



**The Paul H. Nitze  
School of Advanced  
International Studies**

**JOHNS HOPKINS**  
UNIVERSITY

## European Studies | M.A. Requirements 2012-2013 (entering class)

### CONCENTRATION

Students concentrating in European Studies design their own program of study to achieve fixed learning outcomes as set out in the three comprehensive exams. The program does not have any required courses, although some courses are specifically tailored to assist in the preparation of these exams. Students are strongly encouraged to take at least one individual country course. Candidates should consult with their faculty adviser regarding courses and independent readings that will prepare them for the comprehensive exams.

#### Comprehensive Examinations

European Studies concentrators are required to pass 3 comprehensive examinations:

##### Comp I: Modern European History and Ideas

Students without a strong background in European history should take the specialized history Core course, Evolution of the International System. This is offered in the second semester in Bologna, and a comparable course is also offered in Washington in the first semester. Although European Studies concentrators must pass COMP I, they need not take the Core course for credit. Those with a strong background in history may wish to opt for more advanced or specialized courses in history or political ideas, and then prepare for COMP I using the European Studies syllabus—preferably also auditing the Core course.

##### Comp II: European Political Economies

This exam encompasses the domestic political economies of the four major West European nation states, the European Union and European integration generally, the problems of transition in Central and Eastern Europe—including Russia, and Europe's relations with the American and global economies. The Bologna course, West European Political Economies, is strongly recommended to prepare for COMP II, along with Political Economy of Transition in Central and Eastern Europe, offered in Washington. Normally, candidates attempt this exam in the fall or winter of their second year.

##### Comp III: Europe and the World Since 1945

Europe in the Cold War is offered in Bologna, and numerous courses offered in Bologna and Washington cover the post-Cold War years. All European Studies concentrators should take at least one country course from among those listed for Britain, France, Germany, and Italy. Germany and Italy are offered in Bologna, Britain and France in Washington.

The European Comprehensive examinations are based on the European Studies Syllabus (click to download ([MS Word](#) | [Adobe PDF](#)) link), which sets out the topics and offers a bibliography for each of the Comprehensive examinations. [Click here for sample COMP exams.](#)

### INTERNATIONAL ECONOMICS

All candidates for the M.A. degree must complete a concentration in the field of International Economics by taking 4-6 economics courses at SAIS. Students can also pursue a [specialization](#) within International Economics by taking additional course work.

### CORE COURSES

European Studies concentrators can substitute Comp I and Comp II for SAIS's Core exam requirements in Evolution of the International System and Comparative National Systems. European Studies concentrators need not take any core exams, but they must pass the three European Comprehensive exams.

### LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY

European Studies MA candidates must pass exams to demonstrate proficiency in a modern European language, preferably in French or German. All non-native English speakers are required to pass an English placement exam upon entering SAIS. Non-native speakers who

pass proficiency in English are encouraged to study another modern European language, preferably in French or German.

### CAPSTONE

European Studies concentrators must complete ONE of the following capstones:

1. European Studies Oral Exam. Candidates submit, in advance, a brief paper with a topic they are prepared to discuss. It should feature a contemporary European issue in the light of its historical, institutional, political and economic settings. Participation in the non-credit newspaper seminar and at the various lectures on contemporary European political and economic issues is a good way to prepare for the oral. There are, of course, numerous courses dealing, at least in part, with Europe's contemporary problems.

2. MA Oral Exam (to compete for honors—if eligible).

A total of 16 courses taken for credit are required for an MA degree (unless a student has advanced standing or is in a dual-degree program).

### PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS BY ACADEMIC YEAR (AY)

[AY 2011-2012 Entering Class](#)

[AY 2010-2011 Entering Class](#)

[AY 2009-2010 Entering Class](#)

### DEGREE AUDIT (CHECKLIST) BY ACADEMIC YEAR (AY)

[AY 2011-2012](#)

[AY 2010-2011](#)

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