Interdisciplinary Programs

Department Information

Interdisciplinary programs are designed to combine several disciplines in their curriculum. Several interdisciplinary programs are offered by the College.

Areas Of Study

- a minor in African-American Studies
- a Composite Science Minor (24 hrs.)
- a minor in Forensic Sciences
- a minor in Gender Studies
- an undergraduate and graduate certificate in Gerontology
- a major in International Studies
- a double major in International Studies and Modern and Classical Languages and Literatures
- a minor in International Studies
- a minor in Museum Studies
- a minor in Related Sciences

Courses

African-American Studies (AFR)

AFR 101 Intro to African Amer Studies 3 cr
An interdisciplinary investigation of the origins, experiences, conditions, accomplishments and contributions of people of African ancestry in the United States.

College Of Arts And Sciences (CAS)

CAS 100 First Yr Exp - 2 cr
A course for first-year students majoring in the College of Arts & Sciences that assists with maximizing the student's potential to achieve academic success and to adjust responsibly to the individual and interpersonal challenges presented by college life. Taught in small groups, the course provides an introduction to the nature of higher education and a general orientation to the functions and resources of the University.

CAS 190 Special Topics - 1 TO 3 cr
This variable content course deals with selected topics from any of the disciplines in the College of Arts and Sciences. Topics will focus on current and relevant issues and may contain a service-learning component. The course may be repeated for credit when the topic varies for a maximum of six credit hours.

Gender Studies (GS)

GS 101 Intro to Gender Studies 3 cr
This course provides an interdisciplinary, multicultural overview of the concept of gender and gender roles in patriarchal society. This course examines the social construction of gender in our society and how that has shaped such areas as economics, politics, cultural/social values, and the impact upon women and men in historical and contemporary terms.

GS 290 Special Topics - 3 cr
Study of selected topics with an area in gender studies. May be repeated for credit when content varies.

GS 490 Gender Studies Special Topics- 3 cr
Advanced study of selected topics within an area in Gender Studies. May be repeated for credit when content varies for a total of six hours.
GS 492  Gender Studies Seminar - 3 cr  
Advanced study of selected topics in Gender Studies. May be repeated for credit when content varies for a total of six hours.

GS 494  Directed Studies  1 TO 3 cr  
Directed research under the guidance of a Gender Studies faculty member. Requires permission of instructor. Student is restricted to taking a maximum of six hours of Directed Studies.  
Pre-requisite: GS 101 Minimum Grade of D

GS 496  Internship - 3 TO 6 cr  
Practical learning through occupational or community work with an approved agency dealing with gender-related issues. Readings and final report supervised by gender studies faculty. Special Permission required.  
Pre-requisite: GS 101 Minimum Grade of D

Gerontology (GRN)

GRN 272  Gender and Aging  3 cr  
This course examines the dynamics of gender and aging within society from an interdisciplinary perspective. Students will be introduced to controversies in gender over the life course. These include, but are not limited to, definitions and cultural boundaries, gender in childhood, gender and relationships, gender in education and the workplace, gender and sexuality, as well as gender in late life.

GRN 290  Special Topics - 3 cr  
This designation is used for interdisciplinary courses on aging on a variety of subjects. This course does not replace any course in a single discipline. May be repeated as long as the topic changes, to maximum of six semester hours.

GRN 435  Health Disparities Life Span  3 cr  
This course examines differences in health status across the life span. The course will focus heavily on racial/ethnic and socioeconomic disparities in health applying a social determinants' of health framework. Issues that will be considered include how income, education, neighborhood conditions, access to health care, and other community factors shape opportunities to be healthy. The course is cross-listed as SY 435 and GRN 435 and has been approved as an elective for the Undergraduate Certificate in Gerontology and the interdisciplinary minor in Gerontology.  
Pre-requisite: SY 109 Minimum Grade of D

GRN 490  Special Topics - 3 cr  
This course is designated for upper division students and graduate students, particularly those pursuing studies for the Certificate of Gerontology. The course content focuses on interdisciplinary treatments on various topics on aging. This course does not replace any course in a single discipline. (Examples of special topics: Trends and Issues in Gerontology; Leadership and Advocacy in Gerontology; Housing and Lifestyle Changes over the Life Course). May be repeated as long as the topic changes, to maximum of six semester hours.  
Pre-requisite: SY 372 Minimum Grade of D

GRN 494  Directed Studies - 1 TO 3 cr  
Under the guidance of a faculty member, the student will pursue directed research on readings of an approved topic in Gerontology. May be repeated as long as the topic changes, to a maximum of six semester hours. Requires permission of Director of Gerontology.  
Pre-requisite: SY 372 Minimum Grade of D

GRN 496  Internship - Gerontology  3 OR 6 cr  
This course is to provide a practicum experience in gerontology in a setting selected by the student and approved by the Program Director. The course emphasis is on the experiential learning process and outcomes. The undergraduate student will apply theoretical concepts in specific areas of interest related to aging and intergenerational relations. Interns will meet as a group three times during the semester for orientation, professional development, and evaluation activities. The 3-hour internship requires 100 contact hours; the 6-hour internship requires 200 hours. Permission of Director of Gerontology is required. Fee.  
Pre-requisite: SY 372 Minimum Grade of C

GRN 535  Health Disparities Life Span  3 cr  
The main purpose of this seminar is to provide students with an understanding of how social factors contribute to racial/ethnic, socioeconomic and gender disparities in health and health care. We will examine how dyadic relationships such as interpersonal forms of discrimination, marriage, and social ties may contribute to health disparities. We will also examine the ways in which neighborhood and community context, as well as inequalities in socioeconomic status materially shape health and access to health care services. The course is cross-listed as GRN 435/535 and SY 435/535 and has been approved as an elective for the Undergraduate/Graduate Certificate in Gerontology and the interdisciplinary minor in Gerontology.

GRN 594  Dir St in Gerontology - 1 TO 3 cr  
Under the guidance of a faculty member, the student will pursue directed research or readings of an approved topic in Gerontology. May be repeated as long as the topic changes, to maximum of six credit hours. Requires permission of the Director of Gerontology.
GRN 596  Internship - Gerontology  3 OR 6 cr
This course is to provide a practicum experience in
gerontology in a setting selected by the student and
approved by the Program Director. The course emphasis
is on the experiential learning process and outcomes.
The graduate student will apply theoretical concepts to
leadership roles, conducting research and influencing
social and health care policies related to aging and
intergenerational relationships. Interns will meet as a
group three times during the semester for orientation,
professional development, and evaluation activities. The
3-hour internship requires 100 contact hours; the 6-hour
internship requires 200 hours. Permission of Director of
Gerontology is required. Fee.
Pre-requisite: SY 523 Minimum Grade of B

GRN 597  GRN Teaching Apprenticeship 1 TO 3 cr
Directed Studies/Apprenticeship that focuses on teaching
Gerontology. The student will work directly with a member
of the Gerontology graduate faculty to learn pedagogy,
innovation in teaching, and course content that will
equip the student for future teaching assignments. Many
PhD programs offer both Teaching Assistantships and
Research Assistantships. Gerontology students need to
show evidence that they have had some teaching-related
experience to compete strongly for the TA position. This
course is also appropriate for students who anticipate
careers in teaching within the field of Gerontology (aging
or intergenerational studies). Arrangements must be made
prior to registration. Permission of the Program Director is
required.
Pre-requisite: SY 372 Minimum Grade of C

Interdisciplinary Programs
(IDS)

IDS 290  Special Topics  1 TO 3 cr
A study of selected topics of an interdisciplinary nature.
May be repeated for credit when content varies. Requires
permission of instructor.

IDS 490  Special Topics  1 TO 3 cr
Advanced study of selected topics of an interdisciplinary
nature. May be repeated for credit when content varies.
Requires permission of instructor.

IDS 590  Sp Top  1 TO 9 cr
Specialized topics not generally listed in the course
offerings. Requires consent of Graduate Director.

International Studies (IS)

IS 100  Global Issues  3 cr
This course introduces students to the basic structural
components of the global system, including the nation-state
system and the world economy, and explores the major
schools of thought in such areas as security, economic
prosperity and development, international law, gender
and environmental studies. The course helps students
understand the complex and interlinked issues facing global
society, and current problems, and view the U.S. within a
broader global context.

IS 200  People-Nations -  3 cr
Variable content course focusing on particular nation
or region of the world. Course offers a multi-disciplinary
introduction to the people, society and politics. May be
repeated for credit when content varies up to a total of 6
hours.

IS 210  Global Engagement Orientation  1 cr
Global Engagement Capstone is required for students
completing the Global Engagement Certificate (GEC) and is
designed to introduce students to international issues and
relevant topics. Students will also outline their individualized
program of study required to complete the GEC as part of
the course.

IS 290  Special Topics -  3 cr
Study of selected topics within a particular Area Studies
Concentration. May be repeated for credit when content
varies.
Pre-requisite: IS 100 Minimum Grade of D

IS 390  Sp Top -  1 TO 3 cr
Advanced study of selected topics within a particular
concentration. May be repeated for credit when content
varies.

IS 391  Study Abroad -  0 TO 15 cr
Study of selected topics within a particular Area Studies
Concentration. May be repeated.

IS 410  Global Engagement Capstone  1 cr
Global Engagement Capstone is required for students
completing the Global Engagement Certificate (GEC),
and is a one hour course designed to help students reflect
on the 16 hours of coursework and nine hours of globally
engaged activities they have completed. Students will create
a portfolio during the course, which will be presented to
students and affiliated faculty at its conclusion.
Pre-requisite: IS 210 Minimum Grade of P

IS 490  Special Topics -  3 cr
Advanced study of selected topics within a particular Area
Studies Concentration. May be repeated for credit when
content varies.
Pre-requisite: IS 100 Minimum Grade of D
IS 492  Seminar - 3 cr
Advanced study of selected topics in international studies from a comparative perspective. May be repeated for credit when content varies.
Pre-requisite: IS 100 Minimum Grade of D

IS 494  Directed Studies - 1 TO 3 cr
Directed research in the field of international studies. May be repeated or credit up to a total of 9 hours. Prerequisite: permission of IS Director

IS 495  Senior Seminar - W 3 cr
The course seeks to provide an interdisciplinary and cross-regional overview of the fields and research opportunities within international studies.
Pre-requisite: EH 102 Minimum Grade of C

IS 496  Prof St Internship - 3 TO 9 cr
Practical learning experiences through occupational or professional work with an approved international organization, governmental agency, or international business Prerequisite: Permission of IS Director

IS 499  Senior Honors Thesis 3 cr
The course covers major theoretical perspectives in organizational psychology based on empirical research and case studies. Students will explore learning theory, group dynamics, and change in different types of learning organizations.
Pre-requisite: (EH 102 Minimum Grade of D or EH 105 Minimum Grade of D)

IS 591  Study Abroad 0 cr
Graduate level international exchange programs for University of South Alabama students.

Museum Studies (MUM)

MUM 201  Intro to Museum Studies 3 cr
This course is designed to provide a general introduction to museum history, practice, and the role of museums in contemporary society. The class will explore a range of museum positions, curational practices, collection management, museum administration, and the academic and public roles museums play in society.
Pre-requisite: EH 102 Minimum Grade of C

MUM 290  Special Topics - 3 cr
Different subjects or themes in museum studies as announced. This course may be repeated twice when content varies, for a maximum of nine credit hours.
Prerequisite: To be announced.

MUM 390  Special Topics - 3 cr
Different subjects or themes in museum studies as announced. This course may be repeated twice when content varies, for a maximum of nine credit hours.
Prerequisite: To be announced.