School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA)

The School of International and Public Affairs was launched in the Spring of 2009 to fulfill a need for an interdisciplinary approach critical to the understanding of the globalized world of the 21st century.

SIPA will:
• educate and train globally competent leaders in the fields of international and public affairs;
• produce scholarship that advances the understanding of international issues while contributing to policy solutions;
• promote international dialogue that fosters greater mutual understanding throughout the world.

An integral part of the College of Arts and Sciences, SIPA will centralize most of FIU’s internationally-oriented disciplines, providing cutting edge research, first-rate teaching, and innovative training. With more than 100 faculty and staff, SIPA offers innovative interdisciplinary research and teaching at the BA, MA, and PhD levels.

SIPA aspires to be recognized worldwide as a premier institution for research, education, and training in the fields of international and public affairs, as well as an essential resource for analysis and consulting for government, non-profit, and for-profit organizations alike. The School will seek accreditation by the prestigious Association of Professional Schools of International Affairs (APSIA).

SIPA will be housed in a world-class facility. Located at the center of the Modesto A. Maidique Campus, the SIPA building will be an architectural showpiece for the University and South Florida. A 500-seat auditorium, the centerpiece of the building, will be the largest and most technologically advanced academic space at the University. Arquitectonica, the award-winning, Miami-based firm with an international reputation for excellence and innovation, is responsible for the building’s stunning design. Construction of the new facility started in May of 2009 and should be completed by the Summer of 2010.

Course Descriptions
Definition of Prefixes
ISS-Interdisciplinary Social Sciences

ISS 3214 Fundamentals of Globalization (3). This course examines globalization in all its diverse forms of world-wide interconnection, including its effect on international security, political economy, culture and other issues.

ISS 4284 North America Integration (3). Analyzes issues related to U.S., Canadian, and Mexican relations and examines increasingly close, if uneven, Canadian/Mexican/U.S. trade partnership, climate/environmental issues, and security integration.

ISS 4364 Introduction to Structured Analytic Methods (3). An introduction to structured analytical methods and the application of those methods to contemporary cases.

ISS 4385 Effective Governmental Communication (3). Improves communications for governmental professions, enhancing research and effective writing skills and developing briefing techniques.

ISS 4930 Topics in Globalization (3). An intensive examination of a topic of globalization. Subject matter will vary according to Instructor. Topic will be announced in advance.