

Program Rationale
Humanities: International Studies
1441-4

The political science department at UTC offers a concentration in international and comparative studies, but I chose a more humanities-based curriculum which allows me to take classes from a variety of departments because the topic “international studies” encompasses a wide range for subjects and disciplines. My goal in studying international relations is to develop a foundational understanding of the interaction between and among cultures, nations and states by studying factors which influence and shape them beyond the political.

Studying a state’s political system provides insight into its official dealings with other states, its public diplomacy and its litigation with regard to foreign policy; but, it generally does not take into account the contributions of factors such as religion, music, literature and history. Each are of study focuses on factors which, when combined with the concentrations of other disciplines, construct a more balanced view of the motivations and perspectives which explain happenings within the international community. For this reason, I am taking classes from a variety of departments, ranging from political science (346 Comparative Politics: China) to religion (322 Religions of Japan), and from economics to history (385 South Africa and Neighbors) and English (333 Masterpieces of Asian Literature; 380 Modern Japanese Literature).

Given the comprehensive nature of a humanities major, I am not specializing in any one of those disciplines; but in order to give a more definite direction to my studies, I am narrowing my focus to non-Western cultures and states, especially those of Latin America, Asia, India, and the Middle East.