

## **Designation of Courses to be Considered for Inclusion in Interdisciplinary Studies (IS)**

### **Content/Subject Matter**

Courses in Interdisciplinary Studies allow students to experience the interrelationship and interaction among disciplines, while investigating a topic or set of related topics. Such courses are intended to demonstrate, through course content and methodology, the similarities and differences among disciplines in knowledge bases and ways of knowing, and thus highlight the complementary nature of diverse disciplines. Unlike the Breadth Areas, content of IS courses is not prescribed; rather, instructional methodology is key to achieving the learning outcomes. IS course content should focus on a topic or set of related topics to which two or more disciplines can independently contribute in terms of knowledge and methodological approaches.

### **Methodology**

Because of the non-specific content nature of IS courses, methodological approaches of the courses will vary based on the disciplines of participating instructors. However, all IS courses should seek to highlight the similarities and differences, and complementary nature of diverse ways of knowing about the world, as typified by the approaches of distinct disciplines.

In addition, IS courses should promote further development of analytical reading and writing skills, information literacy, and critical thinking skills. These courses must include components such as in-class activities, reading and writing assignments, or other work that allow students to practice or develop these skills.

### **Course Goals**

- familiarity with terms and concepts associated with course topics and content;
- understanding of the knowledge bases and ways of knowing specific to the two or more disciplines represented in the course, and how each applies, separately and as a complement to the other, to the common problems, themes, or issues of course topic(s);
- proficiency with the skills of information literacy, analytical reading and writing, and critical thinking;

### **Additional Requirements**

To promote the learning outcomes of an IS course, there are additional requirements:

- an enrollment cap of 25 students per instructor, to ensure that adequate attention can be provided to addressing student skill proficiency with appropriate activities and assignments;
- instructors of an IS course will typically come from different, complementary departments, to buttress the intent of the IS requirement by promoting interaction and integration of distinct disciplines
- generally it is expected that at least one of the instructors will come from a traditional liberal arts and sciences discipline