,
MARCH

6



Organized Chaos: Humanities Data and Cleaning with a Purpose

Time: Thursday, March 6, 2025 | 4:35 p.m.

Location: [Register for the Zoom](#)

Event Type: Lecture

A workshop with Brandon Walsh (University of Virginia). This workshop covers the theory and practice of preparing humanities data for analysis. Even while being notoriously difficult to work with, we will explore how the mess of humanities data is actually what conveys a wealth of information. We will discuss the affordances and tradeoffs inherent in data cleaning with the humanities, when it is worth doing, and when it is worth maintaining a sense of organized chaos that our materials demand

THURSDAY,
MARCH

20



Liberal Arts Undergraduate Research Expo

Time: Thursday, March 29 | 5:00–7:30 p.m.

Location: 114 Welch Building

Event Type: Expo

This event is a celebration of student research, featuring a keynote speaker, peer presentations, and valuable insights into finding and funding research opportunities in the college and beyond. Keynote by Stuart Selber: “AI and the Liberal Arts: What Students Need to Know and Why”

MONDAY,
MARCH

22



Channels: Asian Diasporas in Film, Art, and Media Spring 2025 Events

Time: Saturday, March 22, 2025 | 3:30–5:30 p.m.

Location: Nittany Lion Inn

Event Type: Film Screening and Discussion

Abandoned: The stories of Japanese war orphans in the Philippines and China. Directed by Hiroyasu Obara.

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WEDNESDAY,
MARCH

26



African Studies Brown Bag Lecture

Time: Wednesday, March 26, 2025 | 12:30–1:30 p.m.

Location: 335 Willard Building

Event Type: Lecture

Mfundo Msimango “Southernizing Monolingual Written Assessments in Natural Science in Multilingual Schools in South Africa and Ghana ” In this presentation, we report on a critical comparative case study of monolingual written assessment practices in grade four natural science classrooms in two Global South countries: South Africa and Ghana

THURSDAY,
MARCH

27



Washington, D.C. Career Day

Time: Thursday, March 27, 2025 | 7:00 a.m.–9:00 p.m.

Location: Washington, D.C. | [Register for the Career Day](#)

Event Type: Full-day Excursion

Join the School of Public Policy and the Penn State Public Policy Association for a day trip to Washington, D.C., on Thursday, March 27, 2025. Experience the capital of the United States with opportunities to meet, network, and discuss policy issues with federal policy professionals! Registration Deadline and Deposit: Registration will close on Thursday, March 6. Attendees must pay a \$35 non-refundable deposit to secure their place on the trip.

COURSE SPOTLIGHT

By Lauren Forbes

PLSC 439 The Politics of Terrorism Global Conflict Pathway

As a GLIS major specializing in global conflict, I am interested in war, peace, and security worldwide and historically. Having GLIS as my background information when looking at a sensitive topic like conflict, I can look at these serious issues through the lens of different cultures and identities and in the context of other various factors.

My favorite course that I have ever taken at Penn State was PLSC 439, The Politics of Terrorism. I had Professor Vitek, who was an excellent educator on this topic and whose passion for these studies was contagious. This class examined terrorism, what causes and perpetuates it, and its manifestations across the globe. This class also looked at terrorism through the lens of different circumstances rather than just pure violence and hatred.

We began the semester with the basics: looking at what terrorism is, how it is perpetuated, what methods are used, etc. This basic foundation allowed the rest of the semester to go deeper and look at case studies. I think the way the class was structured was perfect to apply what we learned that week to case studies. We would focus on a topic, like ideologies, and then on Fridays, we would have a presentation on an actual terrorist organization and explore how that group portrayed that; this allowed me to pinpoint theories and place them on actual real-life examples. If you are a global conflict concentration or are looking to fill your global conflict requirement, I highly recommend this course!



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

By Cynthia Wang

**Hawa Domani Baro Spring 2025
Global and International Studies
Culture and Identity Pathway**

As a GLIS major, what drew you to this field of study?

I was drawn to the idea of international travel and international affairs. Having traveled a bit, myself and coming from an immigrant background, it was definitely a field that I think would fit me well. GLIS is also a very diverse major. As this is only my bachelor's degree, I'm also planning on pursuing my master's or maybe my Ph.D., but I think starting off with GLIS is an excellent way to diversify my skill set.

What is your pathway and why?

My pathway is culture and identity. I just ended up taking a variety of different classes that fell under the culture and identity pathway, and I think it's great for the GLIS major. I originally intended to pursue the health and environment pathway but having completed so many different courses, I fulfilled more requirements for the culture and identity pathway. I believe that all the pathways can provide different avenues for any GLIS major, and they all have their own benefits.



Hawa Domani Baro

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT (continued)

How do you envision your future career path aligning with your studies in Global and International Studies?

I think in the future I'm certainly going to incorporate international travel and international affairs as well as issues. Having GLIS as a major and a bachelor's in Global and International Studies is going to help me regardless, especially with plans for grad school. Possessing a diverse skill set will separate me from other candidates, not only in grad school, but also in the corporate world as well as anything I'd wish to pursue internationally so GLIS is going to help me in that sense.

How has GLIS allowed you to develop your global understanding, and what are you looking forward to learning more about in the future?

The GLIS program at Penn State has helped me diversify a lot of my skill sets and I also believe that it allowed me to better understand the depth of so many kinds of global issues. We know a little about a lot of things—at least for me, I know a little about a lot of things—but to hone in on specific issues and truly get into the depths of it was something GLIS allowed me to do endeavors by that skill set. In the future, I'm excited to learn about globalization, how it manifests in our society, how we see it every single day, especially with the current political climate and just the climate in general. Globalization is a conversation that's going to reappear frequently and as it being my major, I think it's important to continue to talk about it. Whether I go into diplomacy or create my own business, the skill sets I've acquired from the GLIS program are excellent qualities to have.

COURSE SPOTLIGHT

by Cynthia Wang

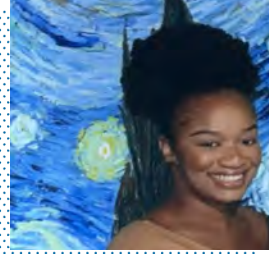
AFR 105 African Biodiversity and Conservation Health and Environment Pathway

AFR 105 offers a deep dive into the remarkable biodiversity of Africa, showcasing its unparalleled ecosystems, diverse wildlife, and the intricate cultural connections between people and nature. Students will journey through the vast savannas of the Serengeti, the lush rainforests of the Congo Basin, the arid deserts of the Sahara, and the unique coastal and marine environments that contribute to Africa's ecological richness. The course not only highlights the incredible array of species that call Africa home but also addresses the significant threats to this biodiversity, including habitat loss, climate change, poaching, and human-wildlife conflict.

Through engaging lectures, case studies, and discussions, students will analyze the challenges of balancing conservation with economic development and explore the pivotal role of local communities, indigenous knowledge, and international cooperation in preserving these natural treasures. AFR 105 encourages critical thinking and fosters a deeper understanding of how biodiversity impacts ecological health, cultural heritage, and global sustainability. By the end of the course, students will have gained a holistic perspective on Africa's biodiversity and the tools to contribute meaningfully to conservation efforts worldwide.



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If you are interested in joining the team, please email us at glis@psu.edu.



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