Interdisciplinary Studies

While the processes of education rest upon the foundation of clearly defined disciplines, there are many problems and issues that require a broader approach. Hence, The University of Texas at Dallas is committed to developing interdisciplinary studies. Some of these problems arise initially out of the traditional disciplines but cannot be solved by exclusive reference to them. For example, social historians have found it imperative to emancipate themselves from the methods of the traditional historian and to enlist the support of the social anthropologist, the sociologist, and the art historian.

Other problems and ideas, by their very nature, involve the integrated activity of scholars in disparate fields, as in the case of issues posed by contemporary medical ethics, which require the integrated perspectives of the moral philosopher, the psychologist, the sociologist, and the physician. Furthermore, in some instances the processes of interdisciplinary fusion result in the emergence of new disciplines, as in the case of molecular biology, which arose largely out of the work of physicists and chemists working in the field of biology. In other words, from whatever perspective it is viewed, interdisciplinary is an intellectually enriching and potentially creative process which can be an important component of the educational experience at The University of Texas at Dallas.

The Interdisciplinary Studies courses which follow are sponsored by particular schools but are open to all students at the University.

Interdisciplinary Studies Course Descriptions

School of Arts and Humanities

**ISAH 3236 Debate** (2 semester hours) The principles and practices of formal intercollegiate team and parliamentary debate. The course is based on the national debate topic. Teams participate in intramural and intercollegiate debate and forensic competitions, including extemporaneous speech, oratory, and group discussion. Primarily intended for members or prospective members of the UTD debating team. May be repeated for credit (16 hours maximum). (2-0) S

**ISAH 3300 Film as Reflection of Society** (3 semester hours) A study of the cinema in its historical, economic, propagandistic, and symbolic relationship to society. Topics vary and will consider films in different eras and nations. (3-0) Y

**ISAH 3330 Venus to Vampire: Women in History and Art** (3 semester hours) Starting with the Greeks, this course will explore the female as a constant source of inspiration and vehicle of expression during the major periods of Western art up to the present time. Emphasis will be on the social and philosophical context in which these images were created and on the persistence and change of types of images from period to period. (3-0) T

**ISAH 3394 Women and Western Thought** (3 semester hours) Drawing from philosophy, theology, literature, and art, this course will attempt to trace and understand the development of the concept of woman from the classical period until the present, and examine the evolution of such attitudes and their impact on the images of women in literature and the visual arts. (3-0) T

**ISAH 4301 Music as a Second Language** (3 semester hours) An exploration of the creative process and the changing role of the composer. Methods of analytical and aesthetic appreciation applied to musical examples, with corollaries in literature, history, theatre, and the visual arts. Musical knowledge helpful but not required. (3-0) T

**ISAH 4336 Growing Up in America** (3 semester hours) Did Childhood and Adolescence exist in the past? Will they tomorrow? This course investigates changes in growing up with perspectives from history, the social sciences, psychology, literature, and film. (3-0) T

**ISAH 4340 Motion Pictures: Popular Art Symbolic Form** (3 semester hours) The course explores the nature of popular art and the relationship of motion pictures to other forms of artistic expression, and emphasizes critical and analytical approaches to movies by considering symbolic and significant enactments in them. (3-0) Y

**ISAH 4342 Peace, War, and Ethics** (3 semester hours) This course is a study of attitudes, concepts, and realities regarding war and peace issues. It seeks to understand why people fight and why peace is difficult to attain. (3-0) T

**ISAH 4370 Arts Management** (3 semester hours) Examination of the role of arts managers in contemporary visual and performing arts organizations, with a focus on business and administrative practices. Topics will include organizational
structuring, fund raising, personnel management, and basic accounting procedures (profit and nonprofit). (3-0) T

**ISAH 4V88 Special Interdisciplinary Topics in the Arts and Humanities** (1-6 semester hours) Subject matter will vary from semester to semester. May be repeated for credit (9 hours maximum). ([1-6]-0) R

**Erik Jonsson School of Engineering and Computer Science**

**ISEC 4102 Computer Art Laboratory** (1 semester hour) This course involves the creation and use of algorithms for art on microcomputers. Will not satisfy core requirement in Natural Sciences. Corequisite: IS 4201 The Computer and the Artist. (0-2) R

**ISEC 4201 The Computer and the Artist** (2 semester hours) This course explores the problems, tools, and opportunities presented to the artist by the birth of this new medium. From the analytic aspects of computer graphics to the aesthetics of interactive design, the wide range of extant techniques foreshadows the richness of future computer art. Will not satisfy core requirement in Natural Sciences. Corequisite: IS 4102 Computer Art Laboratory. (2-0) R


**ISEC 4V87 Special Interdisciplinary Topics in Engineering or Computer Science** (1-6 semester hours) Subject matter will vary from semester to semester. May be repeated for credit (9 hours maximum). ([1-6]) R

**School of General Studies**

**ISGS 3312 Women in Management** (3 semester hours) Earnings differences, employment policies, and other critical issues affecting the status of women in managerial and professional positions. (3-0) S

**ISGS 3331 Female and Male: Changing Roles** (3 semester hours) The changing roles of men and women are explored using research from psychology, sociology, anthropology, and economics. The course examines cross-cultural variation in sex roles, how children learn sex-typed roles, women's changing status in the paid work force, and the ideologies of proponents and opponents of feminism. (3-0) Y

**ISGS 3335 United States and East Asia** (3 semester hours) This course examines the interaction between the United States and East Asia. Topics include sociocultural differences, conflicts in political ideals, economic relations, and trans-Pacific diplomacy. The course highlights the spread of American culture and the rise of East Asia's economic power. (3-0) Y

**ISGS 4305 Humans: Our Place in Nature** (3 semester hours) The history of the human lineage is a complicated but fascinating combination of biological and cultural changes. (This course will meet a three-hour science general education requirement for all students except for majors in the School of Natural Sciences and Mathematics.) (3-0) Y

**ISGS 4308 Bones, Bodies, and Disease** (3 semester hours) An introduction to the wealth of knowledge that can be ascertained through an analysis of skeletal and mummified remains. (This course will meet a three-hour science general education requirement for all students except for majors in the School of Natural Sciences and Mathematics.) (3-0) Y

**ISGS 4309 Diversity and Globalization** (3 semester hours) This course studies the meanings, processes, and impacts of globalization. It highlights sensitivity to global diversity and examines how global companies cope with a wide array of political/legal forces and transform social/cultural differences into competitive advantages. Topics include conflict resolution in business diplomacy and strategies of managing global diversity. (3-0) Y

**ISGS 4311 Gender and Education** (3 semester hours) An examination of the impact of gender, race, and class on the educational experiences of men and women. Considers the way educational institutions both empower individuals and reproduce social inequalities based on class, gender, ethnicity, and sexuality. Topics include Enlightenment discussions of gender and reason, co-ed vs. single sex education, curriculum transformation efforts to include the history and experiences of women and ethnic minorities, feminist, and critical pedagogies. (3-0) Y

**ISGS 4320 Women, Work and Family** (3 semester hours) An examination of the relationship between women's work for pay in the marketplace and their unpaid work in homes across time and in different cultures. Topics include the historical separation of work from home under capitalism; division of household labor between men and women; public policy initiatives (socialized/commercial housework and daycare, family leave, telecommuting, part-time and flex-time work) designed to make juggling work and family easier; the ways class, race, and ethnicity constrain and enable women's choices. (3-0) Y
ISGS 4338 Native American Cultures (3 semester hours) This course provides an overview of the Indian, Eskimo, and Aleuts of North America from first contacts with the European world to the present. Native Americans will be viewed from an interdisciplinary and culture area perspective. Topics discussed include pan-Native American ideologies and problems. (3-0) Y

ISGS 4354 Music from Source to Experience (3 semester hours) The physical, biological, and psychological aspects of music are treated with the goal of arriving at an understanding of the nature of music and its effects on the listener. Demonstrations of physical and auditory phenomena, visual and auditory aids as well as musical examples will be used. (3-0) Y

ISGS 4V89 Special Interdisciplinary Topics in General Studies (1-6 semester hours) Subject matter will vary from semester to semester. May be repeated for credit (9 hours maximum). ([1-6]-0) Y

School of Human Development

ISHD 3343 Children in a Changing World (3 semester hours) Issues relevant to childhood in the 20th century. Topics include day care, divorce, parenting styles, and parental leave. The influence of social policy, socioeconomic factors, and family structure on childrearing will be discussed. (3-0) Y

ISHD 4347 Drugs, Behavior, and the Brain (3 semester hours) An examination of the nature of brain cells and the brain-cell chemical communication process. Mechanisms of action of major psychoactive drugs, drug dependence, withdrawal, and drug-induced brain damage are considered. (3-0) R ISHD 4365 Language in Culture and Society (3 semester hours) An investigation of the influence of language on nonlinguistic aspects of culture and society. Topics will include patterns of communication, speech community, communication and social structure, varieties of language, and the analysis of communicative competence and communicative performance. (3-0) Y

ISHD 4391 Psychology and the Legal System (3 semester hours) Relationship of psychology to legal issues including the insanity defense and criminal responsibility, mental competency, standards for involuntary commitment, and predictions of future behavior. Other topics include polygraphic examinations, jury selection, decision processes, and rules of evidence. (3-0) Y

ISHD 4V82 Special Interdisciplinary Topics in Human Development (1-6 semester hours) Subject matter will vary from semester to semester. May be repeated for credit (9 hours maximum). ([1-6]-0) R

School of Management

ISSM 4V83 Special Interdisciplinary Topics in Business Administration (1-6 semester hours) Subject matter will vary from semester to semester. May be repeated for credit (9 hours maximum). ([1-6]-0) S

School of Natural Sciences and Mathematics

Unless otherwise indicated, the following courses may partially fulfill the core curriculum requirement in science.

ISNS 3367 The Oceans (3 semester hours) Physical, chemical, biological, and geological aspects of oceanography. Description and origin of features on sea floor; evolution of ocean basins; chemistry of sea water; influence of oceans on weather and climate; formation of waves, tides, currents; factors affecting biological productivity; economic resources and environmental problems. Enrollment in GEOS 3401 Oceanography precludes enrollment in ISNS 3367. (3-0) S

ISNS 3368 Weather and Climate (3 semester hours) An overview of the fields of meteorology and climatology. The approach is scientific yet nonmathematical, and students will be exposed to a wide spectrum of ideas from folklore, history, law, economics, and environmental issues. (3-0) S

ISNS 4359 Earthquakes and Volcanoes (3 semester hours) Earthquakes and volcanoes appear capricious and devastating in human terms, but they are also a regular part of geological history. This course will integrate current geological thinking with elements of statistics, physics, chemistry, human history, sociology, psychology, and religion to develop an understanding and to provide pragmatic strategies for living with these events. (3-0) Y

ISNS 4371 The Phenomena of Nature: Forces, Gases, Motion, Heat, Light and Electricity (3 semester hours) The purpose of the course is to cultivate in students an intuitive perception of the nature of observable physical reality through the presentation and analysis of striking experimental demonstrations. No substantial prior training in science is assumed, but students with a background in science may profit from the course. There will be considerable reference to the historical growth of scientific knowledge and to the aesthetic quality of the explanations offered by science. (3-0) Y
ISNS 4373 Our Nearest Neighbors in the Sky (3 semester hours) A description of the tools and principles the astronomer and space scientist use in exploration of the solar system; the earth, moon, the sun, planets, asteroids, meteors, and comets; the origin of the solar system; classroom demonstrations, multimedia presentations, and telescope observations. NATS 4173 may be taken with this course to satisfy a General Education laboratory science requirement. No prerequisites. (3-0) Y

ISNS 4V81 Special Interdisciplinary Topics in Natural Sciences and Mathematics (1-6 semester hours) Subject matter will vary from semester to semester. May be repeated for credit (9 hours maximum). ([1-6]-0) R

School of Social Sciences

ISSS 3336 Culture Regions (3 semester hours) Survey of a major region of the world as defined by a set of common cultural traditions and institutions such as Latin America, the Islamic World, Africa south of the Sahara, or South Asia. Each time the course is offered it will review both the key cultural features and the major disciplinary approaches needed to create an interdisciplinary comprehension of the region. Areas will be announced in advance, and the course may be repeated for credit when a different culture region is treated. (3-0) Y

ISSS 3347 The World's Advanced Economies (3 semester hours) This course examines the U.S. economy in relation to the world's advanced industrial economies using conceptual tools from several social sciences disciplines. Primary emphasis will be placed on comparative economic performances and the influences of differing models of capitalism, macroeconomic and cyclical patterns, demographics, income and employment trends, and patterns of economic integration. (3-0) T

ISSS 3349 World Resources and Development (3 semester hours) Analysis of resource mobilization, technological changes, and economic development from a multidisciplinary perspective. Primary focus on the problems of the less-developed countries. Topics include: technology transfer, industrialization strategy, education policy, population growth, nutrition, and foreign aid. (3-0) R

ISSS 3350 Drugs and Crime (3 semester hours) Survey of illicit drug use, the legislative initiatives that have been attempted to combat the spread of drugs, the relationship between drugs and crime, and the public policy problem surrounding the control of drugs. (3-0) R

ISSS 3351 Criminal Justice and the Community (3 semester hours) A study of the criminal justice system in the community at large. The course will focus on the relationships among those who make laws, those who enforce the laws, and those who violate laws. Institutions to be examined may include police, courts, and prisons. (3-0) R

ISSS 3356 Management and Society (3 semester hours) This course explores a variety of social forces that are reshaping both our attitudes toward management and our management practices. Some of the social forces studied in this class include the quality movement, feminism, ecological economics, the virtual organization, and the new sciences of chaos and complexity. (3-0) T

ISSS 3360 Politics and Values in Business and Technology (3 semester hours) A social and behavioral science survey of current business practices and the normative value systems by which they operate and are regulated. Topics will include the influences on business practices by culture, especially race, ethnicity, gender, religion, and by developing technology and the Information Society. (3-0) S

ISSS 4329 Survival in the Fourth World (3 semester hours) Examines the life circumstances and concerns of the world's poorest peoples through perspectives offered by such fields as sociology, economics, and anthropology, and through the eyes of the people themselves. In addition to exploring basic survival issues such as population growth, migration, food, employment, education, and environment, the course concerns itself with relationships between the ways different perspectives shape assumptions about realities, and how such assumptions influence actions to improve these same realities. (3-0) R

ISSS 4357 Religions (3 semester hours) A comparative study of the world's major systems of religious belief and their relation to other influential social and cultural systems, with special reference to the way these traditions are applied in the creation of new religious movements. (3-0) Y

ISSS 4358 Armed Forces and Security in the Post Cold War World (3 semester hours) Despite the end of the Cold War, the threat or use of military force continues to be one of the dominant features of world political and economic life. Many nations (including the U.S.) still maintain the high levels of arms research, production, and expenditure that have been the hallmark of the international arms race. This course considers the economic, social, political, and military implications of the
end of the Cold War and the continued attempt to achieve security through armed force. Topics include the nature and theory of the arms race; armaments and security; the nature, meaning, and probability of nuclear war; economic implications; social psychological factors; and the possibilities for achieving security by nonmilitary means. (3-0) R

**ISSS 4366 Japanese Organization and Management** (3 semester hours) An examination of the structure of Japanese organizations: small and large business firms, government ministries, and multinational corporations. Consideration is also given to the relationships between the education system and labor market, and government and business. (3-0) R

**ISSS 4377 Alternative Approaches to National Security** (3 semester hours) There is a pressing need to reconsider how nations can best achieve security in the face of drastic changes in the international arena in the last decades of the twentieth century. The Cold War has ended, the Soviet Union has collapsed, yet regional conflicts abound, ethnic antagonisms threaten the peace, and international terrorism is still a real danger. At the same time, important progress has been made in arms reduction, international cooperation, and the spread of democracy. In the light of these changes, this course explores a variety of alternatives to the traditional threat or use of massive military force as a means for achieving national and global security. (3-0) R

**ISSS 4V86 Special Interdisciplinary Topics in the Social Sciences** (1-6 semester hours) Subject matter will vary from semester to semester. May be repeated for credit (9 hours maximum). ([1-6]-0) R