

Undergraduate and Interdisciplinary Studies

College of Letters and Science (<http://ls.berkeley.edu>)

Office: 231 Evans Hall, (510) 642-0108

Dean: Tyler Stovall, PhD

Department Website: Undergraduate and Interdisciplinary Studies (<http://ls.berkeley.edu/about-college/l-s-divisions/undergraduate-division/ugis>)

Overview

Undergraduate and Interdisciplinary Studies (UGIS) in the Undergraduate Division of the College of Letters and Science serves as a center for innovations in undergraduate education that extend beyond traditional departmental boundaries. Our major and minor programs attract undergraduates who wish to explore the most intellectually engaging and promising interdisciplinary fields under the direction of scholars who are pioneers in charting these new areas and methods of inquiry. UGIS has been, and continues to be, an incubator for new ideas, including experimental programs and courses, as well as curricula designed to promote the ideals of a liberal arts education. We are especially dedicated to creating programs such as the Freshman and Sophomore Seminar Program and the Undergraduate Research Program that nurture productive intellectual relationships between faculty members and students.

Field Major

Interdisciplinary Studies

The ISF major affords undergraduates a thoroughly interdisciplinary framework for their studies. The program allows students to establish individualized areas of concentration using courses in the humanities, the social sciences, and/or the professional schools and colleges.

Group Majors

American Studies

This group major offers students the opportunity to study American society using a broad range of methods drawn from a variety of disciplines in the College of Letters and Science and the professional schools and colleges. American Studies courses will attempt to take into account how the cultures of America have been continually reshaped by movements of people, commerce, and ideas crossing borders. The major draws on faculty resources and research in literature, history, economics, architecture, material culture, media studies, ethnic studies, and urban and regional studies.

Cognitive Science

This group major is the cross-disciplinary study of the structure and processes of human cognition and their computational simulation or modeling. This interdisciplinary program has been designed to give students an understanding of questions dealing with human cognition, such as concept formation, visual perception, the acquisition and processing of natural language, and human reasoning and problem solving. The program draws on relevant courses found within the fields

of biology, computer science, education, linguistics, neuroscience, philosophy, and psychology, as well as specially designed lower and upper division courses in cognitive science.

International and Area Studies

The International and Area Studies office (101 Stephens Hall, (510) 642-4466) administers group majors in Asian Studies, Development Studies, Latin American Studies, Middle Eastern Studies, Peace and Conflict Studies (PACS), and Political Economy. For information about those group majors, see the individual program listing.

Media Studies

The major applies a range of disciplines in the social sciences and humanities to the understanding of contemporary mass media and their structure, history, content, consequences, and policy implications.

Religious Studies

The major provides opportunities for securing a broad background in the liberal arts while at the same time allowing for a focus on a thematic concern or a particular religious tradition. The major views religion from a global perspective and combines aspects of the humanities and social sciences. A Religious Studies minor is also available.

Minor Programs

Applied Language Studies Minor

Sometimes called Applied Linguistics, the field of Applied Language Studies is devoted to the study of particular domains of language learning and use, such as foreign language learning and teaching, bi- and multi-lingualism, translation and interpretation, communication in professional contexts, or intercultural communication.

Creative Writing Minor

Students earn a minor in Creative Writing by completing three upper division creative writing courses and two upper division literature courses. Students may choose among a wide variety of courses from numerous departments. The Creative Writing minor is housed in the Office of Undergraduate and Interdisciplinary Studies, 231 Evans Hall. A student handbook outlining minor requirements in detail is available at the minor office. For more information, call (510) 642-2363 or visit the website. (<http://learning.berkeley.edu/creative>)

Disability Studies Minor

The Disability Studies minor explores how to best meet the challenges and alleviate the problems of those with impairments or disabilities, with emphasis on the role of those affected in defining problems and evaluating solutions. The minor requirements consist of two core courses and three approved upper division electives chosen from a wide variety of courses from numerous departments. The Disability Studies minor is housed in the Office of Undergraduate and Interdisciplinary Studies, 231 Evans Hall. A student handbook outlining minor requirements in detail is available at the minor office. For more information, call (510) 643-7691 or visit the website. (<http://ls.berkeley.edu/ugis/ds>)

Human Rights Interdisciplinary Minor

This minor offers a teaching program specifically focused on human rights but open to myriad disciplinary approaches and welcomes students from many corners of campus. It allows students to shape their education around coursework that investigates the legal, political, historical, economic, social, psychological, and representational dynamics of human rights. Helping undergraduates explore issues via multiple forms of

thought and media of expression—through literature as well as politics, journalism as well as law, film as well as anthropology—the IHR minor emphasizes the many different intellectual spaces in which human rights questions are currently being posed. For more information, call (510) 643-7691 or visit the website. (<http://hri.ugis.berkeley.edu>)

Other Programs

In addition to the majors listed above, the Office of Undergraduate and Interdisciplinary Studies oversees a suite of academic enrichment programs:

The Big Ideas Courses, launched in 2012, brings together two or more faculty members from different disciplines to co-teach innovative breadth courses. Big Ideas Courses take up key intellectual and societal challenges that cannot be adequately addressed by the perspective or methodology of one discipline alone. For more information, call (510) 642-8378 or visit the website. (<http://bigideascourses.berkeley.edu>)

The College Writing Programs (112 Wheeler Hall, (510) 642-5570), designed to help undergraduates establish fluency and control over their reading and writing skills, is also in the Office of Undergraduate and Interdisciplinary Studies.

Freshman and Sophomore Seminars arose from the conviction that early intellectual contact with faculty members would greatly enhance the undergraduate experience at Berkeley. Professors from nearly every campus department join together each semester to offer an impressive array of seminars. The courses numbered 24 (and in some cases 90) bear one unit of credit; they are limited to 15 students, and freshmen are given priority for enrollment. The courses numbered 84 bear one or two units of credit; they are limited to 15 sophomores. The courses numbered 39A-39Z are limited to 25 freshmen and sophomores. Seminars, which emphasize interaction and discussion, provide a counterpoint to the learning experience in Berkeley's large lecture halls. These seminars also offer lower division students an unprecedented opportunity to explore a wide range of majors and even fields of study usually reserved for graduate students. As you browse through this *Bulletin*, you will find lower division seminars sponsored by Letters and Science departments as well as by the professional schools and colleges.

Descriptions of all the seminars scheduled for the upcoming semester can be found in time for Tele-BEARS registration on the program's website (<http://fss.berkeley.edu>) that also contains other useful information and features for undergraduates. For additional information regarding the Freshman and Sophomore Seminars, contact the program office at 231 Evans Hall, (510) 642-8378.

Letters and Science Discovery Courses: Students in the College of Letters and Science are asked to fulfill seven breadth requirements. The Letters and Science Discovery Courses are exemplary breadth courses, designed to engage and broaden the minds of non-experts. Taught by some of the most distinguished faculty members on campus, the L&S Discovery Courses are guaranteed to deliver a high-quality educational experience. For more information, including the current list of courses and the breadth requirements they fulfill, visit the website. (<http://lsdiscovery.berkeley.edu>)

On the Same Page is a campus-wide book-in-common program, designed to welcome new freshmen and transfer students into the intellectual dialogue that characterizes the Berkeley campus. Each year all of the faculty and all new students receive a book (or film or other study object) that provides the focus for discussions, courses, events and

activities in the fall term. For more information, call (510) 642-8378 or visit the website. (<http://onthesamepage.berkeley.edu>)

Scholarship Connection is Berkeley's clearinghouse for information on scholarships that are funded by sources outside the University. Enrolled Berkeley students may search for awards on Scholarship Connection's online database. (<http://scholarships.berkeley.edu>) In addition to providing information on many externally-funded awards, Scholarship Connection also administers the campus recruitment and selection for several highly competitive awards, such as the Rhodes, Marshall, Merage, and Truman Scholarships. Scholarship Connection offers workshops and individual advising to help applicants prepare competitive applications for these prestigious awards. For more information, visit the website (<http://scholarships.berkeley.edu>) or contact Scholarship Connection at 5 Durant Hall, scholarships@learning.berkeley.edu, or (510) 643-6929.

The UC Berkeley Washington Program allows undergraduates to spend a semester in Washington, D.C. Students in the program combine coursework with field research in an internship that reflects each student's particular area of interest. For more information, call (510) 642-9102, M24 Wheeler Hall, or visit the website. (<http://learning.berkeley.edu/ucdc>)

The Office of Undergraduate Research (OUR) seeks to involve undergraduates more deeply in the research life of the University. To this end, OUR coordinates and develops programs and resources that bring undergraduates into the field, laboratories, and archives. Whether assisting faculty with research or pursuing their own research under faculty supervision, Berkeley students can experience what it means to be a part of cutting-edge research at a world-class research university. For information on the great variety of undergraduate research opportunities at Berkeley, visit the Research@Berkeley website (<http://research.berkeley.edu>) or email research@learning.berkeley.edu.

The Undergraduate Research Apprentice Program (URAP) is the ideal place for students to begin to put their classroom learning to use. As research apprentices, students gain skills and perspectives as they assist faculty with research. More than 1,400 students participate in this program each year, working with faculty from nearly every department and college. For a current list of faculty projects, visit the URAP website (<http://research.berkeley.edu/urap>).

When students are ready to embark on research of their own design, the Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship and the Haas Scholars Program offer fellowships that allow students to pursue sophisticated research. For information about these and other programs, visit the website. (<http://research.berkeley.edu>)

The Office of Undergraduate Research is located in 5 Durant Hall, (510) 643-5376.

UGIS 5A Doing Research: Critical Inquiry at Berkeley 1 Unit**Department:** Undergrad Interdisciplinary Studies**Course level:** Undergraduate**Term course may be offered:** Summer**Grading:** Offered for pass/not pass grade only.**Hours and format:** 2.5 hours of Lecture per week for 6 weeks.

Introduces the nature of research and the research university's role in the production of knowledge. Explores differences and similarities among modes of inquiry in sciences, social sciences, and humanities by looking at UCB faculty and their various approaches to current problems. Examines challenges and rewards of doing research. Profiles undergraduate researchers. Online course for new freshmen culminates in (optional) welcome week activities.

UGIS W5 Doing Research: Critical Inquiry at Berkeley 1 Unit**Department:** Undergrad Interdisciplinary Studies**Course level:** Undergraduate**Term course may be offered:** Summer**Grading:** Offered for pass/not pass grade only.**Hours and format:** 2.5 hours of Web-based lecture per week for 6 weeks. This is an online course.

Introduces the nature of research and the research university's role in the production of knowledge. Explores differences and similarities among modes of inquiry in sciences, social sciences, and humanities by looking at UCB faculty and their various approaches to current problems. Examines challenges and rewards of doing research. Profiles undergraduate researchers. Online course for new freshmen culminates in (optional) welcome week activities. This course is web-based. Formerly known as 5.

UGIS C10/OPTOM C10 The Eye and Vision in a Changing Environment 2 Units**Department:** Undergraduate Interdisciplinary Studies; Optometry; Undergrad Interdisciplinary Studies**Course level:** Undergraduate**Term course may be offered:** Spring**Grading:** Letter grade.**Hours and format:** 2 hours of Lecture per week for 15 weeks.

Course covers introduction to the basis of common sight reducing visual disorders with major public health implications for society--e.g., myopia, cataracts, diabetic hypertensive eye disorders, developmental disorders (e.g., lazy eye), and environmentally induced disease and disorders (solar eye burns, cataracts). Major approaches to the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of common disorders will be addressed in terms of the biological and optical sciences underlying the treatment or prevention. Impact of eye care on society and health and care delivery will be reviewed.

Instructor: Adams

UGIS 39B Freshman/Sophomore Seminar 1.5 - 4 Units**Department:** Undergrad Interdisciplinary Studies**Course level:** Undergraduate**Terms course may be offered:** Fall and spring**Grading:** The grading option will be decided by the instructor when the class is offered.**Hours and format:** 1 hour of seminar per week per unit.

Freshman and sophomore seminars offer lower division students the opportunity to explore an intellectual topic with a faculty member and a group of peers in a small-seminar setting. These seminars are offered in all campus departments; topics vary from department to department and from semester to semester.

Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes. Priority given to freshmen and sophomores.

UGIS 80A It's Elementary! Exploring Science with Young Students 2 Units**Department:** Undergrad Interdisciplinary Studies