

The Department of Global, International & Area Studies

September / October 2015

Message from Dr. Chernotsky

Welcome! By now, I would hope that all of you have settled into the fall 2015 semester. The Department of Global, International & Area Studies (GIAS) has entered its seventh year and is continuing to move forward with efforts to expand its faculty and curriculum. We are located in Macy 103. The actual name of the department is confusing to some, so a brief history may be useful. Prior to the establishment of GIAS, International Studies was an independent program within the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences offering both a major and a minor since 2000. The minors in Islamic and Judaic Studies were housed in the Department of Religious Studies, while the minor in Holocaust, Genocide & Human Rights operated independently within the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences. With the creation of GIAS, each of these programs was brought under its umbrella. There is no GIAS degree per se; students enrolled in the department's respective programs continue to have their degrees noted accordingly. Students completing the major in International Studies graduate with a B.A. in International Studies. Minors are also identified individually. All of our programs are interdisciplinary in character. This enables our students to acquire varying perspectives and appreciations. Our curricula are organized accordingly, so students have the opportunity to take courses that originate within the department, as well as applicable ones that are offered by other units.

Last year, the department initiated a number of curriculum revisions. Many courses previously offered as Topics were assigned a permanent number. These will be reflected in the spring 2016 schedule. As part of a broader curriculum restructuring, the minors in Islamic Studies and Judaic Studies were eliminated. Although no new students will be admitted into these programs, the department will continue to support students currently enrolled to insure that they can complete their requirements. Most importantly, we will be making substantial changes to the structure of the International Studies major and minor and the minor in Holocaust, Genocide & Human Rights Studies. These proposals are working their way through the curriculum process and we will update you as the semester proceeds. We believe that these changes will strengthen these programs and that students will find them well suited to their interests. Students currently enrolled will have the opportunity to pursue their degrees within their current structure to avoid unnecessary complications or confusion.

Please remember that it is important for students to consult with our academic advisers to insure that they are enrolled in the appropriate courses and are making steady progress in completing their courses of study. This promises to be a busy year. I wish you all a productive and enjoyable semester.

Special points of interest:

- **Message from Dr. Chernotsky**
- **Meet Our Faculty**
- **Meet Our Staff**
- **Faculty Activities**
- **Mark Your Calendars**
- **Study Abroad**
- **Study Abroad Advising Agreement**
- **ISSA**
- **Fowler Scholarship**

Meet Our Faculty

While students enrolling in our courses have access to faculty across a number of departments and disciplines, there is a central GIAS faculty that forms the core of the department.

Dr. Harry Chernotsky is a political scientist who has served as Chair of the department since its formation. Previously, he served for nine years as Director of International Studies. When not buried in some type of paperwork, he pursues his research into the local effects and responses to globalization and teaches a section of the introductory international studies course and the upper division international political economy. His office is in Macy 103B.

Dr. Charles Houck is an archeologist who serves as our Director of Undergraduate Studies and is the primary point of contact for student-related issues and concerns. He teaches the introductory and seminar course in international studies, as well as upper division courses dealing with the origins of globalization and resistance movements that have arisen as a response to globalization. His office is in Macy 104. Dr. Houck's advising schedule often fills up in advance, so it is useful to plan ahead in setting appointments.

Dr. Sebastian Cobarrubias is a geographer who is in his third year with GIAS. His research interests include border and migration policy, immigrant rights, social movements, global economic restructuring, as well as critical uses of cartography. His current research focuses on the externalization of border policy on the part of the European Union into Northern and Western Africa. He teaches courses relating to development, sustainability and migration. His office is in Macy 108C.

Dr. John Cox is an historian who begins his fifth year with GIAS, having relocated from Florida Gulf Coast University. He is a specialist in Holocaust and comparative genocide studies and is offering courses relating to these areas. He is also playing the key role in developing the Center for Holocaust, Genocide & Human Rights Studies. His office is in Macy 108A.

Dr. Joyce Dalsheim is an anthropologist whose research and writing focus on issues relating to identity and the Israeli/Palestinian conflict. She is beginning her fourth year as a permanent, full-time faculty member in the department, after having taught for us a number of years on a visiting and part-time basis. She is involved in the development of our curriculum in peace and conflict studies. Her courses apply to a number of the programs housed within the department. Her office is in Macy 108D.

Dr. Garth Green is an anthropologist who has been involved in our programs for many years, teaching an array of courses for International Studies and Anthropology. In addition to teaching the introductory and seminar courses in international studies, he offers courses on globalization and culture, food and globalization, the Caribbean, and anthropological theory. His office is in Macy 103A.

Dr. Amal Khoury is a political scientist who joined us last year from Guilford College. Dr. Khoury received her Ph.D. in International Relations in 2006 from American University. She specializes in peace and conflict studies, with regional expertise relating to the Middle East. She has introduced a number of new courses to fit within our new emerging peace and conflict studies concentration. Her office is located in Barnard 202. Dr. Khoury is on leave for fall 2015.

Students enrolled in our programs also have the opportunity to engage talented faculty who lend their services to us on a part-time basis. **Prof. Robert Arnold** teaches for a number of units at UNC Charlotte and is offering our writing intensive course on politics and culture in literature. **Dr. Tamara Johnson**, who works in Academic Affairs, is teaching one of the sections of INTL 1101 and will be offering a course on global cities in the spring. **Dr. Gabriela Tarazona-Sevillano**, who has had considerable experience at other universities, enhances our offerings in human rights and political violence. **Dr. Kamila Valenta** has returned to teach Ethnic Conflict in a Changing World and **Dr. Maribel Casas-Cortes** has joined us this semester to teach Globalization and Social Justice. Our HGHR program is also enriched by the work of **Prof. Lynette Deem**, who is teaching a new course on Memorializing Genocides, **Prof. Judy LaPietra**, who teaches an evening course on the Legacy of the Holocaust and organizes our course/study tour to Auschwitz, and **Dr. Sarah Minslow**, who is offering a course on War and Genocide in Children's Literature.

Meet Our Staff

Vicky Harris is the department's Office Manager/Administrative Support Associate. She joined us five years ago and does a fabulous job keeping everything (and everyone) together. You will encounter her smile when you stop by the office in Macy 103. She is eager to meet our students and affiliated faculty and is available to assist with any issues or questions that arise. Vicky is supported by our work-study assistants, **Jaclyn Morton**, **Brittany Andrade**, and **Emara Lovett**.

Faculty Activities

In addition to their teaching, our faculty are quite busy and remain actively engaged in their research and other professional activities. **Joyce Dalsheim** was recently recognized as the recipient of the university library's inaugural Faculty Engagement Award for her work in integrating critical reading and thinking. **John Cox** and **Sarah Minslow** have submitted a grant to the National Endowment for the Humanities for *Dialogues on the Experience of War*. Using the war in Vietnam and the Holocaust as case studies, this project is designed to train leaders to facilitate community dialogue and discussion of the many impacts of war. **Sebastian Cobarrubias** was awarded a Faculty Research Grant to pursue his research on Emergent Border Topographies at the Edge of Europe: The Border Regime after the Arab Spring. The most recent books published by departmental faculty include: **Harry Chernotsky** (and Heidi Hobbs), *Crossing Borders: International Studies for the 21st Century* (2nd edition); **Joyce Dalsheim**, *Producing Spoilers: Peacemaking and the Production of Enmity in a Secular Age*.

Mark Your Calendars: Some Programs and Events

BEYOND THE HEADLINES: IS THE MIGRANT/REFUGEE CRISIS A EUROPEAN PROBLEM: Thursday, September 24, 3:30-5:00pm in Rowe 130. A panel discussion featuring a number of GIAS faculty addressing the dynamics of the current refugee crisis.

FALL STUDY ABROAD FAIR: Wednesday, September 30, 10:00am-2:00pm. The Office of Education Abroad of the Office of International Programs will be hosting the Annual Fall Study Abroad Fair in the plaza between the COED and CHHS buildings. This event will give students a chance to talk with the education abroad staff, faculty, and previous participants about the array of programs available.

GIAS/ANTH COLLOQUIUM SERIES- COUNTER CARTOGRAPHIES: Tuesday, October 6, 3:30-5:00pm in Barnard 244. Join us for the second installment of this series when cartographer Tim Stallmann and artist Lize Mogel come to campus to discuss several of their counter-mapping projects from the perspectives of social justice and socially-engaged art.

INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL: Saturday, October 17, 10:00am-7:30pm in and around the Student Activities Center (SAC). This is a whole day of music, art, entertainment and food featuring participation by Charlotte's many international communities.

Other events will be announced as they are scheduled.

Advising



We encourage all students to consult with faculty advisers periodically to insure that they are making appropriate academic progress or to address any issues or problems that may arise. While each student has been assigned a particular adviser, any adviser may assist with these matters. Sign-up sheets for each week are available inside the main office in Macy 103. We ask that you sign up a couple of days in advance whenever possible and to please notify us if you are unable to keep an appointment.

Open House for Incoming Students



GIAS joined with the rest of the campus community in welcoming incoming students during the inaugural Convocation Day on August 24. The department hosted an informal 'meet and greet' where new students had the opportunity to learn about our programs and to meet the faculty and some students currently enrolled in our senior seminar.

Study Abroad

We are pleased to report that GIAS will be offering a number of study abroad opportunities, in addition to others that are offered through the university's Office of Education Abroad. This spring, students in our Asian studies concentration might participate in the **Tokyo: From Samurai Capital to Modern Metropolis** program. This is originating in the Department of History (HIST 3002), with cross-listed sections available through International Studies (INTL 3000) and Japanese Studies (JAPN 2209). This spring semester course includes a visit to Tokyo over the spring break period. The application deadline is November 2. Check out the link just below for more information.

http://studyabroad.uncc.edu/index.cfm?FuseAction=Programs.ViewProgram&Program_ID=10045



We are also planning two programs that will be available in summer 2016. **Food Security and Sustainability: Agriculture and Urban Development in Cape Town, South Africa** will again be offered under the leadership of Dr. Tamara Johnson. This program was conducted for the first time last summer and provides students with an intense, hands-on experience designed to acquaint them with local organizations dedicated to providing food access for economically vulnerable populations.

Also available for summer 2016 is **In Search of the Past: A Holocaust Journey** that will be directed by Prof. Judy LaPietra. This program will incorporate visits to Krakow (to tour the former Jewish ghetto and Oskar Schindler's factory) and Oswiecim, Poland (the site of the World War II era Auschwitz concentration camp) and to Berlin (to tour a number of venues associated with the Holocaust). This program is an enhanced version of our Bearing Witness to the Past that has previously been offered over spring break. Given its new curriculum and added pieces, students in previous programs will also be eligible to receive academic credit.



We will send you information regarding applications for these summer programs as soon as it becomes available. Spaces are limited, so we recommend that you pay close attention. Additional information regarding these and other programs will be available at the **Study Abroad Fair** that will take place on Wednesday, September 30 on the COED/CHHS Plaza at 10:00am-2:00pm.

Study Abroad Advising Agreements

One area that seems to be especially confusing to students is the Study Abroad Advising Agreement. This is the document that must be completed prior to the study abroad experience to insure that the courses taken will receive the appropriate credit at UNC Charlotte. The form is available in the Education Abroad office and is provided along with other materials to students pre-departure. A couple of points are worth emphasizing:

- a. Include all courses you might consider taking at the host institution to give you maximum flexibility. Sometimes scheduled courses are not offered, so you must identify possible substitutes.
- b. Often times, exact course equivalents at UNC Charlotte do not exist. In those cases, the Topics courses that exist in most departments (usually 3000, 3030 or 3050) serve as the equivalents and can be duly noted on the form.
- c. While we sign off on the form at the bottom as adviser and major department, authorized signatures for the individual course come from the departments that offer the equivalents. We provide the equivalents for INTL or HGHR courses.
- d. We cannot sign off on the form until all courses listed have received the necessary department authorizations.
- e. Once we sign off on the form, it must go to the Office of the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences (Fretwell 430) for approval.
- f. Do not wait until the last minute (we have had students coming by to get signatures the very day they are scheduled to leave the country, only to find that they have filled out the form incorrectly or the people they need to see are not on campus).
- g. A revised agreement can be filed upon your return if you wind up taking courses that were not listed initially. However, you should absolutely not wait until your return to complete and submit the form as you may find that you took courses that will not generate necessary credit.

International Studies Student Association (ISSA)

Dr. Houck is interested in hearing from students who would like to assume leadership of our International Studies Student Association (ISSA). The organization is open to all students and is designed to give you the opportunity to become better acquainted with one another and to plan activities and events. If you are interested or have any questions, please contact Dr. Houck. You will see at the end of the newsletter that Dr. Houck has established a separate FACEBOOK page for ISSA. We encourage you to get involved.

Fowler Scholarship



We would like to remind you that the Fowler International Scholarship is available for 2016-17 with a minimum award of \$4,000. The deadline for applications is February 5, 2016. The award is open to students majoring in either International Studies or Political Science who are considering a career in law or international affairs. Eligibility requirements and application procedures are noted on the web. Eligible students are strongly encouraged to apply for this prestigious award. For more information:

<http://gias.uncc.edu/student-resources/fowler-scholarship>



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GIAS Website

The department's website can be accessed at <http://gias.uncc.edu>. Information is available regarding our faculty, programs, events, and curricula. We also post detailed information regarding advising procedures for registration and the courses we will offer each semester. Students are especially invited to follow the links provided to a number of academic support services that are available across campus.

WE ARE ON THE WEB:

[GIAS.UNCC.EDU](http://gias.uncc.edu)

Facebook Pages

Please note that we have a GIAS FACEBOOK page. Dr. Houck is our administrator and seeks to use the site to enable students (present and past) to stay connected and to foster discussion of timely issues. If you have not joined, please consider doing so by accessing the following link: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/101217669379/>

Dr. Cox has established a separate FACEBOOK page for students particularly interested in matters relating to the Holocaust, genocide and human rights. <http://www.facebook.com/#!/groups/248661328484817/>

Dr. Houck has also just created a FACEBOOK page for ISSA – the International Studies Student Association. He is anxious to get many of you involved in planning events and activities. This is a great way to meet other students – please get involved.

<https://www.facebook.com/UNCCISSA>

Students are certainly welcome to join all groups.

