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THE FACULTY

Faculty members within the International Studies department come from a range of disciplines and backgrounds. The variety of perspectives complement each other as faculty work together to expose students to a broad range of ideas. Faculty members enjoy a high level of involvement with students both in and out of the classroom.

THE COLLEGE

Virginia Wesleyan College is a small, four-year liberal arts institution affiliated with the United Methodist Church. Home to only 1,400 students, both resident and commuter, the 300-acre campus rests on the border of Norfolk and Virginia Beach in the heart of the historic Hampton Roads area. Virginia Wesleyan provides a prime opportunity for students to learn both in and out of the classroom, offering more than 30 majors and more than 70 clubs and organizations. Additionally, the College boasts 19 intercollegiate sports and competes in the Old Dominion Athletic Conference and NCAA Division III.

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INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

The Division of Social Sciences





THE FIELD

The field of International Studies deals with relations among states within the international system, including the roles of state and non-state actors (NGOs). The core of International Studies draws on international politics, history and economics and involves a diverse range of issues, including globalization and its impact on society.

THE PROGRAM

The International Studies program at Virginia Wesleyan College offers students the opportunity to explore the world and its cultures both inside and outside the classroom. The program is rooted in the liberal arts and emphasizes an interdisciplinary approach that draws heavily on business, history, theater and sociology, and which teaches students critical thinking in a variety of fields. The flexible nature of the International Studies program enables students to customize their education to suit their own interests. The program offers three tracks of study: International Business, International Cultural Studies and International Politics, after completing a required set of core courses.

THE MAJOR

The International Studies major is an interdisciplinary major that places a strong emphasis on critical analysis. A student majoring in International Studies at Virginia Wesleyan is required to complete a minimum of 54 semester hours, 18 of which must be completed at or above the 300 level.

THE EXPERIENTIAL ASPECT

The classroom experience is supplemented by both long-term and short-term study abroad, as well as internship opportunities, bridging classroom knowledge with real-life international experiences. Virginia Wesleyan's location in Norfolk, Va. – a well-known, international location – provides many opportunities for students to experience International Studies in well-known agencies such as the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), Commander-in-Chief Atlantic Forces (CINCLANT), Virginia Port Authority, Virginia International Terminals and private and public organizations involved in international trade.

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

International Studies graduates are prepared to choose from a wide variety of career and graduate study options upon completion of their degree. The increasingly global state of the world has significantly increased a job market rooted in law, business, cultural affairs, arts and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). The program prepares students for competitiveness in the job market as well as teaches them flexibility necessary in the work world. As with other interdisciplinary majors, the International Studies major prepares students for a variety of endeavors, including graduate school and careers in political and commercial fields.



THE COURSES

With a 13:1 student-faculty ratio, the classes at Virginia Wesleyan are small and interactive. Courses within the International Studies framework include the following:

- Global Realities
- International Relations
- Political Theory
- World History
- World Religions
- Cultural Anthropology
- Micro and Macroeconomics
- Understanding Other Cultures
- American Foreign Policy
- International Political Economy
- Economic Development
- International Business

In addition, students are encouraged to pursue foreign language studies as a complement to their coursework. A capstone experience is required and may be completed through 12 hours of foreign language study beyond the minimum College requirement; 12 hours of study abroad experience or an internship experience completed locally or abroad.

