

Interdisciplinary Studies Field Major (ISF)

Courses

ISF 98 Directed Group Study 1 - 3 Units

Seminars for the group study of selected topics not covered by regularly scheduled courses. Topics will vary from semester to semester.

Rules & Requirements

Credit Restrictions: Enrollment is restricted; see the Introduction to Courses and Curricula section of this catalog.

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit. Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 1-3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Interdisciplinary Studies Field Maj/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Offered for pass/not pass grade only. Final exam not required.

ISF 100A Introduction to Social Theory and Cultural Analysis 4 Units

This course, required of all ISF majors but open to all students, provides an introduction to the works of foundational social theorists of the nineteenth century, including Karl Marx and Max Weber. Writing in what might be called the "pre disciplinary" period of the modern social sciences, their works cross the boundaries of anthropology, economics, history, political science, sociology, and are today claimed by these and other disciplines as essential texts. We will read intensively and critically from their respective works, situating their intellectual contributions in the history of social transformations wrought by industrialization and urbanization, political revolution, and the development of modern consumer society.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3-4 hours of lecture and 0-1 hours of discussion per week

Summer:

6 weeks - 8-10 hours of lecture and 0-2.5 hours of discussion per week

8 weeks - 6-7.5 hours of lecture and 0-1.5 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Interdisciplinary Studies Field Maj/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

ISF 100B Introduction to Social Theory and Cultural Analysis 4 Units

This is a course exploring how we understand the idea of the self in contemporary social worlds. The course shares the presumption that the modern self is a created endeavor. It charts traditional and contemporary understandings of individual identity, the maturation process and the notion of an inner life, the concepts of freedom and individual agency, the force of evolution and heredity, and the influence of social causation. The course stresses the complex interplay between the development of a sense of self, and the socialization pressures at work in the family, society, and global cultures.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3-4 hours of lecture and 0-1 hours of discussion per week

Summer:

6 weeks - 7.5 hours of lecture per week

8 weeks - 5.5 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Interdisciplinary Studies Field Maj/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

ISF 100C Word and Image 4 Units

This course is designed to sharpen our skills in understanding what happens when the world of images and words meet. We will investigate how word/image constellations have been examined in the context of a variety of disciplines, such as cognitive linguistics, psychology, neuroscience, or philosophy and/or we will examine how the word/image constellations operate in a variety of media, including poetry, painting, photography, and advertising.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Summer:

6 weeks - 7.5 hours of lecture per week

8 weeks - 5.5 hours of lecture per week

10 weeks - 4.5 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Interdisciplinary Studies Field Maj/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

ISF C100C Word and Image 4 Units

This course is designed to sharpen our skills in understanding what happens when the world of images and words meet. Starting with the work from the Western "classical" tradition we will proceed to investigate how word/image constellations operate in a variety of media, including sculpture and poetry, painting and prose, death masks, tableaux vivants, photography, and advertising.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Interdisciplinary Studies Field Maj/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Instructor: Sanders

Also listed as: SCANDIN C114

ISF C100G Introduction to Science, Technology, and Society 4 Units

This course provides an overview of the field of Science and Technology Studies (STS) as a way to study how our knowledge and technology shape and are shaped by social, political, historical, economic, and other factors. We will learn key concepts of the field (e.g., how technologies are understood and used differently in different communities) and apply them to a wide range of topics, including geography, history, environmental and information science, and others. Questions this course will address include: how are scientific facts constructed? How are values embedded in technical systems?

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1.5 hours of discussion per week

Summer:

6 weeks - 7.5 hours of lecture and 3.5 hours of discussion per week

8 weeks - 6 hours of lecture and 3 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Interdisciplinary Studies Field Maj/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Instructors: Mazzotti, Winickoff

Also listed as: HISTORY C182C/STS C100

ISF 100D Introduction to Technology, Society, and Culture 4 Units

This course surveys the technological revolutions of the 19th and 20th centuries, it then focuses on the development of the computer and the Internet. The final part examines the impact of the Internet on social movements.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3-4 hours of lecture and 0-1 hours of discussion per week

Summer:

6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture and 2 hours of discussion per week

8 weeks - 6 hours of lecture and 1.5 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Interdisciplinary Studies Field Maj/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

ISF 100E The Globalization of Rights, Values, and Laws in the 21st Century 4 Units

This interdisciplinary course is an introduction to the complex interplay of transnational values, international rights and legal institutions that increasingly govern social, cultural and geopolitical interactions in our contemporary world. Theoretical and methodological tools from the social sciences, jurisprudence, and philosophy will be applied in the analyses of these interplays. A study of rights and norms presupposes not only an understanding of the empirical evolution of rights traditions (including constitutional traditions) in a variety of global regions, but also an understanding of the theories of rights and laws that support such traditions as they are embedded in them (just war theories, peace theories, etc.) The study of rights and norms also requires an exploration of the transformations of crucial international norms and rights due to the formation of supranational institutions and organizations in the 20th century (UN, UNESCO, GO's, etc.). The course will provide the students with an opportunity to place emerging transnational rights institutions into a historical and geopolitical framework.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 4 hours of lecture per week

Summer:

6 weeks - 10 hours of lecture per week

8 weeks - 7.5 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Interdisciplinary Studies Field Maj/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

ISF 100F Theorizing Modern Capitalism: Controversies and Interpretations 4 Units

The focus of this course will be on the various ways the nature and trajectory of modern capitalism has been interpreted. Our stress will be on post-Marxist works of analysis. The initial focal point will be on the work of Max Weber and Joseph Schumpeter, as well as important current debates in economic history and social theory generated by their work. Both Weber and Schumpeter display a strong fascination and elaboration with the work of Marx. The way they analyze Marx is very revealing about the way contemporary analysts seek to understand the capitalist system. We will also consider a number of current efforts that look at the systemic nature of capitalism. In particular, we are interested in how economic historians now see the development of capitalism. We also want to examine the Weberian tradition in terms of the role of culture in shaping economic behavior. Debates about the nature of globalization will also be considered as well as analysis of the changing nature of work.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 4 hours of lecture per week

Summer:

6 weeks - 10 hours of lecture per week

8 weeks - 7.5 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Interdisciplinary Studies Field Maj/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Instructor: Klee

ISF 100G Introduction to Science, Society, and Ethics 4 Units

This interdisciplinary course will explore whether it has proven possible and desirable to understand society through value-free and positivistic scientific methods as predominantly developed in the transatlantic worlds of the 19th centuries. We shall explore questions that may be applied to the realms of public health and human biology, or to the social sciences generally, including anthropology, sociology, economics, and political science.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3-4 hours of lecture and 0-1 hours of discussion per week

Summer:

6 weeks - 7-9.5 hours of lecture and 0-2.5 hours of discussion per week

8 weeks - 5.5-7 hours of lecture and 0-2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Interdisciplinary Studies Field Maj/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam not required.

ISF 100H Introduction to Media and International Relations 4 Units

How have international actors used media to construct public opinion about salient issues, such as war, terrorism and intervention, international trade and finance, and global warming and resource depletion? The purpose of this course is to introduce students to key concepts, methods, and theories in the analysis of media effects, particularly in the areas of public opinion formation and international relations.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3-4 hours of lecture and 0-1 hours of discussion per week

Summer: 8 weeks - 8-10 hours of lecture and 0-2.5 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Interdisciplinary Studies Field Maj/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

ISF N100A Introduction to Social Theory and Cultural Analysis 4 Units

Introduction to central theoretical investigations concerning the construction and organization of social life. Using some works from the "classical" traditions of social theory as well as some examples of contemporary analysis, this course will explore such topics as the nature of power and social/historical change, the nature of economic production and consumption, the meaning of difference--racial, sexual, class--the development of institutions, etc.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Summer:

6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture per week

8 weeks - 6 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Interdisciplinary Studies Field Maj/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam not required.

ISF N100D Introduction to Technology, Society, and Culture 4 Units

This course surveys the technological revolutions of the 19th and 20th centuries, then focuses on the development of the computer and the Internet. The final part examines the impact of the Internet on social movements.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Summer:

6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture per week

8 weeks - 6 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Interdisciplinary Studies Field Maj/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam not required.

ISF 110 Special Topics in Interdisciplinary Studies 4 Units

This course is designed primarily to allow faculty to develop courses which address specific issues, themes, or problems of interdisciplinary interest. Topics vary semester to semester. Students should consult the department's webpage for current offerings before the start of the semester.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated once for credit with different topic. Course may be repeated for a maximum of 8 units.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 4 hours of lecture per week

Summer:

6 weeks - 10 hours of lecture per week

8 weeks - 7.5 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Interdisciplinary Studies Field Maj/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

ISF C145 Multicultural Europe 4 Units

In this course, we will trace some of the substantive changes and transformations taking place in contemporary Europe in the areas of culture, society, and politics. In particular, we will look at the effects of massive migration flows--due to globalization processes--on the national culture of the core countries and examine the ways in which particular national cultures react to the increasing multiculturalization of Europe. The goal of the course is, first of all, to familiarize students with a variety of cultural, social, and political innovations that accompany the formation of multicultural Europe. This involves (1) an examination of the traditional concepts of nationhood and citizenship, and (2) a study of the Europeanization of culture.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Interdisciplinary Studies Field Maj/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Also listed as: GEOG C152/HISTORY C176

ISF 189 Introduction to Interdisciplinary Research Methods 3 Units

This class is an introduction to research methods, leading students through different units built around specific learning goals and practical exercises. The course is designed to teach a range of research skills, including the ability to formulate research questions and to engage in scholarly conversations and arguments; the identification, evaluation, mobilization, and interpretation of sources; methods and instruments of field research (interviews, questionnaires, and sampling) and statistical thinking; and the construction of viable arguments and explanation in the human sciences. At the same time, the course is designed to help students identify their own thesis topic, bibliography, and methodological orientation.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Interdisciplinary Studies Field Majors and intended ISF majors

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Summer:

6 weeks - 8 hours of seminar per week

8 weeks - 6 hours of seminar per week

10 weeks - 4.5 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Interdisciplinary Studies Field Maj/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

ISF 190 Senior Thesis 4 Units

The ISF Senior Thesis requirement is the capstone experience and final product of the ISF major. The thesis is a sustained, original, and critical examination of a central interdisciplinary research question, developed under the guidance of the ISF 190 instructor. The thesis represents a mature synthesis of research skills, critical thinking, and competent writing. As the final product of a student's work in the major, the thesis is not the place to explore a new set of disciplines or research problems for the first time, but should develop methods of inquiry and bridge the several disciplines that students have developed in their course of study.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Senior standing; completion of ISF core courses; declared in the major

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 2 hours of seminar per week

Summer: 8 weeks - 6 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Interdisciplinary Studies Field Maj/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam not required.

ISF 197 Field Studies 1 - 4 Units

Supervised experience relevant to the student's specific area of concentration in the Interdisciplinary Studies Field Major in off-campus organizations. Regular individual meetings with faculty sponsor and written reports required.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Upper division standing, declared in the Interdisciplinary Studies Field Major, and consent of instructor

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit. Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 1-4 hours of fieldwork per week

Summer:

6 weeks - 2.5-10 hours of fieldwork per week

8 weeks - 1.5-7.5 hours of fieldwork per week

10 weeks - 1.5-6 hours of fieldwork per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Interdisciplinary Studies Field Maj/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Offered for pass/not pass grade only. Final exam not required.

Instructors: Ehrlich, Holub, Klee, Wren

ISF 199 Supervised Independent Study and Research for Upper Division Majors 1 - 4 Units

Directed individual independent study and research of special topics by arrangement with faculty.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Regulations set by the College of Letters and Science

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit. Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 1-4 hours of independent study per week

Summer:

6 weeks - 2.5-10 hours of independent study per week

8 weeks - 2-8 hours of independent study per week

10 weeks - 1.5-6 hours of independent study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Interdisciplinary Studies Field Maj/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Offered for pass/not pass grade only. Final exam not required.