BECOMING AN IDS MAJOR
INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES IN CULTURE AND SOCIETY
A Major to Meet your Intellectual Passion

The ILA: where majors speak to each other

Interdisciplinarity: bridges between disciplines manifest themselves in inventions, insights, form-creating discoveries, public responsibility: an intellectual pursuit becomes an education in citizenship.

Interdisciplinary Studies in Culture and Society is the only major at Emory University that allows students to structure their own program of study around a field of interests that they themselves define, in line with one of the following IDS concentrations. The IDS major is designed for independently minded students who wish to study culture and society but whose interests are broader than those accommodated by a single discipline. As part of the major, students are permitted to take courses in a number of departments, provided they meet appropriate departmental prerequisites.

The Concentrations within the IDS major guide students whose intellectual interests fall outside or between existing fields and disciplines as they develop rigorous, individualized programs of study. All IDS majors are trained in the interdisciplinary study of culture and society. All demonstrate proficiency in a foreign language and learn through our framing courses to attend to the historical, cultural, and disciplinary construction of knowledge. Building on this foundation, IDS Majors use Concentration Courses to specialize in one of the diverse forms of interdisciplinary inquiry represented in the ILA.
Descriptions of IDS Concentrations and Consulting Faculty

IDS: Interdisciplinary Humanities and Critical Studies
Explore the intersections of religion, literature, and philosophy, or focus on comparative aspects of a single period or culture, e.g. Medieval or Renaissance Studies
Consulting ILA faculty: Goodstein, Wakefield, Corrigan

IDS: Science and Society
Examine questions spanning public health, medical humanities, psychoanalytic studies, sustainability, or bioethics
Consulting ILA faculty: Eisen, Gilman, Kushner, Marino

IDS: Intercultural Studies
Allows students to compare cultures by drawing on existing courses under American Studies, African Studies, European Studies, Jewish Studies, Latin American Studies, Russian and Eastern European Studies, East Asian Studies, and others
Consulting ILA faculty: Jackson, Nickerson, Bammer, Meighoo

IDS: Visual Studies and Contemporary Culture
Analysis of visual texts and traditional and emerging media in relation to society and culture
Consulting ILA faculty: Grimshaw, Tullos, Wallace-Sanders, Loudermilk

IDS: Race and Difference Studies
Students integrate their major coursework into distinctive initiatives at Emory on race and difference, such as the Psychoanalytic Studies Program, Transforming Community Project, Race and Difference Initiative of the Strategic Plan, the James Weldon Johnston Institute, the Office of University and Community Partnerships, and the African American Studies, Women’s Studies departments, among others
Consulting ILA faculty: Wallace-Sanders, Moon, Meighoo, Marino

IDS: Culture, Society and Public Scholarship
Investigate the construction of culture through sites of intersection between scholarship and society— institutions, museums, monuments, installations, interventions, performances, events and ceremonies of public memory— drawing on anthropological, sociological, historical, or literary methodologies
Consulting ILA faculty: Goodstein, Meighoo, Moon, Loudermilk
Detailed Requirements

IDS major declaration requires approval of the Director of Undergraduate Studies.

Framing Courses
The major requirements fall into two categories: five framing courses and seven concentration courses—a total of 12 required courses (48 credits), which must taken for a grade. A language requirement and a senior year capstone experience complete the major and are described below.

The framing courses help students do two things: 1) examine how disciplines became ways of creating and organizing knowledge; and 2) examine how culture has been defined, and how assumptions about culture and society work in cross-cultural contexts. Concentration courses are chosen in consultation with the Director of Undergraduate Studies and consulting faculty listed under each of the IDS Concentrations.

Language Requirement
Competency and cultural awareness gained through the study of a non-native language other than English at the level of 201 or above.

How to Declare an IDS Major
Thus, the IDS Major is something more than a “design your own college career” opportunity, in that coursework should contribute to research on a focused Senior Project.

Before the Director of Undergraduate Studies (DUS) signs your Declaration of Major form, he/she will discuss with you what courses you intend to count toward your major, submitted by email to the DUS in the form of a written Proposal.

Proposal to Become an IDS Major
The Proposal should include one of the following Checklist of Courses pages (completed as appropriate: honors or non-honors) as well as a separate page explaining the rationale and intellectual goals of your IDS major. Proposals will be reviewed by ILA faculty. A strong effort will be made at the time of approval of a Proposal to identify the ILA faculty members who will serve as advisors to the student throughout his or her career as an IDS major.

Details of Senior Honors Project
Honors students must meet all requirements set by the Honors Program, in particular maintenance of a 3.5 or better GPA, in addition to adherence to the following IDS guidelines.

The senior year IDS capstone experience will initiate a thesis to be revised and completed in the senior year that will count as the Honors Thesis. Default is Chicago style, unless your supervisor asks for another. Scheduling of due-dates for drafts, etc. should be discussed with your main advisor and members of the committee, but the following schedule will serve as a good rule of thumb: Penultimate draft to main advisor by March 25, final draft at least 10 days before defense: approximately April 6. Honors Defense at least 10 days before grades are due to the registrar.

Length is variable, but minimum is 50 pages. Public presentation: mandatory, approximately one week prior to the last day of classes; arrange date in close consultation with your main advisor and the DUS. Please, be sure to make one extra copy of the thesis and hand it in to Ruby Buggs as a Departmental record of your work; we will make it available to students who follow you, unless you specify otherwise.
The IDS Major’s
CHECKLIST OF COURSES—non honors

Student _____________________________

IDS Advisor ________________________

Est. Grad Date __________

Five Frame Courses

For Non-Honors IDS Majors:

Two Courses from the following list:
IDS 200 WR Interdisciplinary Foundations
IDS 201 WR Interdisciplinary Problems
IDS 205 WR: Interdisciplinary Science
IDS 216 WR Visual Culture
(by special petition to the DUS for IDS, one of the following: AMST 212WR, IDS 213WR, IDS 214WR, IDS 210)

1. ________________________________
course/semester instructor

2. ________________________________
course/year Instructor

IDS 385 Critical Cultural Theories (or equivalent taught by regular ILA faculty)

3. ________________________________
course/semester instructor

IDS 491S WR (or equivalent) Capstone seminar in the Senior year

4. ________________________________
sements director

IDS 499: Senior Project Research (or equivalent)

5. ________________________________

Seven Concentration Courses
(Chosen in consultation with DUS for IDS)

IDS Concentration (circle one):
IHCS S&S IC VS&CC R&D CS&PS

1. ________________________________
course/semester title

2. ________________________________
course/semester title

3. ________________________________
course/semester title

4. ________________________________
course/semester title

5. ________________________________
course/semester title

6. ________________________________
course/semester title

7. ________________________________
course/semester title

On an attached sheet, explain the cohesion of the concentration courses you have chosen, the intellectual goals of your IDS major, and the senior year project you hope to carry out.

Senior Project Title __________________________

Foreign Language Requirement __________________________

Course/semester
The IDS Major’s

CHECKLIST OF COURSES- Honors

Student ____________________________

IDS Advisor _________________________

Est. Grad Date ____________

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Five Frame Courses

For Non-Honors IDS Majors:

**Two** Courses from the following list:
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IDS 201 WR Interdisciplinary Problems
IDS 205 WR: Interdisciplinary Science
IDS 216 WR Visual Culture
(by special petition to the DUS for IDS, one of
the following: AMST 212WR, IDS 213WR, IDS
214WR, IDS 210)

1. ________________________________
course/semester instructor

2. ________________________________
course/year Instructor

IDS 385 Critical Cultural Theories or any IDS
300-level course taught by regular ILA faculty

3. ________________________________
course/semester instructor

IDS 390 Interdisciplinary Studies Tutorial
(taken in junior year)

4. ________________________________
semester instructor

IDS 491S WR (or equivalent) Capstone seminar
in the Senior year

5. ________________________________
semesters director

The Honors Program also requires IDS 495
Honors Research

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Seven Concentration Courses

(Chosen in consultation with DUS for IDS)

IDS Concentration (circle one):
IHCS  S&S  IC  VS&CC  R&D  CS&PS

1. ________________________________
course/semester title

2. ________________________________
course/semester title

3. ________________________________
course/semester title

4. ________________________________
course/semester title

5. ________________________________
course/semester title

6. ________________________________
course/semester title

7. ________________________________
course/semester title

*On an attached sheet, explain the cohesion of the
concentration courses you have chosen, the intellectual
goals of your IDS major, and the senior year project you
hope to carry out for honors.*

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Senior Project Title

________________________________________

semester

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Foreign Language Requirement

Competence or courses in a nonnative foreign
language equivalent to one semester beyond the 102 level.

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**Desired Learning Outcomes of the IDS Major**

Students graduating with an IDS major will be able:

a) to explain the cohesiveness of their (seven) concentration courses, stating methodological principles of the disciplines studied and identifying an important problem the understanding of which is enhanced by drawing on two or more disciplines represented

b) report orally in a public venue on conclusions of their senior year projects, stating explicit social, political, or cultural applications, or theoretical implications, of their research

c) describe how their learning experience as an undergraduate was enhanced or hindered by the student-designed program of study within the framework of the IDS major

Faculty advisors and the director of undergraduate studies will work with all majors over the course of their career in the IDS program to insure that these goals are met.