

Memorandum on Renaming of a Department in the College of Letters & Science:

**Department of French, Italian, and Comparative Literature to change name to
Department of Global Studies**

February 18, 2022

To the Academic Program and Curriculum Committee and to the Faculty Senate:

The Department of French, Italian, and Comparative Literature has decided to change their department's name to the Department of Global Studies. This re-naming has been approved by the L&S Academic Planning and Governance Committee and L&S Faculty (see [L&S Faculty Document 1051](#)).

Rationale:

The name change is closely linked to the Department of French, Italian, and Comparative Literature's (FICL) agreement with the faculty of the Global Studies (GS) Advisory Board for the FICL Department to absorb the Global Studies programs and become the administrative support base for the Global Studies Advisory Board.

The FICL faculty have an overall strong transdisciplinary orientation that aligns with Global Studies, and several FICL faculty have already taught for Global Studies. Faculty in FICL are interdisciplinary scholars with degrees in Anthropology, Comparative Literature, Religious Studies, French and Italian literary and language studies. Their research interests include literature, film, social movements, the role of intellectuals in society, social justice, feminisms, Biblical history, pedagogy, and translation to name a few. Geographical areas of interest include Eastern and Western Europe, the Balkans, the central Middle East and North Africa, Iran, North America (including Quebec) and South America, Haiti, the Antilles and Guyane, Sub-Saharan Africa (West Africa: Senegal, Ivory Coast, Cameroon; the Central Lakes region [Rwanda and Burundi], Congo-Brazzaville and Kinshasa) and South Africa. Global Studies thus provides an overarching and unifying name for this unit.

This name change aims to raise the profile and sense of urgency around global topics as they relate to both UWM's preparing undergraduate students to join a 21st century workforce in need of substantial cross-cultural and linguistic skills, and the university's doctoral status, highlighting the interdisciplinary web in which we all research and teach. The popularity of the Global Studies program, an undergraduate, transdisciplinary pre-professional degree program with approximately 115 majors and minors, indicates undergraduates' interest in these topics.

Curricular changes are under discussion but not finalized yet; those changes will follow the appropriate governance approval path. With the Global Studies major already requiring significant training in world languages beyond both the UWM GER and the L&S BA languages requirements, the re-named department will build on the already-connected programs it encompasses.