

Interdisciplinary Courses-1

Interdisciplinary Courses

FSP/First Seminar

1 course unit

As the cornerstone of the College's Liberal Learning Program, First Seminar is designed to provide all first-year students with an intellectually exciting and challenging experience taught by faculty mentors. Each seminar is designed around a topic selected for its special interest by an individual professor. Students are encouraged to use the First Seminar to deepen their current interests or to explore new academic opportunities. Each seminar is limited to 15 students, is writing intensive, and demands the active participation of all students. Limited to first-year students; does not fulfill major requirements.

IDS 100/Race, Class, and Gender: Interdisciplinary Explorations

1 course unit

An interdisciplinary study of culture, race, class, and gender. The course incorporates sources from humanities, visual arts, and social and natural sciences, with systematic response in reading, writing, speaking, and research analysis. Introductory use of quantitative and computer skills.

IDS 102/Information Literacy Proficiency

0 course unit

Co-requisite: First Seminar

An online, non-credit course satisfying the information literacy component of the Liberal Learning Program. A co-requisite to First Seminar, it must be completed by all students prior to graduation, including transfer students who may not be required to meet the co-requisite.

IDS 252/Society, Ethics, and Technology

1 course unit

(every semester)

Provides students with a framework for understanding ways human societies transform themselves through technological innovation. New technologies enlarge society's options, thereby forcing us to consider ethical questions concerning the social effects of technological change. Students explore past and present developments in various fields of technology and discuss the ethical and social issues they raise.

IDS 312/Downtown: Inner-City Youth and Families

1 course unit

Stimulates exposure to and awareness of the complex lives of inner-city youth and families, particularly those who live in poverty. Real-life complexities are viewed through multiple lenses including disciplinary perspectives (e.g., psychology, sociology, urban studies) and community-based perspectives (e.g., social policy, service provision). Enriches cultural competency skills necessary for working with and on behalf of inner-city youth and families.

WRI 101/First Year Writing

0 course unit

(every semester)

Prerequisite: placement

Offers writing support for FSP/First Seminar and WRI 102/Academic Writing. A zero-credit, ungraded, repeatable tutorial. First Year Writing must be taken concurrently with FSP or with WRI 102. May be repeated.

WRI 102/Academic Writing

1 course unit

(every semester)

Prerequisite: none

Offers students the opportunity to develop, advance, and practice skills in the production of academic prose. Within a framework of sophisticated readings, highly coordinated writing workshops, and instructor feedback, students practice the modes of writing necessary to succeed in college. Students read critically, cultivate habits of effective and ethical research, practice conventions of documentation, and use information technologies. Topical readings may vary among sections. Students may earn exemption

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from WRI 102 through AP scores, SAT scores, or an exemption test offered only prior to matriculation; for more information, see [writing program](#).

WRI 202/Researched Writing in the Disciplines

1 course unit

(every semester)

Prerequisite: WRI 102 or exemption from WRI 102.

A “writing in the disciplines” experience that assumes a basic competence in the 3-7-page argumentative or expository prose essay. Students read essays in the natural sciences, social sciences, and humanities, and write essays in these traditions, including a longer, researched argument in their intended major field of study. This course acts as a bridge between the writing tasks typical of the first-year classes, and those of upper-division courses in students’ major fields.