

Interdisciplinary Degree Programs

Purpose and Focus

The College of Liberal Arts offers a number of interdisciplinary programs that enable students to take courses in several departments and colleges on campus. Students combine their course work in exciting and innovative ways beyond the existing Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science degrees in order to meet their career goals and to reflect their personal interests. There are Interdisciplinary B.A. degree programs in the following fields: Asian Studies, Cultural Studies, Latin American Studies, Linguistic Studies, Multidisciplinary Studies, Social Science Studies, also there is an academic certificate program in Great Works.

Degree Objectives/Learning Outcomes

Asian Studies:

The Asian Studies program focuses on the distinctive cultural, political, linguistic, literary, artistic, and historical aspects of Asian and Asian-American life. Students are trained in diverse areas of Asian civilization, especially the traditions and contemporary societies of China, India, Japan, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Thailand, the Philippines, and other Asian countries. The degree prepares students for careers in government and teaching, as well as in areas of international business, consulting, and media.

Cultural Studies:

Students graduating in Cultural Studies will demonstrate a critical understanding of the importance of cultural forces that operate in society. Using multiple perspectives and methods, students will address the origins of social conflicts articulated by cultural forces on both the macro and micro levels. The program encourages active participation in social efforts that promote cultural diversity and tolerance. Graduates in Cultural Studies often pursue careers in the public sector, as well as in social advocacy, mass media, and broadcasting. A Cultural Studies background assists in applications to professional schools such as law, social work, and education as well as to doctoral degree programs in the humanities and social sciences.

Latin American Studies:

Latin American Studies is a multidisciplinary major that covers the important region of Mexico, Central and South America, and the Caribbean. Participating faculty specialize in political economy, border studies, anthropological approaches, and exile studies as well as Latin American history, literature, and film. Course work in the program offers students an opportunity to acquire a comprehensive knowledge of the history, politics, economics, culture, and literature of Latin American and the Caribbean. Graduates from the program receive theoretical and practical training to pursue careers in multinational companies that operate in Latin America. Latin American Studies majors are also well suited to work in the federal government, in various international organizations (such as the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, and other organizations), or to teach in primary and secondary schools.

Linguistic Studies:

The degree in Linguistic Studies is an integrated study of human language and communication. Focus is placed on the structure of languages, their development in the past, differences between their dialects, as well as the distribution of language families and linguistic types throughout the world. The Linguistic Studies degree offers its students a strong skill set in critical and analytical thinking as well as a basis for future careers in language and linguistics pedagogy, translation, and speech technology. The degree also prepares students for further study in graduate school at the doctoral level in a number of fields (e.g., anthropology, linguistics, philosophy, literature, law, and library science).

Multidisciplinary Studies:

The degree program in Multidisciplinary Studies offers a variety of innovative concentrations in subject matter linking teaching and research across the colleges on campus. A degree in Multidisciplinary Studies trains students for new career areas experiencing rapid growth.

Social Science Studies:

Students completing a degree in Social Science Studies will develop a major encompassing three social science disciplines. Emphasis is placed on developing critical awareness of the different methodologies applied to questions about society, social interaction, and human subjectivity.

For degrees in Classical Studies, see Department of Foreign Languages.

Accreditation

Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities

Undergraduate Major

Interdisciplinary Studies (124 credits)

Degree Programs

Asian Studies
Cultural Studies
Latin American Studies
Linguistic Studies
Multidisciplinary Studies
Social Science Studies

Minors

Asian Studies (18 credits)

Includes AIS 101 and 15 credit hours of approved course work, with at least 12 of these at the upper-division level.

Cultural Studies (21 credits)

Includes GST 200, GST 301, and five additional three-credit approved courses (two from Section B and three from Section C).

Latin American Studies (18 credits)

Includes LAS 101 and 15 additional credits from approved courses. No more than six credit hours from any single department: Anthropology, Architecture, Foreign Languages, History, Latin American Studies, and Political Science. Two years of Spanish or Portuguese language courses or the equivalent knowledge established by examination are required. A semester or year at a Latin American university or extensive field work in a Latin American country is strongly recommended.

Linguistic Studies (18 credits)

Includes LIN 101; either ANTH 106, ENG 211 or FOL 311; six credit hours in one or two foreign languages approved by the advisor; and six additional credits from approved courses.

Admission to the Major

Minimum GPA: 2.50 (2.75 in multidisciplinary studies)

Admission Policies: The following two programs have specialized admissions requirements.

Cultural Studies:

Students seeking admission to the Cultural Studies program must have completed any one of the UNLV required courses in the social sciences or humanities.

Multidisciplinary Studies:

Admission is contingent upon a minimum grade point average of 2.75.

Department Policies

Multidisciplinary Studies:

All students must maintain a minimum grade point average of 2.75 or be placed on probation.

Advisement

Advising is provided by the Wilson Advising Center and by each Program Chair of the Interdisciplinary Degree Programs (Asian studies, Cultural Studies, Latin American Studies, Linguistic Studies, Multidisciplinary Studies, and Social Science Studies).

Certificate

Great Works Academic Certificate

Admission to the College of Liberal Arts

Requires a 2.50 GPA for entering freshmen, as well as for transfer students from within the university or from other institutions.

Admission Policies: Individual departments within the College of Liberal Arts may have cumulative GPA requirements for their majors higher than those required by the college. Students must satisfy department GPA requirements before being admitted to the major. Students who have a GPA sufficient for admission to the college but not for their particular major will be admitted as a pre-major (e.g., Pre-Sociology, Pre-Women's Studies, etc.).

Degree Requirements

Asian Studies

1) English Composition	6 credits
ENG 101 and 102	
2) English Literature	3 credits
ENG 231 or 232	
3) Constitutions	3-6 credits
4) Mathematics	3 credits
5) Distribution Requirement (Humanities & Fine Arts)	
Life & Physical Sciences & Analytical Thinking....	9-10 credits
PHIL 102, and two courses from life & physical sciences	
category; at least one must be a lab.	
Social Science.....	9 credits
6) Multicultural	(see note 2)
International	(see note 2)
7) Degree Requirements:	
Foreign Language/Foreign Culture	6 credits
Humanities.....	6 credits
Fine Arts	6 credits
Asian Studies Major Requirements	33 credits
(at least 21 credit hours at the upper-division level)	
1) Take AIS 101.	
2) Select 18 credits from approved courses with at least	
one course from each of the first three groups:	
<i>Group 1:</i> ANTH 401B, HIST 150, HIST 151, HIST 449, HIST	
450, PSC 405L, PSC 407B, and PSC 407O	
<i>Group 2:</i> PHIL 117, PHIL 124, PHIL 225, PHIL 452, PHIL 467,	
PHIL 468, and PHIL 469	
<i>Group 3:</i> ART 481, ART 480, ART 495X (see Note 4 below) CHI	
331, ENG 416C, ENG 473, ENG 426A, ENG 485A, and	
JPN 331	
<i>Group 4:</i> AIS 499, ENG 478C, HIST 455, PHIL 352, PHIL 472,	
SWK 461, SWK 471, and SWK 493	
Electives	32-38 credits
Total:	124 credits

Notes:

1. Every student must complete a three-credit multicultural course and a three-credit international course. Courses satisfying other requirements may simultaneously satisfy the multicultural and international requirements, except one course cannot satisfy both the multicultural and the international requirements.
2. Courses taken in any one Asian language with a grade of C or better may be applied toward the needed electives with a total of eight to ten credits for the major and three to six credits for the minor.
3. ART 495X may be taken only when the topic is Asian Art. Art Department pre-requisites may be waived for Asian Studies majors for upper division Asian Art courses by permission of instructor.

Asian Studies

Committee:

Jonathan Strand, Program Chair (Political Science)
Jiemin Bao (Anthropology)
Kathleen Berquist (Social Work)
Sue Fawn Chung (History)
Mel Jameson (Finance)
William Jankowiak (Anthropology)
Louisa McDonald (Art)
Satish Sharma (Social Work)
Naoko Takemaru (Foreign Languages)
Guo-Ou Zhuang (Foreign Languages)

Asian Studies

AIS 101

Introduction to Asian Studies

Introduction to the cultures of Asia and the discipline of Asian Studies for the beginning student. 3 credits.

AIS 301

Selected Topics in Asian Studies

Examination of selected topics in Asian Studies. May be repeated to a maximum of six credits. Prerequisite: AIS 101. 3 credits.

AIS 451

Explorations in South Asian Religions

Introduces four major religions of South Asia: Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, and Sikhism. The origins, developments, philosophy, beliefs, and practices of these religions are explored. Adaptations made by the people under the impact of modern influences are discussed. Prerequisites: Senior standing and AIS 101. 3 credits.

AIS 499

Independent Study

Program of independent reading and research, to be selected in consultation with an instructor before registration, and with the approval of the Asian Studies Program Chair. 3 credits

Cultural Studies

- 1) English Composition 6 credits
ENG 101 and 102
- 2) English Literature 3 credits
ENG 231 or 232
- 3) Constitutions 3-6 credits
- 4) Mathematics 3 credits
- 5) Distribution Requirement (Humanities & Fine Arts)
Life & Physical Sciences & Analytical Thinking....9-10 credits
PHIL 102, and two courses from life & physical sciences category; at least one must be a lab.
Social Science 9 credits
- 6) Multicultural (see note 2)
International (see note 2)
- 7) Degree Requirements:
Foreign Language/Foreign Culture 6 credits
Humanities..... 6 credits
Fine Arts 6 credits
Cultural Studies Requirements 36 credits

Category A: CST 200 and CST 301, PHIL 356/SOC 356

Category B: Select four courses from the following:

ANTH 101, ANTH 306, CST 499, ENG 248, ENG 292/ETS 192, GER 321, HIST 367, ITAL 321, PHIL 124, PHIL 217, PHIL 247/WMST 247, SOC 305/306

Category C: Select six courses from the following:

ANTH 408, ANTH 436, ANTH 438, ANTH 435, ANTH 439, ANTH 448B, ANTH 449, ANTH 470, CST 400, CST 427/ETS 427/ SOC 427, CST 451/SOC 451, CST 499, ENG 414A, ENG 420A ENG 425A ENG 429A, ENG 429B ENG 440B, ENG 446B, ENG 454B, ENG 478, ENG 427B/WMST 481, ENG 491B, ENG 496A, ENG 495A/AAS 491, ENG 495B/AAS 492, HIST 420, HIST 434, HIST 436, HIST 438A, HIST 438B, HIST 456, HIST 457, HIST 458, HIST 459, HIST 460A, HIST 460B HIST 463, HIST 470, HIST 473, HIST 498, HIST 495/WMST 495, PHIL 356, PHIL 430, PHIL 432, PHIL 433, PHIL 437, HIST 485, PHIL 425, PSC 401J, PSC 409E, PSC 409F, SOC 402, SOC 410, SOC 411 SOC 412, SOC 417, SOC 453/WMST 453, SOC 452, SOC 462, SOC 497

Electives 29-35 credits
Total: 124 credits

Notes:

1. Three disciplines must be represented among the courses distributed in the B and C categories.
2. Students are allowed to take a maximum of two independent studies (CST 499) with the approval of the Program Chair.
3. Every student must complete a three-credit multicultural course and a three-credit international course. Courses satisfying other requirements may simultaneously satisfy the multicultural and international requirements, except one course cannot satisfy both the multicultural and the international requirements.

Cultural Studies

Committee:

Chris Heavey, Interim Program Chair (Psychology)
Daniel C. Benyshek (Anthropology)
Gregory Brown (History)
Donovan Conley (Communication Studies)
Simon Gottschalk (Sociology)
Kate Hausbeck (Sociology)
Todd Jones (Philosophy)
Anne Stevens (English)
Michelle Tusan (History)
Douglas Unger (English)
Charles Whitney (English)
David Wrobel (History)

Cultural Studies

CST 200

Introduction to Cultural Studies

History, theoretical positions, political orientations, topics of interest, and methods. Prerequisite: Any one three-credit course which satisfies the University General Education Social Science Requirement. 3 credits.

CST 301

Theories of Culture

(Same as PHIL 356 and SOC 356.) Study of the nature of culture norms, with reference to art, language, communication, religion, science, etc. Examination of the theoretical underpinnings of the study of culture in the humanities, the social sciences, and in "cultural studies." 3 credits.

CST 400

Senior Thesis in Cultural Studies

Supervision by one or more members of the Cultural Studies Program. Approved proposal must be on file with Cultural Studies Program before registration. For senior majors in cultural studies only. 3 credits.

CST 427

Comparative Racial and Ethnic Relations

(Same as ETS 427 and SOC 427/627.) Surveys racial and ethnic relations in different societies around the world, including the United States. Special attention given to structures of inequality and to social movements for racial justice and equality. Prerequisites: SOC 101 or SOC 102 or CST 200. 3 credits.

CST 451

Russian Society in Transition

(Same as SOC 451/651.) Sociological survey of Russian society in transition. Reviews major Soviet institutions and examines current attempts to transform Russian society. Special attention to the origins of glasnost and perestroika and the difficulties that the former Soviet Union faces in reforming its communist system and building democracy and a market economy. Prerequisites: SOC 101 or CST 200. 3 credits.

CST 499

Independent Study

Program of independent reading and research, to be selected in consultation with an instructor before registration. Prerequisites: CST 301 and 302. 3 credits.

Latin American Studies

- 1) English Composition 6 credits
ENG 101 and 102
- 2) English Literature 3 credits
ENG 231 or 232
- 3) Constitutions 3-6 credits
- 4) Mathematics 3 credits
- 5) Distribution Requirement (Social Science)
Humanities and Fine Arts 9 credits
Life & Physical Sciences & Analytical Thinking ... 9-10 credits
PHIL 102, and two courses from life & physical sciences category; at least one must be a lab.

- 6) Fine Arts 3 credits
Multicultural (see note 2)
International (see note 2)
 - 7) Degree Requirements:
Social Science 9 credits
Fine Arts 3 credits
Foreign Language/Foreign Culture 6 credits
Latin American Studies Major Requirements..... 36 credits
 - 1) Must include: LAS 101
 - 2) Select thirty-three credits from the following, with no more than twelve credits from any single department:
Anthropology: ANTH 302, 303, 434, and 436
Architecture: AAE 457
Art: ART 479
Foreign Languages (Spanish): SPAN 227, 301, 302, 365, 366, 368, 369, 370, and 312
History: HIST 227, 228, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, and 476
Latin American Studies: LAS 499
Political Science: PSC 405N, 407E, 407M, 407N
- Electives 29-33 credits
Total: 124 credits

Notes:

1. In addition to the foreign language requirements of the College of Liberal Arts, two years of Spanish language courses or the equivalent knowledge established by examination are required.
2. A semester or year at a Latin American university or extensive field work in a Latin American country is strongly recommended.
3. Every student must complete a three-credit multicultural and a three-credit international course. Courses satisfying other requirements many simultaneously satisfy the multicultural and international requirements, except one course cannot satisfy both the multicultural and the international requirements.

Latin American Studies

Committee:

John Tuman, Program Chair (Political Science)
Jorge Galindo (Foreign Languages)
Melvin H. Jameson (Finance)
Margarita Jara (Foreign Languages)
Francisco Menendez (Film)
Alicia Rico (Foreign Languages)
John Swetnam (Anthropology)
Douglas A. Unger (English)
George Urioste (Anthropology)
Thomas Wright (History)

Latin American Studies

LAS 101

Introduction to Latin American Studies

Interdisciplinary introduction to the culture, history, and political economy of contemporary Latin America. Examines the history of colonialism and independence, values and social structures, political institutions, and economic relations in 'the region. 3 credits.

LAS 499

Latin American Studies: Independent Study

Program of independent reading and research, to be selected in consultation with an instructor before registration, and with the approval of the Latin American Studies Program Chair. Prerequisites: LAS 101; and approval of Chair of LAS Program Committee. 3 credits.

Linguistic Studies

- 1) English Composition 6 credits
ENG 101 and 102
 - 2) English Literature 3 credits
ENG 231 or 232
 - 3) Constitutions 3-6 credits
 - 4) Mathematics 3 credits
 - 5) Distribution Requirement (Humanities & Fine Arts)
Life & Physical Sciences & Analytical Thinking.... 9-10 credits
PHIL 102, and two courses from life & physical sciences category; at least one must be a lab.
Social Science 9 credits
 - 6) Multicultural (see note 1)
International (see note 1)
 - 7) Degree Requirements:
Foreign Language/Foreign Culture 6 credits
Humanities 6 credits
Fine Arts 6 credits
Linguistic Studies Major Requirements 36 credits
 1. LIN 101
 2. ANTH 106, or ENG 211, or FOL 311
 3. Six credit hours in one or two foreign languages
 4. Select eight courses from the following list:
ANTH 370, ANTH 421, ANTH 435, ANTH 485, ANTH 489
ENG 210, ENG 211, ENG 410A, ENG 411A, ENG 411B,
ENG 412C, ENG 414A, ENG 414B, ENG 415C,
ENG 416A, ENG 420A, FOL 414, FOL 499, FREN 312,
SPAN 312, SPAN 493, PHIL 425, PHIL 456
- Electives 23-35 credits
Total: 124 credits

Notes:

1. Three credits of multicultural course work and three credits of international course work are required. Courses approved as satisfying these requirements may also satisfy a Social Science, Fine Arts, Humanities, or the Foreign Language requirement.

Linguistic Studies

Committee:

George Urioste, Program Chair (Anthropology)
Deborah L. Arteaga (Foreign Languages)
David Beisecker (Philosophy)
Norma J. Engberg (English)
Philip Rusche (English)
Heidi Swank (Anthropology)

Linguistic Studies

LIN 101

Language and Conceptualization

Study of natural and artificial languages as expressions of cognition and culture. Topics include language structure and origins, cognitive models, categorization, schemas, thinking for speaking, spatial language, parallel processing, language modules, and neural networks. Students analyze samples of natural language and reconstruct their underlying cognitive models. 3 credits.

Multidisciplinary Studies

- 1) English Composition 6 credits
ENG 101 and 102
- 2) English Literature 3 credits
ENG 231 or 232
- 3) Constitutions 4-6 credits
- 4) Mathematics 3 credits
MATH 120 or above
- 5) Distribution Requirement (Social Science)
Fine Arts 6 credits
Foreign Culture 6 credits
Humanities 6 credits
Life & Physical Sciences & Analytical Thinking ... 9-11 credits
Social Sciences 9 credits
- 6) Multicultural/International (see notes)
- 7) Degree Requirements:
Multidisciplinary Studies Major
Requirements 18 credits

College of Business: A minimum of nine credit hours must be selected from economics, business administration, finance, accounting, and from applicable courses to be approved in advance by the Multidisciplinary Studies Committee.

College of Science: In addition to the science requirement included in the University General Education Core, a minimum of nine credit hours may be selected from applicable approved courses or eighteen credit hours may be selected from two different colleges with a distribution of nine credit hours per college.

Multidisciplinary Studies

Concentration Requirement 54 credits
Must include a minimum of 54 credit hours completed, no more than 48 of which may be completed in any single college. With the exception of courses from the College of Business, all courses taught at the university may in theory be included in an individual program of study, provided that the necessary prerequisites are met.

Total 124-128 credits

Notes:

1. Every student must complete a three-credit multicultural course and a three-credit international course. Courses satisfying other requirements may simultaneously satisfy the multicultural and international requirements, except one course cannot satisfy both the multicultural and the international requirements.

Department of Philosophy

Purpose and Focus

Most disciplines have their origins in philosophy, and philosophy still underlies them all. Nevertheless, certain questions are enduringly philosophical — peculiarly fundamental questions concerning the ultimate nature of values, knowledge, and reality. Philosophy thus investigates general topics of human interest: morality and the good life, law and the political life, God and the sacred, good and bad reasoning, evidence and discovery, art and the beautiful. Studying philosophy requires learning how to listen and how to discuss; it involves sifting through ideas and articulating thoughts in ways that others can follow. It is little wonder, therefore, that not only is a degree in philosophy valuable in itself, but it is also widely recognized as an excellent preparation for careers in academics, law, medicine, and even business.

Degree Objectives

One primary objective of a philosophical education is to instill an appreciation for Socrates' adage, "The unexamined life is not worth living for a human being." Other objectives of our particular program are:

1. To acquire facility in the theory and practice of argumentation, reasoning, and critical thinking;
2. To enhance abilities to speak and write;
3. To be able to appreciate, interpret, and evaluate the classics of Western philosophy from antiquity to the present;
4. To be knowledgeable about the central problems in the main branches of philosophical theory, such as metaphysics, epistemology, ethics, and the philosophy of science;
5. To be prepared for graduate study in philosophy or another academic field;
6. To have a basis for going to law school, medical school, divinity school, or another professional school.

Accreditation

Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities

Undergraduate Major

Philosophy

Minor

Philosophy (21 credits)

Includes PHIL 101, 106, or 124; PHIL 102, 105, or 114; and 15 additional PHIL credits, 12 of which must be upper-division (300-400) level.

Admission to the Major

Minimum GPA: 2.30

Department Policies

Academic Policies: All philosophy majors must achieve a 2.70 GPA in philosophy courses. All philosophy minors must achieve a 2.50 GPA in philosophy courses.

2. See the Wilson Advising Center for a list of courses in the College of Business that may be taken by students not enrolled in that college, although other courses taken while previously enrolled may also be approved for transfer.
3. There is a separate Honors Multidisciplinary Studies track, designed for students participating in University Honors. A full description can be found in the Honors College section.

Multidisciplinary Studies

Committee:

Contact the Wilson Advising Center

Social Science

- | | |
|---|--------------|
| 1) English Composition | 6 credits |
| ENG 101 and 102 | |
| 2) English Literature | 3 credits |
| ENG 231 or 232 | |
| 3) Constitutions | 3-6 credits |
| 4) Mathematics | 3 credits |
| 5) Distribution Requirement (Social Science) | |
| Humanities and Fine Arts | 9 credits |
| Life & Physical Sciences & Analytical Thinking ... | 9-10 credits |
| PHIL 102, and two courses from Life & Physical Sciences | |
| category; at least one must be a lab. | |
| 6) Multicultural | (see notes) |
| International | (see notes) |
| 7) Degree Requirements: | |
| Social Science | 9 credits |
| Fine Arts | 3 credits |
| Foreign Language/Foreign Culture | 6 credits |
| Social Science Studies Major Requirements. | 39 credits |
| Select nine upper-division credits in each of the following | |
| fields: history, political science, and psychology. In | |
| addition, complete nine credits in anthropology and/or | |
| sociology. | |
| Methodology: Select one from the following: PSC 302, | |
| PSY 240, SOC 403, or WMST 302. | |
| Electives | 26 credits |
| Total : | 124 credits |

Notes:

1. The Distribution Area assignment for the Social Science Studies major is Social Science.
2. Every student must complete a three-credit multicultural course and a three-credit international course. Courses satisfying other requirements may simultaneously satisfy the multicultural and international requirements except one course cannot satisfy both the multicultural and the international requirements.
3. Unless by special permission a maximum of six credits of Independent Study.

Social Science Studies

Committee:

Chris Heavey, Program Chair (History)
Barbara Brents (Sociology)
Ted Jelen (Political Science)
Martha Knack (Anthropology)