

Interdisciplinary Studies

PROFESSOR **Schwartz**, Director.

The curriculum of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences provides for interdisciplinary majors that fall into two categories. First, a student, working in consultation with a faculty advisor, may formulate an interdisciplinary major that is uniquely tailored to his or her interest. The responsibility for formulating a sound academic program of interdisciplinary study lies with the individual student and the advisor, and the proposed major must be approved by the Committee on Honors and Interdisciplinary Studies (CHIS). Normally, students pursuing an interdisciplinary major base their program upon a solid understanding of an established discipline, and must include courses from at least three departments, with no more than half of the credit hours from any one department. More than two courses at the introductory level are seldom approved.

Second, requirements have been established for interdisciplinary majors in the following areas: Africana Studies, Environmental Science/ Studies, Linguistics, Literary and Cultural Studies, Medieval and Renaissance Studies, Neuroscience, and Women's Studies.

Applications for interdisciplinary majors must adhere to the Registrar's deadlines for declaring a primary major. In addition, all applications for interdisciplinary majors as a change of major or secondary major must be submitted to the Committee on Honors and Interdisciplinary Studies before the beginning of preregistration for the first semester of the student's senior year. All interdisciplinary programs must be compatible with the degree requirements for Arts and Sciences. Each major must fulfill the Major Writing Requirement by earning a grade of C- or better in the course designated as the writing course within the program submitted to CHIS. Each major must also fulfill the Computer Proficiency Requirement by earning a grade of C- or better in the course designated as the computer proficiency course within the program submitted. CHIS, or the appropriate advisory committee, must approve the designation of courses that fulfill the writing and computer proficiency requirements.

Majors

Africana Studies.

See page 62.

Environmental Science/Policy.

See page 111.

Linguistics.

See page 159.

Literary and Cultural Studies.

See page 160.

Medieval and Renaissance Studies.

See page 169.

Neuroscience.

See page 198.

Women's Studies.

See page 226.

Minors

Interdisciplinary minors are offered in Africana Studies (see page 62), Biochemistry (see page 84), Community Studies (see page 98), Environmental Science and Policy (see page 111), Film Studies (see page 114), Italian Studies (see page 187), Judaic Studies (see page 155), Literary and Cultural Studies (see page 160), Linguistics (see page 159), Marine Science (see page 162), Medieval and Renaissance Studies (see page 169), and Women's Studies (see page 226). Students may not create other interdisciplinary minors.

Description of Courses

The following interdisciplinary courses are taught by individual instructors or by a group of instructors who wish to explore a subject outside the present departmental programs. They are coordinated by the Charles Center.

150W. Freshman Seminar.

Fall and Spring (4,4) Staff.

A course designed to introduce freshmen to topics in interdisciplinary studies. All interdisciplinary freshman seminars satisfy the lower division writing requirement.

160. Digital Information Literacy.

Spring (1) Swem Reference Staff.

Examines how computers process digital information; communicating using computers; security and privacy issues; analyzing research needs; finding information electronically; evaluating the information found; and information ethics.

322. Introduction to Library Resources.

Fall and Spring (1,1) Showalter.

Course Objectives: to gain an understanding of the role of libraries and information in American culture and society today; to acquire a theoretical and logical approach to information gathering; to learn the practical skills of identifying, locating, evaluating, and effectively using print and electronic information sources.

350. Emergent Dialogues: The Intersection of Art and Science.

Summer (4) Bagdassarian, Mead.

Three-week intensive course straddling art and science. Motivated by the science of complex systems thinking, students will create sculptures interacting with the landscape of Matoaka Woods. This course will foster a creative, interdisciplinary, and reciprocal dialogue between artists and scientists.

†480. Independent Study.

Fall and Spring (1-4,1-4) Staff.

For majors who have completed most of their major requirements and who have secured approval of the Committee on Honors and Interdisciplinary Studies and that of the instructor(s) concerned. An interdisciplinary major may include no more than six hours of Independent Study.

***491. Short Course in Interdisciplinary Studies.**

Fall and Spring (1,1) Staff.

This course may be repeated for credit if topics vary.

†495-496. Interdisciplinary Honors.

Fall, Spring (3,3) Staff.

Students admitted to Interdisciplinary Honors will be enrolled in this course during both semesters of their senior year. Each candidate will be responsible for: (a) formulating a program of study in consultation with a faculty advisor; (b) submission of an Honors essay two weeks before the last day of classes of the semester in which the essay is being completed; (c) satisfactory performance in an oral examination on the subject matter of the Honors essay. The procedures and standards for Interdisciplinary Honors will be those in force in the department of the student's primary faculty advisor. The primary faculty advisor, with the approval of CHIS, may make appropriate changes to those procedures and standards. Requests for these exceptions must accompany the student's proposal to do Honors. For College provisions governing the Admission to Honors, see catalog section titled Honors and Special Programs.

499. Washington Semester Internship.

Fall and Spring (6) Staff. Corequisite: enrollment in Washington Program

This course combines an internship experience in Washington, D.C., with individual research supervised by the Washington Program instructor and results in a substantial paper. Only students already accepted into the Washington Program are eligible to enroll.

Sharpe Community Partnerships Program

The Sharpe Program provides freshmen and upper-level students with opportunities to integrate service and other community-based projects into academic classes. For additional information, please contact Monica Griffin, Director.

100. The College and the Community.

Fall and Spring (1, 1) Griffin. Co-requisite: Must be taken along with a designated Sharpe freshman course.

This course introduces freshman Sharpe Scholars to Williamsburg, especially its history and prominent social issues that its citizens confront. It also introduces students to various forms of civic participation and provides them with the skills to carry out community-based projects. Sharpe Scholars all take this course in both the fall and spring of their freshman years. Repeatable for credit.