Global Studies — Program Worksheet Pointers (last updated 10/25/20)

• Make an appointment to start planning your GS Program Worksheet early! Ideally, you would already start the process in the first quarter of your 2nd year. This is particularly helpful if you plan on pursuing a joint MA/BA degree, a double-major, or a minor. Do not wait until your 3rd year when it’s too late to fulfill the requirements of multiple charismatic majors that you have in mind!

• All forms that you need to successfully fill out a GS Program Worksheet are available online at our website. There you will find useful previous examples of successful student Program Worksheets.

• Don’t bother to try to petition to skip out on a GS required course like GS-1, GS-2, or the B.A. Seminar. Our requirements are minimal, and we consider these essential to your education. In that regard, we’re already a very flexible major. In the rarest of instances, we’ve made exceptions in special circumstances. 99.9% of the time, however, your request will be denied. So save your time, and plan to enjoy our stellar instruction tailored toward your substantively developing your interests!

• Be aware that our GS Approved Course Lists are excellent guides for courses that count toward fulfilling the major in any given quarter, however they can never be comprehensive. This is because other departments are often updating their offerings based on a whole range of factors that are out of our control. You can always thus petition Global Studies for a course to count that you think fits the thematic tracks. It’s best to check on precedent with a GS Administrator, Advisor, or Preceptor before petitioning so you don’t waste your energies.

• Language courses typically don’t count toward the major, other than in fulfilling the GS Language Requirement. Exceptions here may include advanced courses with content that dovetails with the GS thematic tracks (e.g., “Advanced Russian through the Media” which intersects with the Cultures at Work Track). AP courses and placement tests may count toward fulfilling the Language Requirement. Our suggestion: first be sure to check the tips on the College’s Language Competency website, then meet with a GS Staff member if you think your situation and previous study may qualify.

• Consult with your faculty and GS Advisors early and often about the GS Research Requirement. Research conducted at an internship, on study abroad programs, or as part of an independent study all can serve to fulfill this obligation. That said, it’s crucial that you go beyond merely fulfilling course requirements or the expectations of a summer job. As researchers, we must take the time to carefully construct sites as research objects. They don’t simply exist in the world packaged as “research” without this form of critical engagement. Instead sites come into being through our practiced analytical and methodological approaches to specific sociohistorical contexts. Toward the end of planning, we urge you to think beyond your first required efforts in GS-2 by enrolling in one of our many excellent methods course offerings. These will help considerably in your planning of a Thesis.