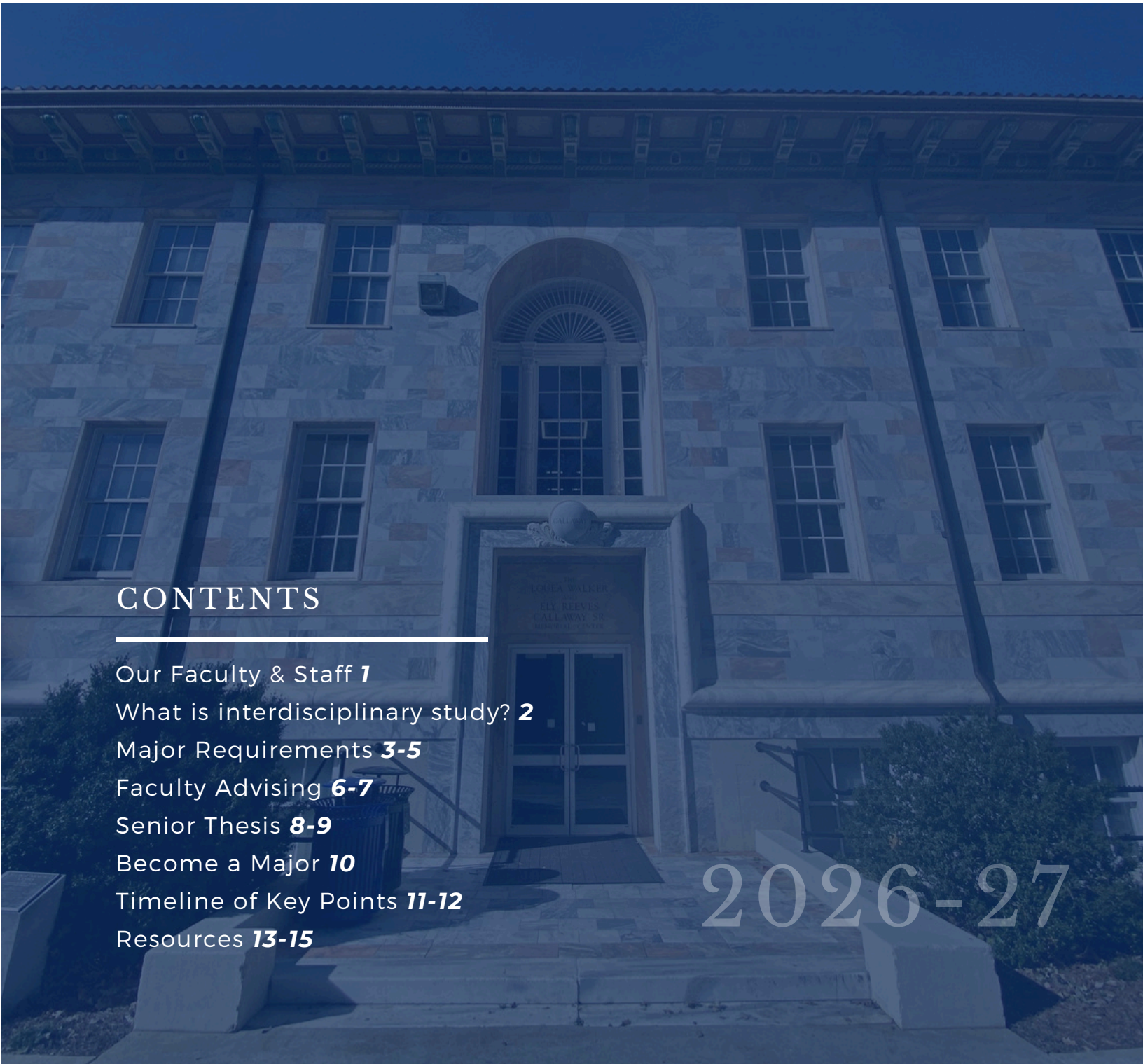
INSTITUTE FOR THE LIBERAL ARTS

Handbook

for the American Studies & Interdisciplinary Studies Majors



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What is interdisciplinary study?

Deep answers to important questions require methodologies, evidence, and texts from more than one discipline. The ILA allows undergraduate students to take classes and gain adequate grounding in two or three disciplines to answer research questions they care about. Students work closely with faculty advisors to choose courses with a cohesive concentration which prepare them to carry out a senior research thesis.

Four pillars structure each student's experience as a major in the ILA:

I an **informed perspective** on the history, interrelationship, and contested nature of disciplinary boundaries, specifically with reference to social structures and debates surrounding education and higher education

II a **focus on writing** as a crucial dimension of fully engaged reading, understanding, and public scholarship

III **vibrant co-teaching** as a model and embodiment of interdisciplinary inquiry and learning at the undergraduate level

IV **public scholarship** — understood as the dissemination or application of research to questions and audiences beyond academia

Interdisciplinarity

bridges between and across disciplines ignite inventions, insights, and discoveries that spur intellectual pursuit and lead to an education in public responsibility and citizenship

Major Requirements

The AMST and IDS majors require 44 credits (and at least 12 courses of 3 or more credits each). These credits are divided into two categories: Frame Courses and Concentration Courses.

FRAME COURSES - 5 COURSES/ 18 CREDITS

Frame Courses provide structure to a student's experience within the major. These courses emphasize writing and communication skills and present examples of interdisciplinary analysis. Intellectual problems are illuminated through the methods and resources of multiple disciplines.

Writing Intensive Examples of Interdisciplinary Study

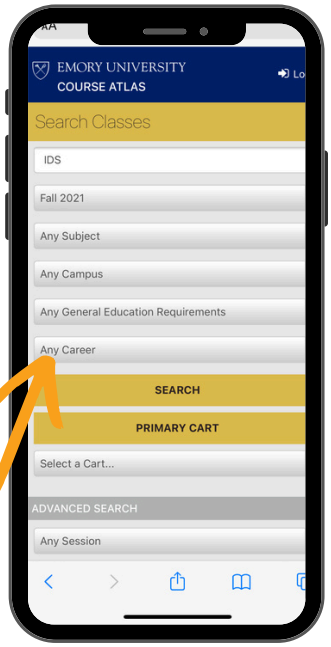
Two 200-level continued writing courses

Writing as a skill for reflective reading and clear articulation of thought is crucial to success within the IDS and AMST majors. Students will choose from the following:

- IDS 200W
- IDS 201-OX
- IDS 205W
- IDS 216W or IDS 216 or IDS 216-OX
- IDS 220W
- For AMST majors: AMST 201W or AMST 201-OX
- or an equivalent course upon consultation with and approval by the ILA undergraduate committee

Use the Course Atlas to look up our current course offerings.

Course Atlas



FRAME COURSES (CONTINUED)

Writing Intensive Intermediate Interdisciplinary Study

One 300-level course on cultural theory

Courses satisfying this requirement should give students a higher-level, theoretical, interdisciplinary experience within one or more of the disciplines relevant to their eventual senior thesis. Students will select this course carefully in consultation with their advisor(s).

Capstone Experience

Junior Year - IDS 390 Interdisciplinary Research Design

This course discusses interdisciplinary methods, with specific application to students' individual senior IDS or AMST theses. For more details, see page 8.

Senior Year - IDS 491W/AMST 490W Senior Seminar

Students study the history and theory of interdisciplinary studies. For their fall term paper, they begin their thesis. For more details, see page 8.

Senior Year - IDS 499R/AMST 499R Senior Research or IDS 495/AMST 495 Honors Research

Capstone majors must take IDS 499R/AMST 499R Senior Research (1-3 credits) in the spring of their senior year, earning credit for work on the capstone thesis. Honors candidates must take AMST 495A/IDS 495A Honors (Fall: 3 credits), and AMST 495BW/IDS 495BW Honors (Spring: 1-8 credits). See more details on page 8.

CONCENTRATION COURSES - 7 COURSES FROM 2 OR MORE DISCIPLINES

AMST and IDS majors may take courses in other departments relevant to their emerging research questions. These courses constitute the student's individualized concentration. The list is designed in consultation with the student's major advisor, co-advisor, and/or the DUS. The skills gained and research launched in these course culminate in the required AMST/IDS senior thesis. These courses:

- ☑ Must be cohesive, rigorous and adequate to provide grounding in 2 or 3 relevant disciplines
- ☑ Must be approved by the Director of Undergraduate Studies (DUS)
- ☑ Prepare a student to carry out research into an interdisciplinary question
- ☑ Provide skills that enable a student to write a senior thesis that demonstrates interdisciplinary research
- ☑ Can be revised as necessary with a written request to the DUS
- ☑ Up to one course that fulfills a Concentration Course requirement can be taken S/U

Foreign Language Courses: A language course at the 200-level or above may satisfy one course in the concentration requirements.

Transient Study: AMST/IDS majors can count up to two courses of transient study toward their Concentration Courses. They must submit the syllabi to the DUS and receive approval from the ILA undergraduate committee.

Faculty Advising

All majors in the ILA work closely with the DUS and faculty advisors throughout their academic career. Our majors are advised by faculty both in and outside the ILA. Intensive faculty advising begins when a student is interested in declaring the AMST/IDS major.

Students are encouraged to approach and enlist the help of faculty advisors at two distinct stages of their career as interdisciplinary majors:

1. as they declare the AMST/IDS major
2. as they commence and complete their capstone experience

FACULTY EXPERTS

The **DUS** can put you in touch with faculty who have expertise in the questions you want to study. Have a discussion with these experts as you prepare your **Proposal of Courses**. What advice do faculty experts have about how to focus your research? What Emory classes should be included in your Proposal? Whom else at Emory should you talk to about your emerging interdisciplinary major? Such meetings will also help you identify a faculty co-advisor with whom you will meet in subsequent semesters to discuss class choices and progress.

CO-ADVISOR(S)

A **co-advisor** is a faculty member with expertise related to the student's emerging senior research topic. Our DUS and faculty can introduce prospective students to possible co-advisors. When declaring the AMST/IDS major, students identify their co-advisor(s) on their Proposal of Courses and attach a completed Faculty Co-Advisor Consent Form (see page 15).

Students meets with their co-advisor at least once per semester, for 10-15 minutes. They discuss the student's choice of courses. What is the overall direction of the major's courses? What upcoming courses might be particularly important to the major's research question?

Faculty Advising

MAJOR ADVISOR

When the ILA undergraduate committee reviews and approves a student's Proposal of Courses, they assign the student **a major advisor in the ILA**.

Our majors generally meet individually with their ILA major advisor at least twice each semester. These meetings focus on course selection and student progress. Are the courses consistent with the student's emerging interdisciplinary senior thesis? Does the student need help finding faculty mentors within and beyond the ILA?

THESIS ADVISOR

In the spring of their junior year, AMST/IDS majors identify and confirm which faculty will serve as their **thesis advisor.** (This may or may not be the same faculty member serving as their major advisor or co-advisor).

A thesis advisor mentors the student through their senior thesis beginning in the spring of their junior year. Students are expected to meet with their thesis advisor on a regular basis as they work on their thesis.

HONORS COMMITTEE (IF APPLICABLE)

In January of their senior year, honors candidates must submit names of their faculty committee members to the College Honors Program (CHP) at ec.honorsprogram@emory.edu.

This committee is typically three faculty - at least one from the ILA and at least one from another department. Email agreements from committee members must come before submitting their names. The CHP website outlines rules for which faculty qualify to serve on committee.

Emory College Honors Program

Senior Thesis

All AMST and IDS majors are required to complete a senior project in the form of a **capstone or honors thesis**.

The thesis synthesizes a student's course of study. It demonstrates a student's ability to:

- organize complex ideas
- carry out sustained research with close faculty consultation
- use the skills and research launched in their course of study

The default is Chicago style, unless indicated by advisor.

The student is responsible for scheduling draft due-dates with their thesis advisor.

Research Credit

Capstone seniors must take IDS 499R/AMST 499R Senior Research (1-3 credits) in the spring of their senior year, earning credit for work on the senior thesis.

Honors candidates must take AMST 495A/IDS 495A Honors (Fall: 3 credits), and AMST 495BW/IDS 495BW Honors (Spring: 1-8 credits) in their senior year.

As part of this research credit, both capstone and honors students must **submit a one-page outline of their research to the DUS.**

IDS 390 Interdisciplinary Research Design

Students **develop a plan** for their senior thesis in the fall of their junior year while enrolled in IDS 390 Interdisciplinary Research Design. They are asked to prepare an outline, a bibliography, and other staged pieces of their emerging project, culminating in a proposal. During this course, majors are encouraged to **consult with their advisors** on the question they are researching. Their advisors give final approval of their project.

IDS 491W/AMST 490W Senior Seminar

The final paper for this course is a **portion of the senior thesis**. Across senior year, students meet closely with their thesis advisor to ensure successful completion of their senior thesis. This course is not a continuation of IDS 390.

CAPSTONE

In the spring of their senior year, students submit their capstone for review and final grading by their ILA advisor. The length of the capstone is variable, between 30-50 pages. Capstone theses do not require an oral defense.

All non-honors AMST/IDS seniors submit their capstone thesis online using the webform. It is routed to their advisors for review.

Submit your capstone

HONORS THESIS

If a student meets the requirements set by the College Honors Program (CHP), the AMST/IDS senior thesis can count as an honors thesis. The length of the honors thesis is variable but must meet the 50-page minimum.

In addition to meeting the major requirements and the CHP requirements, AMST/IDS honors seniors must take:

- **AMST 495A/IDS 495A Honors** (Fall: 3 credits) and **AMST 495BW/IDS 495BW Honors** (Spring: variable 1-8 credits)
- One graduate course OR an IDS equivalent course such as IDS 489 Power and the University (with grade of B or better)

Oral Defense

Honors candidates must orally defend their thesis in the spring of their senior year. The final draft of their honors thesis is due to their committee at least 10 days before their oral defense.

Honors candidates are responsible for arranging the defense date with their honors committee. Once confirmed, the student must notify the DUS and the Senior Program Coordinator. The Senior Program Coordinator is available to assist honors candidates with reserving an appropriate room for the defense.

Honors Cycle

The complete honors cycle and deadlines are detailed on the Honors page of the ILA website. Honors students should review this page carefully to be fully aware of all deadlines and forms.

ILA Honors

Work in Progress Meeting

All senior honors candidates are required to convene a meeting of their full thesis committee during the WIP period. This meeting allows students to present their progress and establish priorities. Details are on the WIP page of the ILA website.

WIP Meeting

Become a Major

1 REVIEW THE HANDBOOK

This handbook details the major requirements and outlines the key points of an AMST/IDS major's academic journey.

2 MEET WITH THE DUS

Schedule a meeting with the DUS via e-mail. This informational meeting answers any questions you have. You will learn about how to begin selecting courses for your Proposal and connect with faculty advisors within and beyond the ILA.

3 SUBMIT THE DECLARATION OF MAJOR (DOM) FORM

This form allows students to declare a major or to remove an existing major in OPUS. Your DOM form will not be "approved" in the system until steps 4-6 are completed.

PROPOSAL OF COURSES

4 **Prepare:** The faculty advisors suggested by the DUS help you select courses for your proposal. Use the guidelines and template on pages 13-14 to draft your proposal.

5 **Submit:** Use the webform to submit your proposal. It is routed to the ILA undergraduate committee for review.

Submit your proposal

6 PROPOSAL REVIEW

After the ILA undergraduate committee reviews your proposal, you will receive an email notifying you of your acceptance into the major. If changes to your proposal are requested by the committee, then you will receive an e-mail noting what changes are needed. Once accepted, your DOM form is processed in OPUS and your Proposal of Courses becomes your **Checklist of Courses.**

Timeline of Key Points

SOPHOMORE/JUNIOR YEAR

Declare AMST/IDS Major

The process of declaring the AMST/IDS major is outlined on page 11. Prospective students should note that they are not officially declared into the major until their Proposal of Courses has been approved by the ILA undergraduate committee.

Review Progress of Checklist of Courses

A student's Checklist of Courses serves as a blueprint for registering for classes each semester. (See page 13.) It is revisited each semester with the DUS or ILA major advisor. Is the proposed plan still leading the student towards a focused senior thesis? Are there new possible course options that may have arisen since the proposal was first submitted? Study abroad often opens unforseen options, for example.

JUNIOR YEAR - FALL

IDS 390 Interdisciplinary Research Design

This required tutorial course focuses on the processes and strategies of interdisciplinary research. See page 8 for more details.

Fall Undergraduate Research Symposium

All juniors are required to present their research proposal at the annual ILA Undergraduate Fall Research Symposium. It typically takes places the day after the last day of classes. Details are provided to all majors via e-mail.

JUNIOR YEAR - SPRING

Intention to Stand for Honors

The deadline for confirming intention to stand for honors to the ILA undergraduate program coordinator is at the close of spring semester in your junior year. If you are considering standing for honors, review the requirements listed on **the ILA Honors page**. You may also meet with the DUS to discuss your interest.

Timeline of Key Points

SENIOR YEAR - FALL

IDS 491W/AMST 490W Senior Seminar

In this course, seniors study the history and theory of interdisciplinary studies, and write and present a portion of their senior project. This course is not a continuation of IDS 390.

Undergraduate Fall Research Symposium

Seniors may be required to present a 3-minute thesis at the annual ILA Undergraduate Fall Research Symposium. The symposium typically takes places the day after the last day of classes. Details are provided to all majors via e-mail.

Research Credit

Graded, permission only. Non-honors majors must register for IDS 499R/AMST 499R Senior Research (Spring: 1-3 credits). Honors candidates must register for AMST 495A/IDS 495A Honors (Fall: 3 credits) and AMST 495BW/IDS 495BW Honors (Spring: 1-8 credits). Review requirements on the **ILA Research Credit** page.

SENIOR YEAR - SPRING

Degree Application

In senior year, OUE will notify all Emory College students that they must apply to graduate by completing **the Degree Application in OPUS**. The Degree Tracker part of this application requires the signature of the DUS. In order to obtain this signature, we ask that all our seniors complete **ILA Senior Checklist.**

Capstone or Honors Thesis

All capstone seniors must **submit their final capstone draft online** by April 15. All honors seniors should review the honors cycle and requirements for their thesis and oral defense on **our ILA Honors page**.

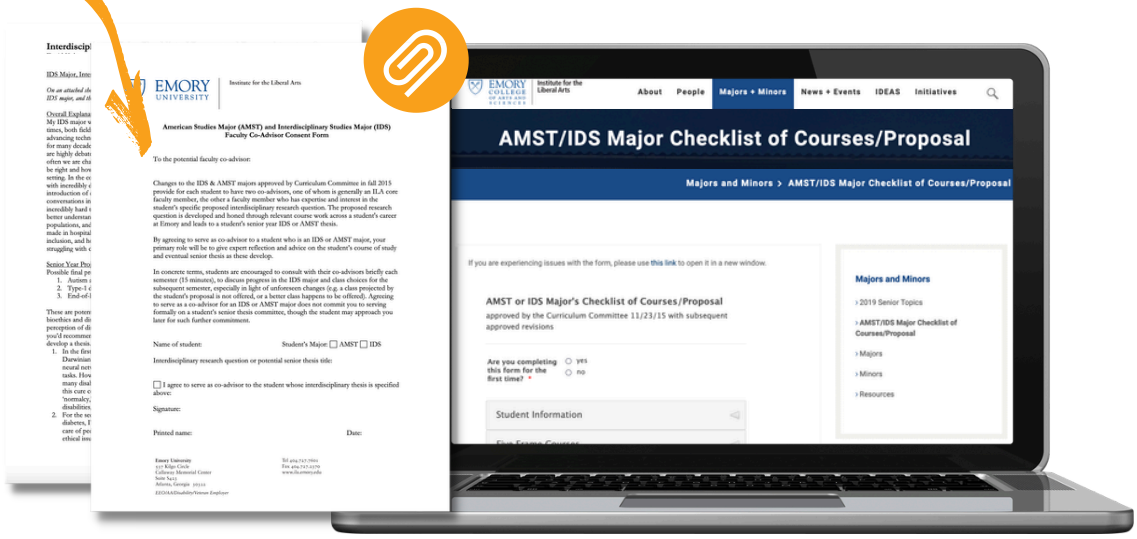
Guidelines for Proposal of Courses

Submitting a completed Proposal of Courses is a required step in the declaration process (see page 10). Use these guidelines and the template on the next page when drafting your Proposal for the first time.

The DUS and perhaps faculty experts will read and help you develop your Proposal. In addition to listing your plan for which courses you propose to meet the **major requirements** outlined on pages 3-5, you will also need to attach the following to your Proposal:

- **Explanation for cohesion of the concentration courses** Explain the courses you have chosen and the intellectual goals of your IDS major. If you have met with additional faculty experts, name them and give a brief description of their advice.

- **Description of senior thesis topic** Give a specific description of the questions and thesis you are imagining for your senior year. This thesis topic will evolve but the committee is looking for thoughtfulness and focus on the part of the student.



Note: Changes to your Checklist of Courses require written petition (by email to the DUS), and are subject to reapproval by the ILA undergraduate committee.

Template: Proposal of Courses

Use this template to draft your Proposal of Courses before submitting it to the ILA undergraduate committee. This template only lists the requirement sections you will need to prepare for the form. All major requirements are detailed on pages 3-5.

FRAME COURSES

Two 200-level continued writing courses

Select from the following:

- ☐ IDS 200W
- ☐ IDS 201-OX
- ☐ IDS 205W
- ☐ IDS 216W or IDS 216 or IDS 216-OX
- ☐ IDS 220W
  For AMST majors: AMST 201W/201-OX
  or an equivalent course, upon consultation with and approval by the ILA undergraduate committee

Capstone

- ☐ IDS 390
- ☐ IDS 494

One 300-level interdisciplinary course on cultural theory

Course _____

Instructor _____

Semester _____

CONCENTRATION COURSES

List seven or more courses totaling 24 credits:

(1) Course _____

Semester _____ Credits _____

(2) Course _____

Semester _____ Credits _____

(3) Course _____

Semester _____ Credits _____

(4) Course _____

Semester _____ Credits _____

(5) Course _____

Semester _____ Credits _____

(6) Course _____

Semester _____ Credits _____

(7) Course _____

Semester _____ Credits _____

(8) Course _____

Semester _____ Credits _____

PREPARE ATTACHMENTS

- ☐ Co-Advisor Consent Form(s)
- ☐ Explanation for cohesion of the concentration courses and description of senior thesis topic (see Guidelines)

Form: Co-Advisor Consent

Download this page to share with your intended co-advisor. You can e-mail them the form then attach the completed form to **your Proposal of Courses when you submit the webform**.

American Studies Major (AMST) and Interdisciplinary Studies Major (IDS)
Faculty Co-Advisor Consent Form

To the potential faculty co-advisor:

As a highly interdisciplinary major, IDS and AMST students are required to have two co-advisors, one of whom is generally an ILA core faculty member, the other a faculty member who has expertise and interest in the student's specific proposed interdisciplinary research question. The proposed research question is developed and honed through relevant course work across a student's career at Emory and leads to a student's senior year IDS or AMST thesis.

By agreeing to serve as co-advisor to a student who is an IDS or AMST major, your primary role will be to give expert reflection and advice on the student's course of study and eventual senior thesis as these develop.

In concrete terms, students are encouraged to consult with their co-advisors briefly each semester (15 minutes), to discuss progress in the IDS major and class choices for the subsequent semester, especially in light of unforeseen changes (e.g. a class projected by the student's proposal is not offered, or a better class happens to be offered). Agreeing to serve as a co-advisor for an IDS or AMST major does not commit you to serving formally on a student's senior thesis committee, though the student may approach you later for such further commitment.

Name of student: _____ Student's Major ☐ AMST ☐ IDS

Interdisciplinary research question or potential senior thesis title:

_____

☐ I agree to serve as co-advisor to the student whose interdisciplinary thesis is specified above:

Signature: _____

Printed name: _____ Date: _____

PREVIEW