

African Studies (AFS)

African Studies offers two interdisciplinary programs, the minor (AFS) and the Five College African Studies Certificate (AFC). Both offer a systematic introduction to the complex historical, political and social issues of the African continent. Of the six courses required for the minor and for the certificate, one must be taken in literature or the arts, one in history, and one in the social sciences. The certificate also requires competence in a foreign language. Although no AFS courses are offered on the introductory level, most 200-level courses are open to first-year students in the spring term.

Many minors spend a semester or more in Africa. Ghana, Kenya, Senegal, South Africa and Tanzania all currently offer programs of interest to Smith students.

AFS students are strongly encouraged to study certain languages to prepare them for programs overseas and for certain courses at Smith. Students who are planning to study in Africa should give priority to language instruction in their first year at Smith. French, Portuguese, Arabic and Swahili are all offered at Smith or in the Five Colleges.

The wide array of courses on Africa offered at Smith and at the other Five College campuses ensures that students, whether focusing on literature, art, history, politics, or social and economic issues, have an unusual opportunity to customize their program both topically and geographically.

Afro-American Studies (AAS)

Courses in the department of Afro-American Studies consider how racial blackness (and the concept of race itself) influences the development of the modern world. A student in our department is first a critical thinker, one who learns to ask questions, seek connections, un-pack what is invisible or ignored. This critical thinking is achieved through an interdisciplinary curriculum where students engage the methods of various disciplines (for example, history, sociology, and literature). Our courses emphasize close-reading, research, and writing; they also encourage students to think about the Caribbean, Africa, and Diaspora communities in Europe and elsewhere.

AAS 111—Introduction to Black Culture is the entry point to the major and offers a broad study of the political, cultural, and social themes that inform African-American culture and history. Two other courses that first-year students might consider are AAS 117—History of Afro-American People to 1960, the foundational history offering in our department, and AAS 113—Survey of Afro-American Literature: 1746-1900. There are also two first-year seminar offerings that could serve as an introduction to Afro-American studies: FYS 124—African-American Folk Culture and FYS 148—Black Culture and Identity in Motion.

During her sophomore and junior years, a student is expected to develop a concentration arranged by discipline, topic, or historical period. We also strongly encourage majors to study abroad (past students have gone to South Africa, Kenya, Mali, Senegal, Ghana, London, Paris). Both the concentration and the travel abroad experience are central to preparing students for research work in the senior year (via seminars, special studies or honors theses), as well as for fellowships, graduate and professional school, and employment opportunities after Smith.

American Studies (AMS)

American Studies is the 6th largest major at Smith, and one of the oldest undergraduate programs in American Studies in the nation. We offer our students the opportunity to study American culture in a coherent, wide-ranging, and intellectually rigorous way, using perspectives from many disciplines—history, literature, anthropology, film and media studies, art history, economics, to name a few—to explore an exhilarating variety of cultural materials.

When you look at the American Studies sections of the Course Catalogue, you might be surprised to find relatively few courses listed there. This is because American Studies majors choose most of their courses from US-focused classes in other departments. The heart of our curriculum is a set of three core courses: an introduction to our field (AMS 201); a course emphasizing the methods and perspectives crucial to the study of a complex culture (AMS 202); and a senior symposium in which students pursue independent, advanced work. Beyond this set of three courses, each major

chooses her own intellectual path, working closely with her major adviser to choose courses from a range of departments that together will form a rich and focused exploration of American culture and society.

Many American Studies majors spend all or part of their junior year abroad, some in year-long Smith-sponsored programs, others in a variety of programs in English and non-English speaking countries (there are excellent American Studies programs in England, for example). And American Studies at Smith offers something no other college does: a semester-long internship at the Smithsonian Institutions in Washington D.C., where students do professional level research and share in the work of exhibition design. After college, American Studies majors pursue a wide range of careers: they become, for instance, historians, lawyers, teachers, journalists, urban planners, financial consultants and, in one case, a designer of high art hats. Above all, we aim to help our students become informed and responsible citizens in an ethnically diverse, rapidly changing, media-saturated world.

A student interested in American Studies should plan to take AMS 201, Introduction to the Study of American Society and Culture, in the spring term. In the fall, a good place to start would be with the one-credit evening lecture course IDP 102, "Thinking Through Race," which will provide a glimpse of American Studies approaches in action, or with a US-focused class in a discipline that interests you. Some examples: English 231; Afro-American Studies 111, 117, or 245; Film Studies 200; or History 264 or 278.

Ancient Studies (ANS)

Ancient Studies is an interdepartmental minor designed for students who wish to study the ancient civilizations of the Mediterranean and the Near Eastern worlds (to roughly 600 C.E.) from an interdisciplinary perspective. It is an ideal accompaniment to any major for a student who is enthusiastic about exploring the ancient world in some depth during her time at Smith. A prospective minor should consult with one of the Ancient Studies advisers to plan a program that focuses on her primary area(s) of interest, consisting of six courses in art, classics, government, history, philosophy, religion, and archaeology. A list of approved courses can be found in the catalog, and a student may count others in consultation with her adviser. In order to allow the student to achieve suitable breadth, the six courses counting towards her Ancient Studies minor will normally come from at least three different departments or programs. No languages are required for this minor.

Anthropology (ANT)

The program in anthropology offers both a major and a minor. Upper-level courses cover such topics as economic and political strategies in non-Western societies, medical anthropology and medical ethics, media and performance, the culture of gender, development anthropology, museum studies, visual anthropology and urban anthropology. Area courses in Africa, East Asia, Latin America, Native American studies and South Asia are also offered.

Majors are required to take ANT 130 and a senior seminar, as well as one theory-intensive (TI) and one methods-intensive (MI) course. Prospective majors should also note that an area concentration is desirable and that three related courses in such fields as economics, government, history, religion or sociology, among others, may also count toward the major.

Anthropology majors are encouraged to consider an academic program abroad during their junior year. In the past, majors have spent a term or year in Chile, China, Ecuador, England, Geneva, India, Kenya, Mexico, Paris, Peru, Scotland, Senegal, Tanzania or South Africa.

ANT 130—Introduction to Cultural Anthropology offers a survey of the basic concerns of anthropology. It explores the similarities and differences in the patterning of human experience and the impact of the modern world on traditional societies.

Archaeology (ARC)

Archaeology is a method that helps us understand the human past through the interpretation of the material remains of earlier human societies. The program in archaeology represents a six-course minor that can be most usefully taken to supplement work in a major field such as anthropology, art, religion, classical languages and literatures, history or even a natural science

such as geology, biology or chemistry.

The minor involves courses in a number of departments as well as the core introductory course ARC 211—Introduction to Archaeology. Offered once a year in the fall, ARC 211 is open to sophomores, juniors and seniors, and can be taken by first-year students who have had some course experience in ancient history, archaeology or the social sciences. Students intending to minor in archaeology should select additional courses for the minor in consultation with a program faculty adviser (please see the catalog under Archaeology).

Actual archaeological excavation at approved sites is normally a requirement for the minor as well as being a wonderful general educational experience. Smith students have in recent years participated in programs in Austria, Belize, China, Cyprus, Greece, Jordan, Israel, Italy, the United Kingdom and the (Southwest) United States. Interested students are encouraged to speak with the instructor of ARC 211 and/or a program faculty adviser regarding fieldwork prospects. Links to resources that would help in identifying potential archaeological experiences can be found on the program Web site.

Art (ART)

The study of art, whether studio art, art history, or architecture, is the study of culture as well as self-expression. An understanding of this expression enlarges and develops our own spirits. A concentration in art at Smith has led students to careers as artists, historians, architects, landscape architects, museum curators, gallery owners, teachers, conservators, preservationists and art representatives. Others have found careers in business and law, in fact, in all professional and life pursuits.

The full range of courses in the history of art, from pre-Columbian sculpture to 21st-century architecture, from Chinese scrolls to recent film art, is balanced by the extensive offerings in studio art, which include painting, drawing, photography, printmaking, sculpture, typography, digital media and architecture. Perhaps unique among Smith College's rich offerings is an architecture major that combines studio work with courses in architectural history. Many first-year students may wish to enroll in one of the colloquia: Approaches to Visual Representation (ARH 101). Each colloquium is a one-semester, four-credit course that introduces students to the history of art, focusing on a particular theme, topic or historic period. Other 100-level survey courses (ARH 120, 130 and 140) have also been introduced into the art history curriculum and are open to first-year students. Within the studio area, students usually elect *Drawing I*, to work in still life, figure drawing and some color, and to discuss and compare works by class participants and established artists. A series of design courses (2-D, 3-D and digital) are also popular courses for entering students.

Exemption from an introductory studio course is occasionally granted to students upon presentation to the studio faculty, during orientation, of an acceptable portfolio.

Astronomy (AST)

Astronomy is the study of the cosmos, from our home planet to the farthest reaches of the universe. One of the original liberal arts, astronomy offers students an unparalleled perspective for appreciating our planet and the life that it supports. It also provides insight into the simplicity of the forces of nature and how they govern the origin and evolution of our universe and its constituent galaxies, stars and planets.

On the Smith campus, the McConnell Rooftop Observatory houses two computer-controlled Schmidt-Cassegrain telescopes with apertures of 14 and 16 inches plus a suite of portable 8-inch telescopes for classroom use. The 16-inch telescope is equipped with a state-of-the-art electronic CCD camera, which can image faint galaxies and nebulae. We are part of a collaborative Five College Astronomy Department, which collectively includes approximately 15 faculty

members and offers a rich undergraduate curriculum. Other Five College campuses provide a planetarium and additional telescopes.

At Smith three introductory-level astronomy courses offer an exposure to science for students who consider themselves “math-shy.” These are (1) AST 100–Survey of the Universe, which offers a broad overview of modern astronomy, (2) AST 102–Sky I: Time, which explores the celestial motions that gave rise to clocks and calendars and (3) AST 103– Sky II: Telescopes, where you learn to use small telescopes for viewing planets, stars, nebulae and galaxies.

We also have two introductory courses for students who are comfortable with algebra and trigonometry: (1) AST 111–Introduction to Astronomy and (2) AST 113–Telescopes and Techniques, which makes extensive use of the telescopes of the McConnell Rooftop Observatory.

First-year students considering a major in astronomy should take AST 111 in their first semester and AST 113 in their second semester. They should also take MTH 111 and 112 (Calculus I and II), plus the introductory physics sequence as early as possible, preferably in the first year. First-year students who are particularly well prepared may want to also take a 200-level course in the second semester.

Students considering a major or minor in astronomy should make an appointment with Suzan Edwards or James Lowenthal at the earliest opportunity.

Biochemistry (BCH)

Biochemistry is an ideal major for students with a broad interest in current science, as it brings together aspects of biology, chemistry, computer science and physics for an interdisciplinary approach to problem solving at the cellular and molecular levels. Areas such as genomics, proteomics, enzymology, pharmacology, metabolism, energetics, bioinformatics and structural biology are all encompassed within the discipline.

Biochemistry is also interdepartmental, sponsored jointly by the biological sciences and chemistry departments. Advisers to the major are drawn from both departments. Because biochemistry builds on the fundamentals of both biology and chemistry, students who major in biochemistry begin by taking courses in both of these fields. The background includes general biology, cell biology, physiology and molecular biology, as well as general, organic and physical chemistry. Biochemistry follows in either the second or third year, along with more specialized courses selected according to the student’s individual interests.

Because this major requires a sequence of courses with various prerequisites, entering students are encouraged to see one of the biochemistry advisers before making initial course selections. Typically, a first-year student should take BIO 150 and 151 and one of the general chemistry courses, CHM 111 or 118, followed by CHM 222.

Placement in the introductory biology and chemistry courses is achieved by departmental consultation at the time of registration.

Biological Sciences (BIO)

The major in Biological Sciences is designed to provide 1) a strong basis for understanding biological perspectives on various issues, 2) conceptual breadth across several major disciplines in biology, 3) depth in one or more specialized fields in biology, 4) experience with modern tools and techniques of biological research, and 5) the opportunity to personally experience the excitement and process of scientific investigation. Within this general framework, students can construct course programs that serve their individual interests and plans after graduation, while insuring that they acquire a broad background in the biological sciences and exposure to related fields such as chemistry, physics, geology, engineering, mathematics, and computer science.

Prospective majors should consult with biology faculty in choosing their courses. In their first semesters, students are encouraged to enroll in one of the introductory colloquia (BIO 110) or a core course (BIO 150-155) as well as chemistry (CHM 111 or 118).

Majors are required to complete the three core courses (BIO 150, 152, and 154), CHM 111 or 118, and a course in statistics (preferably MTH 245). The core courses can be taken in any sequence, and each is offered in both the fall and spring semesters. Many of the 200- and 300- level Biological Sciences have these core courses as prerequisites. The major also requires one course in each of three distribution areas (Cells, Physiology and Development; Genetics, Genomics and Evolution; and Biodiversity, Ecology and Conservation), at least three 300-level courses, at least six laboratory courses including two of the three core course labs (BIO 151, 153, and 155) and elective courses to bring the total credits in the major to 56.

Chemistry (CHM)

Chemistry impacts every aspect of our lives profoundly from our bodies, to the air we breathe, the technologies that we use and the art we create. Chemistry is the powerful “central science.” Diverse fields such as human physiology, ecology, physics and engineering are unified by chemistry: they are explored every day at the atomic and molecular level, providing the understanding that has made possible drug design, mapping the human genome, improving air quality through cleaner fuels, and engineering materials such as plastics that improve our quality of life. A chemist carries out experiments, assimilates her results and uses them to explain, predict and control the properties of matter. She might try to answer questions such as why a material is colored, why it has magnetic and electrical properties, why it reacts with other materials or why some materials last longer than others. She might synthesize and identify new substances in search of her answer and relate her observations to the molecular structures of the reactants and products. The chemistry curriculum is designed to cultivate this critical scientific thinking, a skill that will be carried into a student’s future studies, career and her informed decisions about scientific issues that will affect her everyday life.

The chemistry department offers courses for the major, minor and for nonmajors. The foundation for chemistry majors is laid in the two-year introductory sequence, beginning with CHM 111 or CHM 118 during their first semester. CHM 111 is a general chemistry course for students with little or no background in chemistry and is separated into three smaller sections to provide stronger student/faculty interaction. CHM 118 is an advanced general chemistry course for students with a strong chemistry background and replaces both CHM 111 and 224. Following general chemistry, majors take CHM 222 and 223, Organic I and II, during their second and third semesters. CHM 224, a second general chemistry course, is taken in the fourth semester. Majors should also plan on taking physics and calculus within their first two years. Advanced courses required during the third and fourth year include any two of a variety of electives offered by the department, such as Materials Chemistry or Drug Design and Biological Chemistry which broaden the core curriculum.

The chemistry faculty is dedicated to giving each student a quality education. We emphasize analytical thinking and accurate reporting for problem solving in our courses and research programs. Students are strongly encouraged to take part in independent research, and chemistry honors students must complete a senior thesis during their final year. Experiments in the research labs and laboratory courses are carried out with the use of cutting-edge instruments, including high-resolution spectrometers, fast computational systems and dye lasers, housed in the department. Renowned chemists are invited to the department each semester to give seminars on current research; the weekly “chemistry lunchbag” talks provide chemistry students and faculty with the opportunity to informally discuss their own research projects. The chemistry department celebrates the completion of each year with its annual picnic and Ice Cream Freeze-Off.

Because chemistry permeates many disciplines, a chemistry major can consider a variety of professional fields. Past majors have pursued advanced studies and careers in chemistry, biochemistry, medicine, art conservation, pharmacology and environmental science. A chemistry

major may join the ranks of many Smith chemistry alumnae who have enjoyed success as research scientists, teachers, health professionals, lawyers and businesswomen.

For more information, log on to the chemistry Web site at <http://www.science.smith.edu/departments/Chem>.

Classical Languages and Literatures (CLS)

As the name of our department suggests, we study the civilization of the ancient Mediterranean, with a focus on the languages and literatures of the Greeks and Romans. This study has both intellectual and practical advantages. It introduces you to a world both strikingly like and exhilaratingly different from our own. Moreover, all our courses emphasize attentive reading, clear writing and forceful speaking—skills that are transferable to many future endeavors. Our majors have become professors, high school teachers, museum curators, doctors, lawyers, diplomats, FBI agents, and librarians, among many other things.

If you have already studied Latin in high school and wish to continue at Smith, you should plan to take the placement exam administered by the department. We will use the exam to recommend an appropriate Latin course for you. We will also grant advanced placement for AP scores of 4 or 5. If you're considering a major in classics, you should also plan to begin the study of Greek in your first or, at the latest, your second year. Finally, you should plan to take courses in ancient history, philosophy, art and archaeology to complement your study of the ancient languages.

If you have never studied Greek or Latin, you can begin at Smith. Latin 100Y and Greek 100Y are yearlong, non-intensive courses that will give you a solid foundation in the ancient languages. Both will help you improve your English vocabulary and sharpen your command of English grammar. How might you choose between the two? Greek is recommended if you're interested in philosophy, religion, or Greek literature – Homer or tragedy, for example. Latin, in addition to being the language of the Romans, is important for medieval and early modern studies, and very useful for pre-law.

Another way to approach the classical tradition is through the courses listed in the catalogue under Classics in Translation. Courses such as Classical Mythology, Life and Literature in Ancient Rome, The Trojan War, and Gender and Sexuality in Greco-Roman Culture have no prerequisites, and all the reading is in English.

Suggested courses for first-semester, first-year students: GRK 100Y, LAT 100Y, LAT 212 (if qualified by AP scores and/or the placement exam); CLS 190, CLS 227, CLS 235.

Comparative Literature (CLT)

Comparative literature takes an international, cross-cultural approach to literature. It's an ideal major for students who are interested in different kinds of writing and who want to deepen their knowledge of foreign languages. One comparative focus is literary influence: what Baudelaire learned from Poe, what African and Caribbean novelists took—and didn't take—from Europe, how contemporary women writers respond to one another's work. We also analyze historical periods in which related changes were occurring in different literatures: Modernism throughout Europe, China and the United States, for example, or postcolonial writing in India, Latin America and Japan. The comparatist might also follow a figure or theme (Cleopatra, fantastic bodily change, childhood) or a literary genre (comedy, the short story) through its transformations in different times and places. In class, we discuss texts in English translation, but if you know a foreign language, you'll be encouraged to use it to read texts in the original. Exploring literature through time and across national borders also raises large theoretical questions. Why do writers write and what shapes the ways they do it? Who reads and how, and how have interpretations of classic works changed over time? We also investigate translation, different critical approaches to literature, and the relationship of literature to the other arts.

The first requirement for the major is Western Classics, Homer to Dante (CLT/ENG 202). This is a fast-paced, challenging course in which students read early texts from Greece, Rome and the

Middle Ages, analyzing how writers rewrote their predecessors. This course is writing-intensive and it's taught every fall in small sections. (The spring semester, CLT/ENG 203, which includes *Don Quixote* and *War and Peace*, is strongly recommended for potential comparative literature majors.)

First-year students interested in comparative literature as a major should also continue their study of a foreign language, begin a new one or take a literature course in a foreign language. Suggested course for first-semester, first-year students: CLT/ENG 202.

Computer Science (CSC)

Computers are ubiquitous in modern society and their influence continues to grow wildly. Yet few understand and know what it is that computers do, or what specialists are able to do with them. Many specialists are drawn to the field of artificial intelligence with its cross-disciplines of robotics and philosophy. Computer theorists blend the formal elegance of pure mathematics with the question "What can be computed?" Computer systems specialists work directly with central processors of a machine and may design supercomputers that render the latest state-of-the-art animated film, or tiny embedded processors that are essential components of microsurgery.

Smith Computer Science graduates are employed by companies such as IBM, Microsoft, AmeriCorps, Affinity Labs, Dell, Motion Computing, Booz Allen Hamilton, Morgan-Chase, and the Federal Reserve. Others have become high school teachers in math, computer science or multimedia. And many have gone to graduate school in computer science, math, law, economics, or digital art at universities such as Harvard, Carnegie Mellon, San Francisco Academy of Art, Stanford, the University of Massachusetts Amherst, Oxford, Yale, and Princeton.

The Computer Science major is designed to be flexible, enabling students to pursue junior year abroad, to double major, etc. The major includes four "core courses" plus a 300-level research topic seminar, and courses from three primary areas: programming, systems/hardware, and theory. The first core course and entry point to the major is CSC 111-Computer Science I, the introductory programming course. No prior experience is assumed. Students write programs that include interactive graphics and direct communications with servers. Four courses can be taken directly after CSC 111. CSC 112-Computer Science II or Data Structures is one of the four core courses of the major. It increases the range and complexity of programming with structured manipulation of data. CSC 240-Computer Graphics, CSC 249-Networks, and CSC 290-Artificial Intelligence can be taken right after CSC 111 as well, and can fulfill 200-level requirements over the three primary areas.

The other two core courses are CSC 231 and CSC 250. CSC 231-Microprocessors and Assembly Language is essential to comprehending how computer hardware really works. It is also of practical significance to science majors who expect to use microprocessors to control experiments. CSC 250-Foundations of Computer Science introduces the abstract theory of computation, to models of languages and machines.

Suggested courses for first-year students: CSC 111 and CSC 102, 103, or 105. These are three two-credit courses, each lasting half a semester, for all students: CSC 102-How the Internet Works and CSC 103-How Computers Work reveal what is "under the hood" of these common technologies; CSC 105-Interactive Web Documents pushes further into web technology.

Dance (DAN)

The educational and artistic mission of the Smith College dance department is to champion the imaginative, expressive powers of human movement. The curriculum emphasizes in-depth study of a broad spectrum of dance as an art form, including technical, creative, historical, cultural and scientific perspectives. Students are encouraged to balance performance and creative studies with a comprehensive understanding of the historical and cultural contexts of different dance traditions. They may shape their major studies in either traditional or interdisciplinary ways—reflecting the wide range of career options and new directions of the contemporary field.

The dance department offers theory courses and studio courses. Theory courses are four credit courses including dance history, anthropology of dance, choreography, music for dancers, anatomy and kinesiology for dancers and Laban movement analysis. Studio courses are two-credit courses in ballet, modern, jazz, world dance forms and experiential anatomy for performers. Students interested in dance should combine theory and studio courses. The recommended introductory theory courses are DAN 171–Dance in the 20th Century and DAN 151–Elementary Dance Composition.

Studio courses are open to audit only after they have been taken once for credit. Credit students and majors will always receive priority when class size is excessive. These courses are concerned with careful and concentrated training in dance, so regular attendance and participation are required. Advanced-level ballet, jazz and modern classes are by audition only. Students normally take these courses (two credits each) in addition to the regular course program. Questions about enrolling at an appropriate level can be addressed to the department faculty.

The Smith College dance department offers a bachelor of arts in dance through the Five College dance department. Smith also offers a master of fine arts in dance. In addition to choreographing, studying and performing at Smith, first-year students may travel to other campuses for dance courses after the first semester and may participate in performances and special master classes on the other campuses. Current information on classes and activities at the five colleges is available through the dance department each semester.

Students interested in dance can also major in theatre with an emphasis in dance. It is recommended that students who know they will be theatre-dance majors take an introductory theatre course.

Suggested courses for first-semester, first-year students: 151, 200, any appropriate-level studio course.

East Asian Languages and Cultures (EAL)

Our Department offers students the exciting opportunity to study East Asia through language, literature, linguistics and culture. China, Japan, and Korea date back thousands of years, yet all three are poised to be major players in the globalization of economics and culture in the 21st century. Knowledge of Asian languages and cultures is increasingly important for working in many fields in the humanities, social sciences, technology, business and international relations. In the Department's Major in East Asian Languages and Cultures, students may concentrate on the language, linguistics and literature of either China or Japan. Although not a major, students may study Korean language from beginning through advanced levels. The flexible major allows students the opportunity to broaden their cultural studies to include courses in other fields and departments. You don't have to be a major to enjoy our courses, and students who intend to major in another department are welcome to enroll.

Begin language study right away. The department offers a full program in each language, and we strongly encourage students to start in the fall semester of their first year. First year language courses assume no prior knowledge or exposure to the language, but advanced placement may be offered to students with language experience. In addition to language study during the first year, students who intend to major in the Department should take at least one of the surveys of Chinese or Japanese literature: EAL 231: The Culture of the Lyric in Traditional China; EAL 232: Modern Chinese Literature; EAL 241: Literature and Culture in Premodern Japan; or EAL 242: Modern Japanese Literature. Majors should complete both survey courses in their concentration by the end of their sophomore year. Knowledge of the language is not required to enroll in literature courses, unless otherwise noted.

Three years of language study in the concentration on either Chinese or Japanese are required for the major, as well as seven additional courses on literature and culture, which will include a seminar and a course focusing on the literature of an East Asian country other than the concentration. Literature courses offer introductory, thematic and cross-cultural inquiries into the literary cultures of China and Japan and cover such topics as poetry and the visual arts, gender and literary expression, and the politics of translation. Three of the seven required courses are elective courses that may include advanced study in the Department or approved courses in related departments.

Students are strongly encouraged to take advantage of our outstanding study-abroad programs, where they will accelerate their language studies and learn firsthand what it's like to live in the culture and with the people of China, Japan or Korea.

East Asian Studies (EAS)

East Asian studies offers students the opportunity to develop a coherent and comprehensive understanding of the great civilizations of the Asia Pacific region. In an era of multicultural education, the study of East Asia should not be considered an exotic or peripheral field of study, but rather a mainstream and integral component of a liberal arts education. Through the comparative study of these diverse cultures, students also come to a better understanding of their own societies and cultures.

The EAS program reflects the emergence of East Asia politically, economically and culturally onto the world scene, especially during the past century, and anticipates its continued importance in this century. Our offerings have prepared recent graduates for careers in such areas as academia, the mass media, securities and banking, law, international organizations, and the Foreign Service.

The East Asian studies major allows students to combine the study of one or more of the regional languages (Chinese, Japanese, Korean) with an interdisciplinary exploration of both the humanities and the social sciences. The major allows students to emphasize the civilization of one East Asian country (in comparative perspective) or to concentrate on a theme (for example, the Buddhist legacy, the Confucian heritage, East Asian political economy or East Asian gender issues). The program also offers opportunities and encourages students to study abroad in China, Japan and Korea.

Economics (ECO)

Economics studies the allocation of a society's resources and explores the many public policy debates around those allocations. Economists believe that free markets are generally (but not always) a good way to allocate society's resources. But how do markets work, why are they useful and when do they fail?

The economics department offers two introductory courses, ECO 150—Introductory Microeconomics and ECO 153—Introductory Macroeconomics. These courses present the “economic” way of thinking and introduce the basic analytic tools. **Either may be taken first**, but it is not recommended that they be taken simultaneously. Economics 150 examines such questions as: How does a competitive market work to determine production and prices? Should necessities like food, shelter, health care and education be provided by the market or by the government, and what are the benefits and costs of other forms of government regulation? What solutions are there to environmental degradation? Why do nations trade with each other and who benefits from international trade? What is the extent of income inequality and poverty in the U.S., and what is the impact of government tax, welfare, and labor policy on these problems? Economics 153 looks at questions such as: Why does the economy grow in some years and shrink in others? What can the government do to help? What are budget deficits and trade deficits and why do they matter? Will Social Security be there for you and your children? Why is the value of the dollar falling in Europe? Can we eliminate unemployment? What causes inflation and overall economic growth?

Some students choose to study economics in order to become economists and work in business, academia or government agencies. Laura d'Andrea Tyson was a Smith economics major who became a professor of economics at the University of California, Berkeley, and was later appointed head of President Clinton's Council of Economic Advisers. Other students majoring in economics find that the logical rigor and social relevance of economics prepare them for diverse careers in law, nonprofit and educational organizations and public service. But economics is also useful for nonmajors. For them, economics can be an important element in their general liberal arts training, helping them to function as informed citizens and enriching their daily lives. There are many opportunities to study economics during a Junior Year Abroad, both in English-language and foreign-language programs.

Students who have already taken economics in high school are encouraged to take one or both of our economics placement exams during orientation. Students who pass these exams are eligible to count them as the equivalent of ECO 150 and/or ECO 153 and to proceed directly to the intermediate level. Students with scores of 4 or 5 on Advanced Placement exams and students with International Baccalaureate credit or A-level credit may place out of one or both introductory courses, but they, too, are encouraged to take our placement exams.

Suggested courses for first-semester, first-year students are ECO 150 or 153, or 250 or 253 if qualified as noted above.

Education and Child Study (EDC)

The study of education is the study of an institution and a process of fundamental importance in our culture. Significant resources, human and material, are spent on the educational enterprise. Through education we transmit our culture; thus, success or failure of education affects not only students and teachers but all of society. Many of our hopes and aspirations rest on our ability to educate. The field of education is truly multidisciplinary, and our quest to understand education includes historical, philosophical and psychological perspectives. Effective teaching, curriculum design and the creation of instructional materials are major educational concerns. So too are understanding how people acquire knowledge and skill, how they think, solve problems and become literate. Students may wish to enroll in an education course to learn about any of these topics, to get a perspective on the educational enterprise or, perhaps most importantly, to gain insight about themselves as learners.

The teaching profession is often the aim of students in education. We offer programs leading to teaching certification and careers in elementary and secondary teaching; however, the field is broader than this. Business, industry, museums, hospitals and other institutions are becoming increasingly involved in education. Publishers, television and the computer industry are concerned about educational matters. Educational research and development, evaluation, guidance and counseling, and special education are other education-related fields. We offer a nonteaching major for students who want to concentrate in these areas. Any of the 100-level courses, EDC 235–Child and Adolescent Growth and Development or EDC 238–Educational Psychology, are good beginning courses. The Smith College Campus School, a pre-K through grade six laboratory school, is the primary site for research, observation and teaching. Many classes use this excellent resource.

Engineering (ENG)

Smith's engineering program offers students the opportunity to explore an undergraduate curriculum leading to a B.S. degree in Engineering Science. The focus is fundamental to the practice of all engineering disciplines and is the most rigorous branch of engineering.

Engineering is a connecting force among disciplines. In addition to learning essential principles, Smith engineering students understand the social, political, economic and environmental impact of their work. An integrated curriculum of liberal arts, sciences and engineering courses provides the breadth and depth needed to think critically, act reflectively and make informed choices. We offer the degree in engineering science because, in the best Smith tradition, we believe that women engineers should think deeply and broadly about the effect their professional knowledge will have on the well-being of those whose trust they hold.

Unique to the program is the emphasis in design and the ability for students to develop expertise that enables them to obtain graduate degrees in a range of engineering disciplines that include electrical, environmental, materials, mechanical, bioengineering, aerospace, design, fuel science and green design to name a few. Additionally, Smith engineers are widely sought after for corporate (practice) and not for profit opportunities because of their ability to think critically and solve problems.

First year students considering Engineering should take EGR 100 *Engineering for Everyone* which is a first year engineering design course. Additionally, students should take CHM 111 *General Chemistry* as it is only offered only in the fall and Calculus. For guidance as to the specific courses needed stop by the Engineering office for additional detail.

English Language and Literature (ENG)

The department of English offers a variety of courses in British, American, and postcolonial literature as well as courses in theory, writing, and film. English courses teach close reading, informed interpretation, and effective writing; they offer historical and comparative perspectives on literature; and they encourage students to read with discipline, subtlety, and pleasure.

Students enter the major by taking two out of four possible gateway courses: ENG 199 (offered both semesters), 200 (fall), 201 (spring), or 231 (fall). To take ENG 199, 200, or 231 in the fall of the first year, students must have scored 710 or more on the Critical Reading part of the SAT or scored 4 or 5 on the AP exam. ENG 199—Introduction to Literary Study is a methods course for students seriously considering an English major. It provides them with a “tool kit” of critical terms and allows them to experiment with a variety of texts, from medieval poems to Hitchcock’s *Vertigo*. ENG 200 and 201—The English Literary Tradition I (fall) and II (spring) provide an historical survey of the development of English literature from its beginnings in Anglo-Saxon poetry to its explosion in the 20th century into a vast international heritage of many genres, cultures and peoples. It allows students to discover authors, periods, or genres that they can explore further in more advanced English courses. We recommend, but do not require, that 200 and 201 be taken in sequence. ENG 231—American Literature before 1865 is an historical survey that focuses on the role of literature in the new nation as it sought to establish a culture of its own. ENG 231 is the first part of an American literature sequence that continues with ENG 233 and 235.

Some junior English majors immerse themselves in a foreign language on one of Smith’s Junior Year Abroad programs. To do so requires that they begin to study the host country’s language immediately upon arrival at Smith if they have not already begun to acquire it. Some juniors study in the U.K. or in English-speaking countries around the world. Juniors and seniors on campus take at least one small, discussion-based seminar on an advanced topic; some also participate in self-designed research projects through special studies, Kahn Institute projects, or (for seniors) honors theses. In addition to a rich variety of upper-level literature courses, many juniors and seniors take advanced writing courses in non-fiction, fiction, and poetry.

A first-year student seriously considering an English major might take a section of ENG 120—Colloquia in Literature, a choice of fall and spring courses that provide practice in the critical analysis of literary texts, with emphasis on writing interpretive essays. Each colloquium deals with a different theme or literary genre; frequently offered topics include “Fiction,” “Modern Drama,” “Shakespeare and Film,” “Mysteries and Investigations,” and “Reading and Writing Short Poems.” One colloquium counts toward the English major. Four other courses are open in the fall to first-year students who have scores of 710 or more on the Critical Reading part of the SAT, or a score of 4 or 5 on the AP exam: ENG 199, 200, 202 and 231. Three of these courses—199, 200 and 231—serve as gateway courses for the English major (see above). The entrance requirements for 199, 200, and 231 apply only to students in their first semester of college. Qualified entering students considering an English major may choose to take both ENG 199 and ENG 200 or 202 in their first semester. Others, including those whose preparation may be less strong, could take ENG 120 in the fall and ENG 199 in the spring. Another introductory chronological sequence that counts toward the major is ENG 202 AND 203—Western Classics in Translation I (fall) and II (spring). It provides intensive study of some of the major texts of Western culture, from the *Iliad* to *War and Peace*.

Entering students headed toward any major and in search of a Writing Intensive course might choose ENG 118—Colloquia in Writing or ENG 120—Colloquia in Literature. ENG 118 develops skills in writing clear expository prose and in arguing logically and convincingly. It is particularly recommended for students who have not had much practice writing analytic prose or who are uncertain of their writing skills. It serves students planning to major in many fields and does not count toward the English major. ENG 120, described above, attracts a variety of students, nonmajors and prospective majors alike. ENG 199, a methods course for prospective English majors, is NOT the right choice for a student looking simply to fulfill the writing requirement. Students in the first semester of college who have scores of 710 or more on the Critical Reading part of the SAT, or a score of 4 or 5 on the AP exam, may take ENG 200 (certain sections) or 202 to fill the writing requirement; in the spring any student interested in literature may take 201 or 203 for that purpose.

Environmental Science and Policy (EVS)

Environmental Science and Policy is an interdisciplinary minor designed to encourage students to define, understand and address complex environmental problems through the application of science and policy. The minor is appropriate for students who seek to enhance their environmental literacy and ameliorate human impacts on the natural world. The minor provides interdisciplinary breadth by offering environmentally oriented courses in biology, geology, chemistry, engineering, spatial (GIS) analysis, philosophy, social sciences and policy.

The minor serves as an excellent complement to diverse majors including American studies, anthropology, biological sciences, chemistry, economics, geology, government and sociology. Students should discuss the minimum six-course requirement with the program director or with an environmental science and policy adviser, as listed in the course catalogue.

Courses appropriate for first-year students include ANT 230–Africa: Population, Health, and Environmental Issues; BIO 110–Conservation Biology; BIO 154–Biodiversity, Ecology and Conservation; CHM 108–Environmental Chemistry; EVS 150/GEO 150–Modeling Our World: An Introduction to Geographic Information Systems; FYS 147–The Science and Politics of Food, Water, and Energy; GEO 104–Global Climate Change; GEO 105–Natural Disasters; GEO 108–Oceanography; GEO 109–The Environment; GEO 111–Introduction to Earth Processes; GOV 207–Politics of Public Policy; GOV 241–International Politics if GOV 254–Politics of the Global Environment is planned; PHI 238–Environmental Ethics; PHY 100–Solar Energy and Sustainability; PPL 220–Public Policy Analysis; and SOC 232–World Population.

A primary goal of the minor is to promote hands-on experiences through field and laboratory research and class projects. In this regard, environmental internships and study abroad opportunities are encouraged. Up to three of the six courses for the minor can be taken off campus, through, but not limited to, partner programs such as the School for Field Studies, the School for International Training, and Williams-Mystic Maritime Studies Program. More advanced work within a student's area of interest can be pursued through the Senior Seminar (EVS 300), Special Studies (EVS 400), or discipline-specific upper-level courses. Please refer to the catalogue for a full listing of courses, requirements and advisers.

Ethics (ETH)

Ethics is an interdisciplinary minor that allows students to explore the issues of right and wrong that lie behind many decisions in public and private life. Courses are drawn mainly from the philosophy, religion and sociology departments at Smith, though relevant courses from other fields and other colleges are possible. Subjects include metaethics (on the possibility of judgments of right and wrong) and normative and applied ethics (moral judgments in specific fields, such as medicine, law and business).

The minor requires PHI 222–Ethics as its basic course, plus four others chosen from among PHI 221–Ethics and Society; PHI 235–Morality, Politics, and the Law; PHI 238–Environmental Ethics; PHI 241–Business Ethics; PHI 242–Medical Ethics; PHI 275–Moral Psychology; PHI 304–Colloquium in Applied Ethics: a topical seminar; ANT 344–Anthropology and Medical Ethics. Other courses may be substituted with permission of the advisory committee listed in the catalogue.

Exercise and Sport Studies (ESS)

The Department of Exercise and Sport Studies offers performance courses in more than 30 activities, as well as theoretical courses and a minor. Students have a great opportunity to learn new activities such as Pilates, tai chi, SCUBA, kayaking or fencing or to refine their abilities in other lifetime sports such as tennis and swimming. They can also choose from a number of physical-conditioning classes. Other courses lead to certifications in lifeguard training and water safety, which are often helpful in securing summer employment. Over one thousand students each year add an ESS performance course to their course loads.

Performance (900-level) courses are offered for one or two credits and should be taken in addition to a regular four-course academic requirement. No more than two ESS performance courses may be taken in any semester; no more than four credits for performance courses may be counted toward the degree.

Smith is unique as a liberal arts college in offering theoretical courses in exercise and sport studies. Classes in nutrition, health behavior, sociology of sport, kinesiology, sport psychology, youth sports and exercise physiology are offered regularly.

Film Studies (FLS)

The Film Studies Program provides in-depth study of the history, theory and criticism of film and other forms of the moving image. Our goal is to expose students to a range of cinematic works, styles and movements and to help them understand the medium's significance as an art form, as a technology, as a means of cultural and political expression, and as symptomatic of social ideologies.

A number of first-year seminars and other lower-level courses (in the ENG 120 series, for instance) offer an entry into the study of film, but students are advised to begin if possible with Introduction to Film Studies (FLS 200), a prerequisite for 300-level courses. FLS 200 introduces students to the field with an overview of what cinema does, for whom, and how, and introduces the student to various analytical modes in order to produce more incisive spectators and critics of everything from dominant Hollywood cinema to the avant-garde. This course and FLS 351–Film Theory, are the two required courses for the minor, which requires six courses all told. FLS 200 meets each fall; FLS351 meets each spring.

FLS 200 is also the starting-point for the Five College film major, which beginning in 2004–05 has made it possible for Smith students to study film in a full-fledged major. The Five College film major requirements are listed in the Smith course catalogue. Briefly, they comprise a total of ten courses, at least two of which must be taken away from Smith and one of which must be a course in film or video production or in screenwriting. At Smith, the video production courses offered are FLS 280–Introduction to Video Production and FLS 282–Advanced Video Seminar. An honors thesis is optional.

French Studies (FRN)

We offer courses in language, literature and culture, all in French. If you like the idea of exploring other cultures and/or spending your junior year in Paris or Geneva or French-speaking Africa, then you should consider taking French, even if you have never taken a French class before. Many successful JYA students, as well as many of our majors, began their study of French at Smith.

FRN 101 and FRN 102 (which together form a two-semester sequence) are offered for students who have never taken French. These two courses prepare you for 200-level language, literature or culture courses in the second year. You will then become eligible to spend your junior year abroad by taking three FRN courses during your sophomore year. If you studied French in high school, we will pre-place you in one of our courses according to your achievement and/or AP test scores; or you may take the FRN placement test administered at Smith during orientation. You will probably qualify for FRN 120 if you have had two or three years of French in high school; for FRN 220 or a 200-level course in literature or culture with four or more years. Our placement recommendations are meant to be flexible; if after a week of classes you find you're not at the right level, you can consult with your instructor and choose another course.

No matter what your plans for the future are, we encourage you to consider spending your junior year abroad. Smith College has two JYA programs in French-speaking countries: Paris and Geneva. Both programs are open to a variety of majors in the humanities, social sciences, and sciences. To qualify for either program, you will need to take a French course each semester of your first and sophomore years; the last FRN course before going abroad should normally be at the 250-level or above. All 4-credit French courses taken while on the Paris or Geneva program may count towards the French Studies major.

Geology (GEO)

Have you ever wondered what causes earthquakes, or why volcanoes erupt, or what the floor of the ocean is like? Could the causes of the extinction of the dinosaurs offer clues about our own future? Are you concerned about global warming, contaminated water supplies and the problems of hazardous waste disposal, sea-level rise, oceanic pollution, or the increasing frequencies of natural disasters? When you travel, do you ever wonder why the landscape differs from place to place or even how it came to be the way it is?

If you are intrigued by any of these questions, consider taking a geology course. Geology is the study of the earth and has direct relevance to our everyday lives. Introductory-level courses in geology stress this relevance by concentrating on topics of broad interest and everyday importance. Students in many geology courses take field trips to observe firsthand the materials and processes discussed in class.

Our introductory-level courses are designed for non-science majors but are appropriate for science majors as well. These courses include GEO 104–Global Climate Change, GEO 105–Natural Disasters: Confronting and Coping, GEO 106–Extraordinary Events in the History of the Earth, Life, and Climate, GEO 108–Oceanography: An Introduction to the Marine Environment, GEO 109–The Environment, GEO 111–Introduction to Earth Processes and History, GEO 112–Archaeological Geology of Rock Art and Stone Artifacts, FYS 134–Geology in the Field, GEO 150–Modeling Our World: An Introduction to Geographic Information Systems, FYS 150–Sherlock Holmes and the Scientific Method, and GEO 161–Exploring the Local Geologic Landscape. If, after completing one of these courses, you are interested in continuing to study geology or in majoring in this very special science, you should consult a geology faculty member.

If you think geology may be your possible major, you should be sure to elect 111, 108, FYS 134, or 161 in conjunction with a non-lab 100-level geology course. All 100-level courses may be taken without prerequisites, and up to three 100-level courses may be counted toward a minor in geology. If you already think that geology might be your major, in addition, you should seriously consider electing one of the following during your first year: CHM 111 or 115, MTH 111 or 112, PHY 115 or 116.

German Studies (GER)

Do you want to be able to communicate in a language that bridges Eastern and Western Europe? Are you curious about the ever-changing political, social and cultural face of Europe? Would you like to spend a year or a semester at a large university in a cosmopolitan city? Then you should seriously consider taking German at Smith.

German is spoken and used officially in Austria and Switzerland as well as in Germany, countries that remain a focal point of economic, political, social and cultural change in Europe. In other neighboring countries and throughout Eastern Europe, German is a particularly important second language. If you take courses in the Department of German Studies, you become qualified to apply for the Junior Year at the University of Hamburg, regardless of your major. Smith students who study in Hamburg have majors in fields as varied as art, comparative literature, economics, government, history, music, biology, chemistry, engineering, and other natural sciences, philosophy, psychology, religion or sociology. You can integrate studies in a variety of disciplines with a major or minor in German studies.

If you are considering spending a year in Hamburg, you should take German-language courses during your first two years at Smith. If you want to start German at Smith, you should enroll in German 100 in your first semester. If you already have a background in German, you must take the one-hour placement examination given during orientation. Students with AP scores of 4 or 5 need not take the placement exam; they should take German 221 or 222.

Beginning, intermediate and advanced courses are conducted in German, providing you ample opportunity to practice the language. In addition, the Department of German Studies offers several courses in English. Departmental activities outside of the classroom include the annual Oktoberfest, a weekly German-language lunch table, a film series, the Weihnachtsfeier, the German Club, a visit to the Metropolitan Opera in New York, a cabaret with performances by students and faculty, and the Maifeier at the end of the year.

Government (GOV)

The mission of the Department of Government is to educate students about the nature of political power. The inquiry, in one of its forms, is normative, with attention paid to the purposes of power and to the rights and duties of citizens. Attendant questions of justice and law also arise. In another of its forms, the inquiry is empirical. Here the subject is the practice of politics, particularly the structure and behavior of governments and the domestic and international institutions that interact with them. Methodology is a third form of inquiry, with students taught the techniques of quantitative and qualitative research. Finally, in a fourth form, the inquiry is applied, insofar as internships, community service, and role-playing function as applications of the discipline. Government majors should emerge from the program with an understanding of the social, cultural, and historical factors that shape the exercise of power. They should possess the ability to assess and criticize political actions and have the interest and confidence to engage in politics themselves.

Our main introductory course, Introduction to Political Thinking, or Gov 100, exposes students to the classic texts of the Western political tradition. Students soon learn that not every author acknowledges the superiority of democratic government, or the desirability of peace and prosperity, or the reasonableness of civilization, or the beneficence of market competition. The course begins with Plato and ends with one or more authors from the twentieth century. First-year students are advised to enroll in Gov 100, taught in independent sections in both fall and springs semesters. The other subfields of the major—American Government, Comparative Government, and International Relations—have their own introductory courses (Gov 200, Gov 220, Gov 241 respectively), and students are advised to take them next, in any order, though depending on background and level of preparation, some students might move directly to the more advanced 200-level courses. Seminars in the subfields are reserved for juniors and seniors.

Ten courses make up the major: Gov 100 (which is required); one 200-level course in each of the four subfields (including the introductory courses); a 300-level seminar; a concentration (the seminar plus two related courses); and two electives (courses from any subfield taken at any level).

The Government Department sponsors and operates the Picker Program in Washington D.C. Selected students, in the fall of their junior or senior years, spend a semester in the Washington working as interns, taking a seminar, and writing a lengthy research paper. The Smith JYA Program in Geneva is recommended for Government majors studying French, since the curriculum there focuses on politics and economics.

History (HST)

As a constantly changing field that continues to be interpreted in many innovative ways, history stands at the core of a liberal arts education. The study of history introduces you to individuals, societies and cultures in the past, offering insights into the making of our own complex world.

Whether or not you are a prospective history major, the Department of History provides entering students two avenues to the study of history: Introduction to Historical Inquiry (History 101 colloquia) and 200-level courses. The Department especially recommends History 101, discussion-oriented classes with a maximum of 18 first-year students and sophomores, that focus on particular themes and sources. In fall 2008, we offer two sections of HST 101. One section, "Biography and History in Africa", a Writing-Intensive class taught by David Newbury, critically examines how books and cinema present individuals' roles in history. The second section, led by Sergey Glebov, treats films produced in the Soviet Union as cultural artifacts, a series of messages with intended and unintended meanings. In fall 2008, students interested in history have the further option of East Asian Studies 100, an open-enrollment introduction to China, Japan, and Korea since 1840. East Asian Studies 100, taught by Marnie Anderson of the History Department, can be used to satisfy all requirements met by History 101.

Entering students are also welcome in 200-level History classes, all of which are open to first-year students unless a limit is specified in the catalogue description. 200-level courses suitable for first-year students in fall 2008 include Europe in the 20th Century, Colonial Latin America 1492-1825, Introduction to West African History, The Age of the American Civil War, Women and Gender in Modern Europe 1789-1918, and Women in the United States since 1865. Although First-Year Seminars do not count

toward the History major or minor, three of those offered in fall 2008 do include substantial historical content, namely FYS 125

Midwifery in Historical and Cross-Cultural Perspective, FYS 142 Reacting to the Past: History as Hypothesis, and FYS 153 Excavating Women.

A student who majors in History may count one (but only one) AP examination in history with a grade of 4 or 5 as the equivalent of a course toward the major. The Department of History website provides further information on specific courses and faculty, including a handbook revised each semester: www.smith.edu/history/student_handbook.htm

History of Science and Technology (HSC)

Like history of art, of literature, or of philosophy, history of science and technology focuses on the development of an area which has deeply influenced modern life and culture. Historians of science and technology are, however, interested in far more than science and technology; they are concerned with science and technology as changing entities and with scientists themselves. They seek to understand how personal and societal factors have shaped the creators of those scientific advances that have acted, for better or worse, so powerfully and pervasively in the modern world.

A student may take the introductory course, HSC 112 – Images and Understanding, at any time during her course of study at Smith. In the spring of 2009, HSC 112 will be offered as “The Century of the Gene.” This course explores historically (as well as philosophically and sociologically) the power, promises and perils of genetic research during the past 100 or so years. We will examine the fate of gene concepts, theories, images and practices both within the scientific disciplines and in the larger society and culture.

The program in history of science and technology offers a minor. Students take six classes: two in history of science and technology; two in history; and two in natural or mathematical sciences. Normally the two history of science and technology classes consist of HSC 112 and one upper level course chosen by the student in consultation with her adviser. The other four courses are chosen to complement the work done in the history of science classes.

Work at the Smithsonian Institution in the Picker Program counts as one course toward the minor, and courses in history of science and technology are readily available in the junior year abroad programs.

International Relations (IRL)

This interdisciplinary minor for students interested in international affairs is a complement to all departmental majors. The basis for the minor is a government course, GOV 241–International Politics, generally intended for sophomores, but open to qualified first-year students. The student can then choose from courses in economics, government, anthropology, history and so on, grouped in such a way as to introduce her to those disciplines relevant to a general understanding of how the international world operates. Equivalent courses offered at the other four colleges can be substituted for Smith courses. There is also the more rigorous Five College International Relations Certificate, which requires an additional course in area studies and a foreign language competence.

Interested students should speak to any of the international relations minor advisers listed in the catalogue.

Italian Language and Literature (ITL)

The Department of Italian Language and Literature offers the possibility of becoming fluent in a language, Italian, and thus to gain unique access to a culture at the very center of Western civilization. From the Middle Ages and Renaissance to the world of modernity and postmodernity, Italy has been a major crossroads, as it is once again for the current fluxes of immigration from Africa and Eastern Europe.

Our students are highly encouraged to spend their junior year in the Smith Junior Year Program in Florence, where they get to know contemporary Italian civilization firsthand through attending courses both in our Center and at the University of Florence, under the supervision of a Smith faculty director.

The entry point to the major is ITL 110 (Elementary Italian) or ITL 111 (Intensive Elementary Italian), courses which introduce the study of the language. In order to apply to the Junior Year Program in Florence students must have completed three semesters of language courses and an introductory survey course to Italian literature and art.

The program offers two majors (the major in Italian Language and Literature and the major in Italian Studies) and a minor (in Italian Language and Literature). Both tracks are required to take a course on Dante's Divine Comedy and a senior seminar. Majors in Italian Language and Literature concentrate on the analysis of literary texts while majors in Italian Studies study Italian culture in related fields, e.g., art history, economics, government, history, music, religion or sociology.

Jewish Studies (JUD)

Jewish studies offers an interdisciplinary approach to understanding Jewish civilization from the ancient period until today. We offer upper-level courses in Jewish history, modern Jewish literature, Hebrew Bible, Jewish thought, Israeli politics, Holocaust, and contemporary Jewish culture. Students appreciate the way Jewish studies intersects with fields as varied as American studies, comparative literature, English, German, government, history, Middle East studies, philosophy, religion, sociology, the study of women and gender, and many others.

The basis of the major and minor is JUD 225 Jewish Civilization: Text and Tradition. JUD 225 provides an overview of seminal Jewish texts and ideas in their historical context. Majors are also required to study Hebrew (JUD 100y), though the Program highly encourages Hebrew study by minors as well. Students interested in learning Hebrew should begin its study as soon as possible. Please note that the completion of JUD 100y or its equivalent is required before a semester or year of study abroad in Israel. This rule applies to all Smith students, whether or not they are major or minors in Jewish studies.

Major requirements include JUD 225, JUD 100y, and a senior seminar or advanced research special studies. Majors also select at least one course each from clusters in classical texts, history and thought, and literature and the arts. Prospective majors will also design a concentration of three courses within the major in close consultation with an adviser. Jewish Studies majors and minors often elect to consider an academic program abroad during their junior year. In the past, our students have spent a term, year, or summer in Israel, Great Britain, Lithuania, Prague, and Berlin. The Jewish studies web site, www.smith.edu/jud, contains a full listing of approved courses, major and minor requirements, approved study abroad programs, events, and faculty contacts.

Suggested courses for first year students: JUD 110y (Elementary Modern Hebrew), JUD 110j (Elementary Yiddish), JUD 225 (Jewish Civilization), FYS 163 (The Holy Land). 200-level courses listed by the Program are also open to interested and first year students.

Landscape Studies (LSS)

Smith's program in Landscape Studies is the first of its kind in a college in the United States. Landscape Studies is the multidisciplinary field that brings together studies in architecture and landscape architecture, landscape history and theory, art, art history and literature to join the sciences and social sciences in thinking about how we understand and interact with our environment. How do we view, define and use the land, whether it is our backyard, a moonscape, a construction site, a formal garden or a rain forest? How does land become a landscape—that is, a cultural as well as physical construction that is both imagined and engineered? How can we best prepare to be stewards of our environment? Landscape studies courses will complement your work in majors such as anthropology, art, biological sciences, literary and cultural studies, engineering, environmental sciences and government, among others.

Our Landscape Studies minor requirements include: "Introduction to Landscape Studies" (LSS 105); 2 other LSS courses; and 3 more courses in LSS or in related programs and departments across the curriculum. You may choose to include studios in Landscape Studies or Architecture as part of the minor. This fall, we recommend that you take LSS 105, and in the spring, we encourage you to take our 2 credit course, "Issues in Landscape Studies," with weekly lectures by Smith and Five-College faculty and other professionals, including practicing and teaching landscape architects, architects, engineers, developers, lawyers, biologists, artists, writers, and social and literary critics from all

over the country. This year, 100 students with various interests were enrolled. After your first year at Smith, faculty in the Department of Landscape Architecture and Regional Planning at the University of Massachusetts will welcome you in many of their courses, and you will also find related courses at Amherst, Hampshire, and Mount Holyoke Colleges.

LSS minors have **internships** in the United States, Great Britain and France, often while on one of Smith's Junior Year Abroad programs, and go on to **graduate work** in fields such as architecture, landscape architecture, biological sciences, engineering, environmental law, urban and regional planning, political science, and literary studies.

The faculty members who make up the Landscape Studies Steering Committee will be glad to talk with you: Professors Ann Leone (French; Director of Landscape Studies), Nina Antonetti (Landscape Studies), Michael Marcotrigiano (Biological Sciences), Reid Bertone-Johnson (Landscape Studies studios), Helen Horowitz (American Studies), Barbara Kellum (Art History), Susannah Howe (Engineering), Dean Flower and Douglas Patey (American studies, English, and History of Science and Technology).

Latin American and Latino/a Studies (LAS)

The requirements for either a major or a minor in Latin American and Latino/a Studies involve many intermediate and advanced courses in a number of different departments. To get started, a first-year student may take one or more of the following: LAS 260/HST 260–Colonial Latin America, or LAS 261/HST 261–National Latin America, 1821 to the present. Both are required for the major and are open to first-year students.

LAS 201–Colloquium in Latin American and Latino/a Studies: An introductory (100-level) course is either recommended or required (see below) for students interested in courses on Latin America in the following disciplines:

First Year Seminar (FYS) on a Latin American topic (recommended); introductory economics (required for more advanced courses on Latin America in the Economics Department); introductory anthropology (recommended); government (recommended); art history (recommended).

Beginners should sign up for SPN 112d. All others should take the placement test, or consult with members of the department. The study of Latin American literature begins with SLL 260 or SLL 261. For Portuguese, consult with members of the department. Consult the catalogue for a full list of advisers and of requirements for the major and minor. Consult Ginetta Candelario, director, ext. 3454.

Linguistics (LIN)

Linguistics is the science of language: it is the systematic study of what is universal, how grammars work, and what variation across languages consists in. Language is considered the crowning achievement of the human mind: how can that be characterized?

The basic course for the minor in Linguistics is Phi 236. This course, Linguistic Structures, exposes students to the major fields of contemporary Linguistics, with a major emphasis on generative approaches following Chomsky. It covers the major divisions of phonology (sound systems), syntax (grammar), semantics (meaning) and pragmatics (use), with exercises on the analysis of English but also many other languages.

Linguistics connects to many disciplines in fruitful ways, so students are attracted to it from a range of backgrounds: Psychology, Foreign languages, English, Computer Science, Education, or Philosophy. A first year student with good background in languages and good analytic skills could take Phi 236. Other possible starting points might be a year-long study of another language, or Logic 100, or a relevant English colloquium, then taking Phi 236 as a second year student.

Students may design a Linguistics major under the program for self-designed majors. The 5-colleges are exceptionally rich in relevant courses and there is an active community of linguists to assist interested students. The minor description in the catalog lists many possibilities.

Logic (LOG)

Logic is the study of formal and informal reasoning. Originally a branch of philosophy, logic has also become a mathematical discipline, a tool of modern linguistics, the core of computer science and an object of study for psychologists and cognitive scientists of every description. The field now reaches into virtually every aspect of human (and nonhuman) thought. Studying logic enhances students' reasoning ability, analytic reading and writing skills, oral debate skills, and appreciation of the structure of language and argument and of the structure of abstract formal systems. Logic is an excellent foundation not only for the study of philosophy, mathematics, computer science and linguistics, but also for such disciplines as legal studies, government and economics.

Interested students may begin with LOG 100, Logic 101 or PHI 202. An interdepartmental minor and a five college certificate are available, and we encourage students to consider individually designed majors in logic.

Marine Sciences and Policy (MSC)

Are you curious about the world's oceans and coasts? Would you like to know more about how the ocean system works? Are you interested in learning more about the diverse forms of marine life? Are you concerned about marine pollution and coastal development? If so, the marine sciences and policy interdepartmental minor may be for you. The program enables students to pursue interests in coastal and oceanic systems through an integrated sequence of courses in the natural and social sciences. An introduction is obtained by taking GEO 108—Oceanography and BIO 268—Marine Ecology (and its lab). You may then choose to pursue further study in either scientific investigation of the oceans or policy aspects of sustainable use of ocean resources and management.

In addition to taking courses at Smith, students can choose a number of Five College courses within the context of this minor. Hands-on experience at sea and along the coast is encouraged and can be obtained through programs and field trips sponsored by Smith College and by the Five College Coastal and Marine Sciences Program. For further information and advice, first-year students should consult Sara Pruss (geology), Paulette Peckol (biological sciences) and/or David Smith (biological sciences).

Suggested course for first-year students: GEO 108.

Mathematics and Statistics (MTH)

Mathematics and statistics are vibrant, growing disciplines. They provide essential tools for analyzing and understanding problems in science, economics and throughout society. While applications motivate much of mathematics, the underlying principles are also beautiful and profound. Mathematics majors go on to a variety of professions. Some go to graduate school in such disciplines as mathematics, statistics, engineering, economics, mathematical biology or computer science, law, medicine or dentistry. Others take jobs in business, finance, or teaching among others. Typically there are about 20 mathematics majors in each graduating class.

At Smith College, one can study mathematics both for its abstract beauty and its applications. Studying mathematics at the college level improves analytic and quantitative abilities and is an essential prerequisite for many fields of study. The department offers more than 25 courses each year. There are always courses in calculus, statistics, abstract algebra and discrete mathematics, as well as topics courses in such areas as mathematical sculptures, cryptography, phyllotaxis, topology and quantum logic. There are also regular lectures, mathematics contests and opportunities for independent work and research with faculty.

A student with three or four years of high school algebra, but no calculus, should normally start with Calculus I (MTH 111). A student with a year of calculus should start with Calculus: Effective Computation and Power Series (MTH 114) or Discrete Mathematics (MTH 153)—or both—during her first year. If a student has a year of BC calculus, she may omit MTH 114. A student with two years of high school algebra but no calculus or precalculus can enroll in Elementary Functions (102), Discovering Mathematics (MTH 105) or Statistical Thinking (MTH 107). Students with a four or five on the BC Advanced Placement Examination in calculus might consider Linear Algebra (MTH 211), Calculus III (MTH 212), or, if motivated by theoretical math, Infinite Dimensional Vector Spaces (MTH 221). Students who plan to major in the sciences and have taken calculus in high school may also wish to consider Introduction to Probability and Statistics (MTH 245). This course prepares students to design studies, collect and analyze data and

interpret their results. Students with a relatively weak high school mathematics background may enroll in Algebra (MTH/QSK 101).

All students are encouraged to attend the mathematics placement meeting during orientation for more information.

Medieval Studies (MED)

The program in Medieval Studies explores over a thousand years of dynamic cultural history from the fall of Rome to the birth of the modern world, from the islands of the North Atlantic to the Mediterranean and Middle East. This interdisciplinary major or minor integrates the study of art and architecture, history, philosophy, religion, music, Latin, and the emerging national literatures of Europe and beyond--Anglo-Saxon, Arabic, French, German, Hebrew, Italian, Irish, Norse, Portuguese, Spanish, and Welsh.

Incoming students may wish to try a first-year seminar on The Holy Land or Icelandic sagas, read Scandinavian myths in the original, or study ancient and medieval philosophy, early Islamic civilization, the formation of the barbarian kingdoms, or minorities in medieval society. A reading knowledge of Latin is required for the major, so those who have not yet studied this language may wish to enroll in Latin 100. A medieval vernacular language like Old Norse is required for the minor (offered in fall 2008).

Many Medieval Studies majors join one of the Smith junior year programs in Florence, Geneva, Hamburg, or Paris; others go to Britain, Ireland or Scandinavia. In recent years, our graduating students have gone on to medical or veterinary school, or to further graduate study at Harvard, Princeton, Toronto, Illinois-Urbana/Champaign, Indiana, Fordham, and elsewhere in North America. Others have gone abroad, some with a Fulbright or other scholarship, to the University of Iceland, the University of Oslo, St. Andrews in Scotland, Cambridge University, York, King's College London and University College London.

Smith has one of the strongest B.A. programs in Medieval Studies in the country and all interested students are warmly welcomed to discuss their options with the director Craig Davis or another member of the Medieval Studies Council. Both the major and minor are designed flexibly to support and encourage a student's own developing interests and quite often make possible a double major with another academic discipline.

Music (MUS)

Because music is appreciated and studied as a source of aesthetic pleasure, a subject of scientific investigation, and a sphere of practical training, the music department offers an array of courses in performance, in theory and composition, and in the history and literature of popular, non-western, and western music. You may take one or two courses to satisfy your interest in music, you may take six courses to satisfy the requirements of a minor, or you may take eleven courses to satisfy the requirements of a major.

If you are a prospective major, or if you have a good deal of musical experience, you should take a placement test during orientation to make sure you are prepared for the typical first-year course, MUS 110, "Analysis and Repertory." If you have sung or played an instrument for some years and know how to read music, you might also consider a 200-level course in music history such as MUS 200, "From Charlemagne to Bach." If you are new to music or if you wish to refresh your skills, you may one of the department's limited-enrollment colloquia, such as "Fundamentals of Music," which will prepare you for further study. Other colloquia and introductory courses open to those with little or no previous experience in music include "The Art of Listening," "Music and Gender in the World," and "Roll Over Beethoven: A History of Rock."

The music department offers ample opportunity for the study of performance within the liberal arts curriculum. You may take performance for academic credit during all your years at Smith. (During your first two years, you would take performance courses above the normal four-course load, with two credits per semester.) Admission to these courses is determined by a brief audition (described in the catalogue), for which you should sign up at the music office as soon as you arrive on campus. If you are an exceptionally experienced performer, you should discuss your musical aspirations with your prospective teacher in order to devise a course of study that will allow for pre-professional preparation.

Students wishing to enroll in any credit-bearing MUS performance course must audition at Sage Hall.

Courses open to first-semester, first-year students: MUS 100, 101, 105, 106, 110 (requires a placement test), 200 or 201 (requires previous musical experience); and courses in performance.

Neuroscience (NSC)

Neuroscience, the study of nervous systems, touches a diversity of fields including biology, psychology, biochemistry, engineering and computer science. The interests of students who study neuroscience are also diverse. For example, some students explore how consciousness can arise from a biological substrate; others become fascinated with the inner workings of individual nerve cells and how they connect with other nerve cells; and still others are interested in the development of nervous systems. Neuroscience students receive excellent preparation for a broad range of careers in areas such as medicine, research, biotechnology, pharmacology, social services, law and government.

Your studies in neuroscience can begin with courses that address brain and behavior as well as courses that will give you a good foundation in biology and chemistry. In your first year, you could take Physiology of Behavior (PSY 221, fall) or Introduction to Neuroscience (PSY 210, spring). **One** of these courses is required for the major. In addition, you would begin chemistry with CHM 111 or CHM 118 (fall) followed by CHM 222 (spring). Three semesters of chemistry are required in the major. Finally, you would enroll in Cells, Physiology and Development (BIO 150/151). You can choose to take this required course in either the fall or the spring semester. To ensure a good liberal arts education, you would balance courses in your major with courses in disciplines outside the sciences.

If you are planning a junior year abroad, it is helpful to begin with CHM111 or CHM118 in the fall semester of your first year. We encourage students to study abroad, and by starting early, you will be able to complete the required chemistry courses before your junior year.

Philosophy (PHI)

Philosophy is concerned with the meaning of human life and society; it inquires into the nature of human knowledge and science, of morality and law, of truth and being, of rationality and emotion. There are a variety of ways at Smith to be introduced to the study of Philosophy:

- PHI 100, THINKING ABOUT THINKING, offers a survey of some classic philosophical debates: for example, free will v. determinism, relativism v. absolutism, arguments about the existence of God.
- PHI/REL 108, THE MEANING OF LIFE, explores a broad range of philosophical and religious reflections on one of the central questions regarding human existence.
- PHI 124, HISTORY OF ANCIENT AND MEDIEVAL PHILOSOPHY, and PHI 125, HISTORY OF MODERN PHILOSOPHY, take a historical journey through the thought of influential philosophers such as Plato, Aristotle, Augustine, Aquinas, Descartes, Hume and Kant.
- PHI 126, HISTORY OF MEDIEVAL PHILOSOPHY, invites students to explore some major thinkers in the Christian, Muslim and Jewish traditions.
- PHI 127, INDIAN PHILOSOPHY, introduces students to the six classical schools of Indian Philosophy.
- LOG 100, VALID AND INVALID REASONING, examines the relevance of formal logic to the evaluation of everyday arguments, employing examples from law, economics, political theory, literary criticism and commercials.

There is no placement exam for any of the courses mentioned above nor do these courses have prerequisites. Not all introductory courses are offered every year, so be sure to consult the current catalog.

Physics (PHY)

Physics is a dynamic and increasingly interdisciplinary field that attempts to understand the nature of the world around us through the discovery of underlying unifying concepts. New discoveries constantly challenge our understanding, leading to new ideas that change our lives and ways of thinking. Physicists are valued for their ability to bring new perspectives to interdisciplinary fields, their versatility and flexibility in analysis, and their quantitative and experimental skills. As a result, physicists make valuable contributions in many different fields, providing scientific research in industry and academia, medical research in hospitals and financial modeling for banks and consulting firms. They may work as analysts in financial institutions, managers, product designers, technical writers in hi-tech firms, and educators

in schools and colleges. Learning physics in the context of a liberal arts environment gives physics graduates additional strengths in communication and organization.

Currently we offer two versions of “first semester” introductory physics each semester: General Physics I (PHY 115) and Advanced General Physics I (PHY 117). Advanced General Physics I is a mathematically more advanced version of General Physics I, requiring an additional semester of calculus as a prerequisite. Both courses address the same topics—conservation principles, Newtonian mechanics and special relativity—and share the same laboratories. Either General Physics I or Advanced General Physics I (or permission of the instructor) is required to enroll in General Physics II, which addresses the topics of electricity and magnetism, waves, quantum physics and optics. Students intending to major in engineering are required to take Advanced General Physics I.

Students planning on majoring in physics or astronomy are advised to complete a full year of introductory physics and introductory calculus during their first year and continue with PHY 222 in the fall semester of their second year.

For nonscience majors, we offer two courses for this year. In the fall, we offer PHY 107: Musical Sound. This course introduces non-science majors to the mathematics and physics of music. The immediate connection with the student’s everyday sound surroundings gives a special impetus to learning about the physics and mathematics of sound. For example, to determine how loud headphones must be to endanger their ears, students can be motivated to learn about logarithms and decibels. To understand how a clarinet or a violin works, students will investigate standing waves on strings and in tubes. How an auditorium affects the sound that is produced on stage can lead to interesting questions on the determination of the volume of a complicated shape. The very acts of talking and singing can be made more understandable through demonstrations using Fourier Analysis. These questions about everyday experiences are great motivators for exposing students to some sophisticated science and math without the accompanying intimidation that might occur in hard-core science courses.

In the spring we offer PHY 109—The Big Bang and Beyond. According to modern science the universe as we know it began expanding about 14 billion years ago from an unimaginably hot, dense fireball. Such an idea raises as many questions as it answers, however. Why was the universe in that particular state to begin with? What, if anything, happened before that? How did the universe get from that state to the way it is today, full of galaxies, stars and planets? Do our physical laws say the universe had to be this way or could it have turned out very differently? And perhaps most importantly, what evidence do we have to make us believe in this “big bang model”?

In this course we will discuss all of these issues in the context of our current scientific knowledge. We will see what science has and has not been able to answer about the origin and history of the universe, and discuss some of the directions that current research is taking in trying to understand more. Each step of the way we will focus not simply on what we know but also on how we know it and on the limitations of our knowledge. The course will assume no background in math or science, but curiosity and a sense of wonder are indispensable prerequisites.

Political Economy (PEC)

A division of labor exists in the social sciences among the fields of history, political science, economics, sociology and anthropology. While there are many benefits to this professional specialization, they have come at the cost of the fragmentation of our knowledge about society. The interdepartmental minor in political economy aims to reunite these fragments into a coherent whole. It brings together a set of mutually complementary viewpoints from a variety of courses, all relating to the global nature and development of contemporary industrial and postindustrial society.

Students interested in pursuing this minor should note the prerequisites or recommended introductory-level courses in the respective participating departments. Please see one of the advisers listed in the catalogue.

Prehealth

As you select your first-year courses, you will want to keep in mind that you are free to major in any area of study. Health profession schools (for example, schools of human and veterinary medicine, dentistry, optometry, nursing, and public health) are concerned not with a specific major but with the overall quality and scope of a student’s

undergraduate work. All health profession schools require certain undergraduate courses, which can be taken within a liberal arts program.

Schools of human and veterinary medicine and schools of dentistry all require two semesters each of biology, general chemistry, organic chemistry, physics and English. (The science courses must include laboratory work). Some of these schools also require or recommend additional courses in biology, mathematics (statistics and calculus), biochemistry, a foreign language, social sciences, and public speaking. Nursing schools and schools of public health do not require all of the laboratory courses listed above. Instead, they require statistics, some laboratory courses, and specific social science courses.

If you plan to enter a health profession school in the fall immediately after graduation, you would need to complete the basic requirements by the end of your junior year, as the application process requires a full year. Often, students choose not to enter professional school immediately after graduation and elect to complete the requirements in four (instead of three) years.

Your major will govern in large part how you will fit the required courses into your schedule. For example, if you intend to major in physics, you would want to begin your studies with physics and mathematics. If you intend to pursue a biology or biochemistry major, you would want to consider taking both biology and chemistry in the first year. However, you needn't start with both in the fall semester. Because you can take BIO 150/151 in either semester, you could enroll in CHM 111 in the fall and take CHM 222 together with BIO 150/151 in the spring. If you are planning another major, or if you are not sure what major you wish to pursue, your adviser can help you decide which courses to take in the first year.

Students who go on to health profession schools follow extremely diverse programs of study and personal schedules. For this reason, the members of the Board of Prehealth Advisers invite you to meet with them to discuss your interests and needs. Members of the board will hold informational sessions during orientation, before you register for courses. You are urged to attend one of these sessions to learn about advising in the health professions and to ask questions you may have about specific courses.

Prelaw

Law schools look for students from diverse academic backgrounds, so students considering law as a career may major in any liberal arts subject. Courses should be selected from across the curriculum to enhance the development of a variety of critical reasoning skills, from mathematics and natural sciences to literature, philosophy and the social sciences. Students should consult both the academic prelaw adviser in the government department and the prelaw advisers in the Career Development Office for more information about selecting and applying to law school sometime during their junior year.

Psychology (PSY)

Psychology is a broad field of scholarship that encompasses different approaches to enhance our understanding of human and animal functioning. If you have not taken a full-year high school psychology course (e.g., AP or IB Higher Level or equivalent) or a college-level course in introductory psychology, and you are thinking of majoring in it, or if you wish to take only a single survey course, you should enroll in the introductory course PSY 111, a survey of all of the major areas in contemporary psychology.

If you already have that background in psychology, the department recommends that you enroll in any of the following courses: PSY 213, 215, 221, 224, 233, 243, 247, 254, 270, or 271. They will introduce you to specific areas of study such as health and physiology, brain and behavior, culture and development, clinical and abnormal, personality and social psychology. If you are a prospective major, you should take either PSY190/MTH190: Introduction to Statistics or PSY 192: Introduction to Research Methods, both of which are also part of the required basis of the major. We recommend that majors take Introduction to Statistics prior to taking Introduction to Research Methods. PSY 111, PSY 190 and 192 are all required for the major and should be taken early in your undergraduate career. They provide a foundation for advanced work.

Because of the close connections between psychology and many other fields of study, majors in psychology are encouraged to take courses in other social and natural sciences that complement their special interests in psychology. These courses of study might include anthropology, the biological sciences, computer science, education and child study, mathematics, neuroscience, philosophy, public policy, sociology, and women and gender studies.

Public Policy (PPL)

The program in public policy allows students to explore, from a multidisciplinary perspective, both the processes of making social choices and the content of contemporary policy issues. Most courses in the program serve as complements to departmental offerings. Likewise, the minor in public policy complements majors in both the social and natural sciences, expanding the scope of a student's major.

The first course in the sequence is PPL 220–Public Policy Analysis or GOV 207–Politics of Public Policy. Contact any of the advisers in the program for more information.

Religion (REL)

Religion courses at Smith are critical and comparative, interdisciplinary and cross-cultural. They examine the nature and function of religious phenomena in the past and present of many different cultures. They provide opportunities to analyze systems of belief and patterns of religious behavior, the history of religious traditions, the functions of religion in society and various forms of religious expression, such as myth, ritual, sacred story, scripture, liturgy and theological and philosophical reflection.

A student's personal religious perspective is never a consideration for entering or succeeding in any course in this department. At the same time, it is not unusual for a student's interest in religious studies to be motivated by personal, existential questions—the perennial questions of human existence. There is no better way for a person to work out her own answers than studying the distillations of insight found in the world's religious traditions.

Religion majors receive systematic preparation in several areas of the discipline: interpretation of texts; critical and systematic reflection; and the cultural phenomena of at least two different historical traditions. Most religion majors who go on to graduate school do work in a variety of disciplines and pursue careers in various professional fields.

While beginning students are encouraged to take REL 105–Introduction to World Religions or REL 110–Thematic Studies in Religion, they may also enroll in any of our 200-level courses that introduce different religious traditions. REL 110 offers various first-year colloquia on specialized topics. None of these courses assumes any background in religious studies. Each is designed to be useful both to students wanting a sample of college-level, academic study of religion and to students who look forward to taking more advanced studies in the department.

Russian Language and Literature (RUS)

The Russian program helps students to gain control of the written and spoken language, explore its literature and become acquainted with Russian culture.

Because the interests and objectives of students vary, the department provides two majors. The Russian literature major includes a range of courses in Russian literature and thought. The civilization major allows the student to combine the study of Russian language and literature with her own special interests and to take courses in such fields as history, economics, government, religion, art and music, taught by instructors in those departments.

The foundations on which both majors rest are the study of Russian language and the acquisition of language skills. Entering students interested in the language should enroll in RUS 100y, the elementary course. Students with some background in the language should consult with the Department concerning placement. The literature-in-translation courses are open to nonmajors and presuppose no background in Russian.

Suggested courses for first-semester, first-year students: RUS 100y, 126.

Sociology (SOC)

Sociology is the discipline that seeks to understand the organization of human social life and the interaction of social groups—in all their diversity and variety. At Smith the sociology program offers the student the opportunity to understand her own social experiences and to explore the organization of social life in a range of contexts. The department offers a wide variety of courses, with particular attention to issues of inequality, social change and culture.

For most students, the first course in sociology is SOC 101—Introduction to Sociology; this one-semester course follows a discussion format, with about 30 students in each section. SOC 101 is a prerequisite for all 200- and 300-level courses. Students interested in the major or in taking upper-level courses should take SOC 101 during the first or second year. All sections of this course present the fundamental concepts of sociology, but each has a different substantive focus.

Courses at the 200 level examine specific processes or domains of social life, often in a comparative perspective; courses are offered on ethnic minorities, class, gender, urban life, education, the environment, world population, social movements, medicine and health, and culture. Many 200-level courses take an interdisciplinary approach. Majors take two out of three methods courses: SOC 201—Evaluating Information, and either SOC 202—Methods of Social Research or SOC 203—Qualitative Research Methods. Two courses focus on theory: SOC 250—Theories of Society (required of all majors) and an optional seminar SOC 311—Contemporary Sociological Theory.

All majors are required to take at least one seminar in the senior year and we invite them to undertake independent research (SOC 404a or b) in their junior or senior years. Many courses in other disciplines are closely related to sociology, and two courses in fields such as history, economics, government, psychology, philosophy or anthropology can be counted toward the major.

Suggested course for first-semester, first-year students: SOC 101.

Spanish and Portuguese (SPN and POR)

The Department offers a major and minor in Spanish, as well as a major and minor in Portuguese-Brazilian Studies. Engagement with other cultures has always been a strong component of a liberal arts education and is now a necessity in a contemporary multicultural and global world. Our bilingual department encourages multidisciplinary study and fosters connections between our two majors, giving students the opportunity to study the languages, cultures and literatures of Spain, Spanish America, Brazil, Portugal, Portuguese-speaking Africa and Latino communities in the United States.

Majors in Spanish are required to complete ten semester courses. Prospective majors should be aware of the early course requirements, which include two core courses from the SPN 250/251/260/261 sequence, SPN 244 Advanced Composition, and one semester of Portuguese, usually POR 125. In addition, Spanish majors will also complete two 300-level courses in their junior or senior year. Portuguese-Brazilian Studies majors are required to complete eight semester courses, including the early course requirements of POR 100y, POR 200 and POR 220 or 221. In their junior or senior year Portuguese-Brazilian Studies majors will also complete one 300-level course. All Spanish and Portuguese-Brazilian Studies majors are strongly encouraged to consider an academic program abroad in a Spanish and/or Portuguese-speaking country during their junior year. Most programs require four college-level semesters of language study or the equivalent.

Prospective majors are encouraged to explore departmental offerings at the intermediate level, all of which count as electives toward the majors. Intermediate courses act as gateways to the vast regional and cultural diversity that the majors represent, and cover such diverse themes as violence and ethics in Latin America, sex and the medieval Iberian city, rural life and the national imaginary in Brazil, cultural production in the U.S. Mexico borderlands, Brazilian poetry and performance art, cultures of Spain, Latin American visual narratives, Puerto Rican identity, literary representations of Afro-Cuban identity, Latin American Jewish writers, and representations of indigenous identities.

Because students arrive at Smith with differing language experience and proficiency, there are several entry points to departmental course offerings for first-year students. Students with no previous Spanish or Portuguese language instruction should expect to enroll in SPN 112y Accelerated Elementary Spanish or POR 100y Elementary Portuguese.

All first year students who have previously studied Spanish will take a placement exam prior to enrolling in a departmental course, and will typically enter at the introductory or intermediate language level (SPN 120-220). Students with some background in Portuguese who wish to continue their study of the language should consult the professor of Portuguese or the chair of the department regarding course placement. Students with knowledge of Spanish who wish to pursue Portuguese language study should take POR 125. Students who have learned Spanish at home, and who have attained speaking proficiency but have never formally studied the language, should take SPN 125 Spanish for Heritage Speakers.

Statistics

Statistics provide a principled framework for making decisions in the face of uncertainty. Massive data sets collected by researchers, businesses, and governments require the use of statistical methods to answer important societal questions. Statistical methods are integral to the natural, physical, and social sciences and they are relevant in other fields such as historical studies and literary analysis. On a daily basis, we see statistics reported in newspapers, on television, and on the internet. Statistical literacy enables us to understand and evaluate the validity of these reports and provides us with tools for making decisions in our lives as consumers, citizens, and professionals. Many majors and programs at Smith College require students to take at least one introductory statistics course, and we encourage students interested in doing research while at Smith to pursue further study.

The Smith Program in Statistics offers an interdepartmental minor in applied statistics that gives students the opportunity to learn and apply statistics in a wide variety of fields. Part of effective data analysis includes appropriate interpretation of the results of an analysis and effective communication of results. Courses in the Statistics Program emphasize these skills in the context of the student's field of study.

The basis of the minor consists of three statistics courses: Introduction to Probability and Statistics, Regression Analysis, and Research Design. The introductory course includes the basics of probability and descriptive and inferential statistics. Regression introduces students to a powerful framework for statistical modeling. Research design teaches effective and efficient methods for collecting data to make inferences from samples to populations. The remaining two courses for the minor may be taken from among the courses that emphasize statistical applications in a student's major field of study. Honors theses that require statistical analyses may fulfill the requirement for one of these applications courses. The catalog lists courses in biology, economics, mathematics, psychology and sociology that emphasize statistical applications. A student may, with the approval of her minor advisor, propose alternative courses with sufficient statistical content in lieu of those approved courses listed in the catalog.

Theatre (THE)

The Theatre Department offers an array of courses and production opportunities. There are courses in dramatic literature, theatre history, playwriting, acting, directing and design. We welcome all students into the introductory courses: THE 100–The Art of Theatre Design, THE 141–Acting I, THE 198–Theatre History and Culture: Ancient Greece to English Restoration, and THE 199–Theatre History and Culture: Eighteenth Century to the Present.

All 200-level courses in performance, design, literature and history, are open to first-year students with permission of the instructor, unless an enrollment limit has been reached. Introductory courses in specific areas include acting, dramatic literature and playwriting, as well as lighting, set and costume design.

Students participate in all levels of production, from stage crew to directing. These positions are open to majors and nonmajors, as are lectures, films, demonstrations, special seminars, field trips, and workshops sponsored by the department.

Any student may apply to present a studio production. If you are particularly interested in production work, consider THE 200, a one-credit course based on the preparation and performance of departmental productions.

Theatre is an art form that addresses the cultural, political and artistic currents of our time. Its study is enhanced by the rich liberal arts offerings at Smith. Suggested courses for first-semester, first-year students: THE 141, 198, 217, 200, and perhaps 215, 220, 252, 253, 254, 261.

Third World Development Studies (TWD)

Third World development studies is a multidisciplinary social science program that explores the transformation of African, Asian, Latin American and Middle Eastern societies since the 16th century. The program offers the student the opportunity to examine within a comparative framework the processes of social, economic, political and ideological change in these regions as they respond to contact with the West and to the wider global economy and political pressures of the post-war period.

The minor introduces the participant to the diverse analytical perspectives of anthropology, economics, history and political science, while ensuring that the student has sustained familiarity with one geographical region.

With the exception of LAS 100, all courses for the minor are on the 200 and 300 levels. In addition to LAS 100, the anthropology, economics and history departments offer 100-level courses during the first semester which, although not part of the TWD program, introduce the first-year student to these three disciplines. They include ANT 130, ECO 150 AND 153 and some sections of the history colloquia. First-year students are eligible to take most TWD 200-level courses in ANT, GOV and HST in the spring term.

Urban Studies (URS)

Cities are physical environments; they are social settings; they are economic phenomena; they are political arenas. An understanding of these complex social structures can come only from an analysis that transcends the narrow perspective of any single discipline. The urban studies minor offers an opportunity to explore the urban experience from a variety of perspectives.

The courses that make up the minor are all at the 200 and 300 levels. Entering students interested in the minor should consider enrolling in introductory courses in those departments that offer the more advanced courses in the minor.

The minor provides a good deal of flexibility in defining individual programs. Students interested in the program are encouraged to consult with one of the advisers listed in the catalogue.

Program for The Study of Women and Gender (SWG)

The goal of the Program for the Study of Women and Gender is to understand how gender operates as a powerful social system that organizes how we perceive ourselves, others, and the culture around us. The Program enables students to see how the meanings of gender change across cultures and over time and how the meanings of gender are always connected to the meanings of race, and sexuality. Historically based in the study of women's experiences worldwide, the field has expanded to include attention to masculinities, queer and transgender subjects and politics in the U.S. and around the world.

A variety of paths through the rich interdisciplinary major include, among others, politics and activism, women's history and an extensive range of courses in women's literature across many cultures. Among the more than 400 alums who have majored in the Program, many have done graduate work, and have a range of careers in law, medicine, social services, non-profit organizations, film-making, archival history, and teaching at all levels.

Internships are a vital part of a feminist education and PRAXIS funding enables many majors to work in non-profit and activist organizations. A unique opportunity, available only to junior majors in the SWG Program, is competitive paid research internships with our faculty members. During the junior year our majors study abroad in the UK, Europe, Mexico, South America and Africa.

The core introductory course, SWG 150, which is a requirement for all other courses with a SWG prefix, is offered only in the spring semester, so plan your schedule carefully to include it. In the fall, we recommend **SWG 110 Colloquium: Feminist Public Cultures** and several first-year seminars focused on women that may count toward the major: FYS 125 Midwifery in Historical and Cross-Cultural Perspective, FYS 159 What's in a Recipe? and FYS 168 Scribbling Women. Other courses at the 100-level that focus on women and gender are often offered in history, music and religion and are also designed especially for incoming students. Please check our website (www.smith.edu/swg) for more information.