

Lakehead Graduate Program in Global Studies

Our graduate program in Global Studies is interdisciplinary, and examines the political, social, economic and cultural developments in a global context. Focusing on the relation between the local and the global, students will examine the impact of globalization in a variety of areas, including environmentalism, global governance, peace and conflict studies, cultural production, and political activism, among others. We envision starting this program as an MA degree on the Thunder Bay campus, but imagine it might be useful to apply to the ministry for inclusion on the Orillia campus as well, to save getting permission later. Depending on the readiness of faculty on each campus, we can decide where to launch things. We also plan on the longer-term goal of building a PhD program in global studies, once the MA program is already in place and we can gauge interest. Again, it might be favorable to apply for the PhD at the same time, to kill more birds with one stone, as it is a long-winded process that requires ministry approval. We might want to attach a hire in global studies to the pitch to launch the degree, to ensure expertise to deliver the core courses and manage the program effectively.

Areas of Research

- contemporary global culture
- diasporic communities
- race, class, and gender
- ethnicity, religion, and multiculturalism
- health and well-being in global context
- human rights and international social movements
- international politics and global governance
- peace and conflict studies
- environmentalism and sustainability
- disasters, emergencies, and resilience
- indigeneity, coloniality, and resistance

Admission

Admission to the M.A. degree program requires an average of 75% or better in an undergraduate Honours program in Humanities or the Social Sciences. Students with Honours degrees from outside these fields will be considered based on exceptional grades and the relevancy of their educational background.

Admission to the PhD program would be automatic if the MA is complete, and students can carry on to form a committee and do a dissertation, without any further need of courses or comprehensive examinations. If the dissertation fails, they would still be able to claim the MA degree based on the course-work and research paper. The feasibility of a PhD should be carefully considered before adding this to the graduate options for global studies. Key questions are if there is demand for this here, if we can deliver a quality PhD, and if there is a job market to send our graduates.

Requirements for MA program

For the MA, students are required to take a total of six graduate half courses (or equivalent): two core courses (GLOB 5XXX and GLOB 5YYY), two other Globalization courses (via cross-listings), and two electives. In the second year of study, students will write a Major Research Paper (GLOB 5ZZZ) as part of a seminar course, graded as a pass or fail. Students are expected to form a committee for their major paper, that includes the instructor of GLOB 5ZZZ as well as one other member from the participating global studies faculty. This will ensure that students have continuity in expectations and a core group of peers to work alongside, while benefitting from the expertise of an outside faculty member. Typically, students will take 2 half courses in the fall, 2 in the winter, and 2 in the spring and summer. Students then take GLOB 5ZZZ over the fall and winter terms (20 month program).

Year 1:

GLOB 5XXX: Issues and Debates in Global Studies (.5FCE)

A survey of major theories and debates in the field of global studies.

GLOB 5YYY: Designing Global Research (.5FCE)

This course will explore interdisciplinary research methods related to global studies, enabling students to develop a research design for their chosen topic.

Year 2:

GLOB 5ZZZ: Major Research Paper (2FCE)

Each student will write a major research paper of approximately 10,000 words that investigates a theme of interest in global studies.

Participating Faculty (hope to expand list!)

Dr. Glenda Bonificio

- gender, immigration, and citizenship

Dr. Kristin Burnett

- Indigenous health and strategies of resistance

Dr. Todd Dufresne

- environmental philosophy and catastrophe

Dr. Max Haiven

- capitalism and the world system

Dr. Isabelle Lemee

- language and multiculturalism in global perspective

Dr. Benjamin Maiangwa

- peace and conflict and international migration

Dr. Antony Puddephatt

- environmental issues and global culture

Dr. Chris Sanders

- global public health and disaster studies