

Major proposal in International Development Studies

Amanda Keifer

Class of 2010

Addressing the issue of development, Calvin Coolidge remarked, "All growth depends upon activity. There is no development physically or intellectually without effort, and effort means work." Our world is constantly growing and changing. Industrialization and globalization enable people to communicate and interact with one another from across borders and oceans. International development is expanding at a dizzying pace, with non-governmental organizations and groups like the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank leading the way. However, many countries find themselves in developmental slumps, struggling to support their people and striving to get out of what seems like endless debt and poverty. Because of this, there is great demand for possible sustainable solutions for these developing nations. I am therefore, proposing an interdisciplinary major in **International Development Studies**, so that I may pursue a lifetime of dedication to finding solutions with some of the world's most impoverished peoples.

For many years, I have been interested in studying various forms of development and although this field of study can include many aspects, my proposed major will include a well-rounded, comprehensive approach to the issue of sustainable development around the world. My major in International Development Studies will include three main components that will prepare me for a career under developmental policy, social/cultural and economic impact, and historical context.

My major is contained within three main departments of study: Politics, Anthropology/Sociology, and History. Within the Politics department, courses that I have already taken include Theories of International Relations and Issues in Politics: Global HIV/AIDS. Both of these courses provide valuable insight into policy issues that directly affect developing nations. The Global HIV/AIDS course contained a curriculum with approximately one third of its focus on the epidemic on the continent of Africa. Other potential courses that will be included within this major from the Politics department include Political Economy, International Human Rights, and International Law and Organizations. In addition to these classes, as my senior capstone experience I will take the Politics Senior Seminar course and write a senior thesis pertaining to my major.

Within the social and economic aspect of this major, I have already taken Anthropology of Gender and Women in African Literature. Anthropology of Gender is critically important to this major because it addresses gender roles and identities, an issue that is much debated around the world and addresses gender issues in developing countries in particular. Micro-finance programs, which are frequently utilized when aiding developing countries, often target women because of their ability to pay back loans responsibly and create sustainable business practices. The course Women in African Literature is also important when looking at development in African countries in particular. Women often write about issues that are plaguing their communities and propose potential solutions in times of need. Other potential courses within the social aspect of my major include, but are not limited to, the following: Gender and Family or Gender and Sexuality, Globalization and Transnationalism, Ethics and Relations to Friend, Kin and Community, and Social Change/ Social Movements or Social Inequality and Identity. Within the economic aspect of my major, I plan to include Principals of Macroeconomics and Political Economy.

Lastly, this major in International Development Studies will include an important historical aspect. Relevant courses that I have taken or in which I am currently enrolled, include Early African History, Contemporary Africa, and History of East Africa. Although each of these courses focus on the continent of Africa, collectively they address the time leading up to and the period of colonialism, a major deciding factor on the status of governments and economies of post-colonial Africa. The Contemporary Africa course also critically analyzes development issues in various countries. Other courses that will potentially be included in this major include Colonial Brazil, Colonial Latin America, and History of Southern Africa. Another course that I am currently enrolled in is African Development Issues. This course investigates the problems that cause under-development and poverty in African countries and potential long-term solutions to solve the problem of development.

A Bachelor of Arts in International Development Issues from Hendrix College will provide me with the knowledge needed to pursue graduate studies as well as a career in sustainable development. An understanding of the historical, social, economic, and policy issues pertaining to international development is indispensable for both practical and scholarly purposes. This major will be a vigorous and challenging one, including a semester abroad in a developing country in the fall of 2008, a senior capstone experience with the Politics Research Seminar and senior thesis, and a Sociological Research

Methods course. Below I have listed relevant courses and potential courses for my major, including domain requirement citation where applicable.

Relevant Courses Taken:

AFRI 300- *African Development Issues* (in progress)
ANTH 280- *Anthropology of Gender* (completed fall '07)
ENGL 250- *Women in African Literature* (in progress)
HIST 120- *Early African History* (completed fall '06)
HIST 252- *History of East Africa* (in progress)
HIST 280- *Contemporary Africa* (in progress)
POLI 100- *Issues in Politics: Global HIV/AIDS* (completed spring '07)
POLI 251- *Theories of International Relations* (completed fall '07)

Major Requirements:

12 courses distributed as follows:

- 2 Politics courses:
 - 1) POLI 251- *Theories of International Relations* (completed fall '07)
 - 2) POLI 325- *International Law and Organizations* (perspective spring '09)
- 2 History courses:
 - 1) HIST 280- *Contemporary Africa* (in progress)
 - 2) HIST 252- *History of East Africa* (in progress)
- 2 Anthropology/Sociology courses:
 - 1) ANTH 280- *Anthropology of Gender* (completed fall '07)
 - 2) SOCI 360- *Social Change/Social Movements*
or
SOCI 390- *Social Inequality and Identity*
or
ANTH 360- *Globalization and Transnationalism*
- 3 elective courses:
 - 1) ENGL 250- *Women in African Literature* (in progress)
 - 2) AFRI 300- *African Development Issues* (in progress)
 - 3) ENGL 455- *Chinua Achebe and Wole Soyinka* (perspective spring '09)
- Research element (Senior Capstone Experience):
 - POLI 400- *Methods in Political Analysis*
 - POLI 497- *Senior Research Seminar*
- Study Abroad Experience
 - Fall '08- ISEP Ghana or South Africa

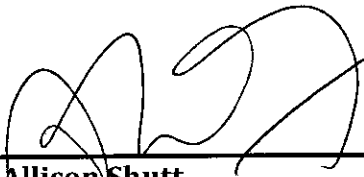
Foreign Language (FL)

First Year French (completed fall '06)

Fundamental French (completed spring '07)

Intermediate Composition and Conversation (completed fall '07)

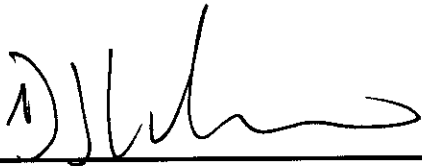
Signature Authorization:



Dr. Allison Shutt



Dr. Carol West



3/26/2008

Dr. Daniel Whelan

Subject: Major proposal

Date: Monday, March 31, 2008 12:49 PM

From: David Sutherland <sutherlandd@hendrix.edu>

To: "Keifer, Amanda Amanda" <KeiferMA@hendrix.edu>

Cc: "Shutt, Allison" <Shutt@hendrix.edu>, "West, Carol" <West@hendrix.edu>, "Whelan, Daniel" <whelan@hendrix.edu>

Conversation: Major proposal

Amanda,

Your proposal justification is good but I need to ask that you make one change in the course listings. I need a more explicit description of your major requirements section (merging this with your "relevant courses taken" and "prospective courses" sections. The way you have your requirements listed now, it is impossible to audit some of the requirements.

For example, when you say "2 politics courses" I need for you to give me an explicit list of which two courses this includes or a short list from which these courses will be chosen. Otherwise I cannot check in advance to see if this proposed major satisfies the requirements in terms of upper division courses, for example. The capstone experience should also appear in this list.

If this doesn't make sense, you can drop by and we can talk.

Thanks,
Dr. Sutherland

David C. Sutherland
Associate Provost for Academic Affairs
Director of Hendrix-Murphy Foundation
Professor of Mathematics

Hendrix College
1600 Washington
Conway, AR 72032

501-450-1254
FAX 501-450-1490

Subject: Interdisciplinary Major

Date: Thursday, April 3, 2008 1:46 PM

From: David Sutherland <sutherlandd@hendrix.edu>

To: "Keifer, Amanda Amanda" <KeiferMA@hendrix.edu>

Cc: "Wang, Xinying" <Wang@hendrix.edu>, "Shutt, Allison" <Shutt@hendrix.edu>, "West, Carol" <West@hendrix.edu>, "Hurd, Amanda" <Hurd@hendrix.edu>, "Whelan, Daniel" <whelan@hendrix.edu>

Conversation: Interdisciplinary Major

Amanda,

I am writing to acknowledge acceptance of your proposal to major in "International Development Studies" under the Interdisciplinary Studies program. Your proposal meets all the requirements listed in the catalog for the I.S. Program. It is also my understanding that Dr. Allison Shutt will chair your committee and that your committee also includes Dr. Carol West and Dr. Daniel Whelan.

Please complete the attached declaration of major form and return it to the Registrar's Office as soon as possible.

Please remember that any changes to this proposal must be approved in writing by both your faculty committee and me. Also, please remember that as with any major, at least 50% of major courses must be taken in residence at the College and a minimum grade point average of 2.0 in the major must be achieved.

Good luck with your courses!

David

P.S. I would like to request your permission to use your proposal as a guide for other students by making it available on the I.S. web pages. Please let me know if you are willing to allow me to do this.

David C. Sutherland
Associate Provost for Academic Affairs
Director of Hendrix-Murphy Foundation
Professor of Mathematics

Hurd, Amanda

From: Sutherland, David
Sent: Thursday, April 03, 2008 4:04 PM
To: Hurd, Amanda
Subject: FW: Interdisciplinary Major

Another proof to print and move to the web .

David C. Sutherland
 Associate Provost for Academic Affairs
 Director of Hendrix-Murphy Foundation
 Professor of Mathematics

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 1600 Washington
 Conway, AR 72032

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----- Forwarded Message

From: "Keifer, Amanda Amanda" <KeiferMA@hendrix.edu>
Date: Thu, 3 Apr 2008 15:56:19 -0500
To: "Sutherland, David" <sutherlandd@hendrix.edu>
Conversation: Interdisciplinary Major
Subject: RE: Interdisciplinary Major

Yes I would be happy to offer my major as an example for others to use! Also I have actually already filled out a major change form and returned it to the registrar's office. Do I need to turn another one in?

P.S. Thank you so much for all of your help and time into making this major possible.

-Amanda

From: Sutherland, David
Sent: Thu 4/3/2008 1:46 PM
To: Keifer, Amanda Amanda
Cc: Wang, Xinying; Shutt, Allison; West, Carol; Hurd, Amanda; Whelan, Daniel
Subject: Interdisciplinary Major

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4/3/2008

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