

Chairperson: Marc A. Goldstein, Ph.D.

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INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

PROGRAMS AVAILABLE

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES TEACHING LICENSURE

INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES MAJOR PROGRAM

The Department of Philosophy/Modern Language/ Interdisciplinary Studies offers a four-year program leading to a Bachelor of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies. Building upon a foundation of four interdisciplinary courses, each student designs the remainder of his/her major program by selecting offerings from at least two other departments, offerings which accord with chosen career objectives. Students graduating with a degree in interdisciplinary studies will be able to:

- C express themselves effectively orally and in writing.
- C apply course materials to improve rational thinking, problem-solving, and decision-making.
- C explain how professionals in their chosen fields of study go about the process of gaining new knowledge.
- C analyze readings to determine major points and supporting arguments.
- C interpret an author's procedures and ideological assumptions and recognize the implications of his/her argument.
- C use principal reference works and library aids to locate information in the chosen area of study.
- C articulate ethical/value issues within his/her chosen field of study and set forth his/her carefully considered position on some of these issues.
- C cite sources accurately and appropriately.
- C organize and relate information and ideas from multiple sources dealing with a specific issue in the chosen area of study.
- C examine issues from different perspectives, particularly the methodological perspectives of different disciplines within the chosen area of study.

Interdisciplinary Studies Major Requirements

All junior and senior students majoring in Interdisciplinary Studies must maintain a GPA of no lower than 2.5. Of the 42 credits required in the major, 12 are required interdisciplinary studies courses; the remaining 30 credits consist of courses from at least two other departments, which then constitute the student's chosen area of study. (See "Areas of Study")

IDST 320	Interpretation	3 cr
IDST 401	Senior Seminar	3 cr
Two other Interdisciplinary Studies courses		6 cr
Courses from at least two other departments		<u>30 cr</u>

**TOTAL INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES
MAJOR REQUIREMENTS** **42**

AREAS OF STUDY

The interdisciplinary studies major is unique in that it allows students the opportunity to design an area of study in a conceptually related area of human knowledge that spans two or more of the College's academic disciplines. During their sophomore year, majors explore their options for further interdisciplinary work and identify the area of study they wish to pursue. Possibilities include, but are not limited to, the following:

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|---------------------------|------------------------|
| American Studies* | International Studies* |
| Community Development | Language Studies* |
| Criminal Justice | Natural Sciences* |
| Cultural Studies* | Public Administration |
| General Science* | Social Sciences* |
| Health Service Management | Travel and Tourism |
| Humanities* | |
| Human Development | |

* Liberal Arts Area of Study

It is important to stress that an area of study is a group of conceptually related courses within the interdisciplinary studies major; it does not, itself, constitute a major. When combined with the 12-credit foundation of the major, the area of study is an excellent foundation for more advanced work in a chosen field.

TEACHING LICENSURE

Students majoring in interdisciplinary studies (with a liberal arts area of study) may opt to pursue initial teacher licensure as an early childhood teacher, elementary teacher, or a middle school teacher. Also, depending on the course work completed for the major, students may be eligible for licensure in a particular subject area for the middle school level, such as general science, humanities and math/science. These students will complete an interdisciplinary studies major and a licensure program in education.

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COURSE LISTINGS

IDST 320 Interpretation

3 cr

Beginning with the consideration of the raw data with which scholars work, students proceed through the process by which meaning is constructed and then through the processes by which various interpretations can be challenged or defended, with special emphasis placed upon standards for distinguishing effective from ineffective arguments.

Prerequisite: Junior/senior status

IDST 330 The Idea Of . . .

3 cr

Focuses on a particular idea (e.g., "freedom," "love," "autonomy," "democracy"). Selected idea is examined from the perspective of different disciplines.

Prerequisite: Junior/senior status

IDST 340 Great Visions

3 cr

Focuses on a different person of vision (e.g., Galileo, Freud, Marx, Darwin). Exploration of the life, times, and work of the selected person utilizing literature from different disciplines.

Prerequisite: Junior/senior status

IDST 350 Great Epochs

3 cr

Focuses on a different epoch (e.g., "The Enlightenment," "The Nuclear Age"). Each epoch is examined using appropriate literature from different perspectives and disciplines.

Prerequisite: Junior/senior status

IDST 360 Explorations in Interdisciplinary Studies

3 cr

Focuses on a different topic or issue (e.g., "Society and Disease," "Science and Society," "Evolution and Faiths", "Biology and Gender"). Each topic is studied from the vantage point of at least two different disciplines.

Prerequisite: Junior/senior status

IDST 401 Senior Seminar

3 cr

Available only to senior interdisciplinary studies majors, this seminar requires students to carry out supervised research projects within their areas of study and to share the progress and results of their research with seminar participants.

Prerequisite: Senior IDST Major

IDST 500 Directed Independent Study

3 cr

Open to junior and senior IDS majors who wish to read in a given area or to study a topic in depth. Written reports and frequent conferences with the advisor are required.

Prerequisite: Junior/senior status; department approval

IDST 540 Interdisciplinary Internship

1-6 cr

Offers seniors field experience that actively and extensively draws upon the concepts, principles, and skills of at least two different disciplines. The internship must include a strong writing component in which the student interprets his/her field experience with reference to key ideas and themes of the relevant disciplines.

Prerequisite: Senior status and department approval