

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville

PROPOSALS for IS 399: Interdisciplinary Studies: Special Topics

Faculty who are interested in developing new IS courses are encouraged to use IS 399: Special Topics for a few semesters in order to determine if the topic or partnership between faculty members will work out. After the same special topic has been successfully offered for three terms, it is recommended that a Form 90A (Request to Create a Course) be filed in order to establish a specific course number and title.

Courses in Interdisciplinary Studies (IS) allow students to experience the interrelationship and interaction among disciplines, while investigating a topic or set of related topics. 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. Under the Lincoln Program, 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.

The proposal narrative has to clearly articulate how the proposed course meets each of the following course goals:

1. familiarity with terms and concepts associated with course topics and content;
2. 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); and
3. proficiency with the skills of information literacy, analytical reading and writing, and critical thinking.

IS courses are team-taught and instructors of an IS course should come from different, complementary departments to support the intent of IS courses of promoting interaction and integration of distinct disciplines.

Submit the proposal packet consisting of

- (i) a cover page with signatures (Access the form at http://www.siu.edu/generaleducation/IS_399_Proposal_CoverPage.shtml),
- (ii) a proposal narrative, and
- (iii) a course syllabus

to

Director of General Education
Campus Box 1021.

Note: Proposals for IS 399 are reviewed and approved by the General Education Committee.