

INTERDISCIPLINARY LIBERAL ARTS

FALL 2016 I-LA BROADSIDE

NEWS, EXTRAS, REGISTRATION INFO, PLANS & CURRICULUM UPDATES

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

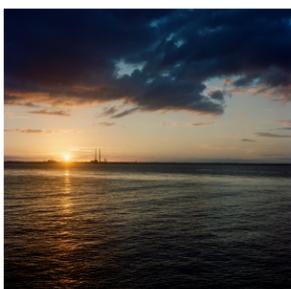
When we think about Interdisciplinarity as an intellectual perspective, one practice which is central to what we do in our major is problem solving. In fact, the problem-solving format is the one catalyst for much of what can be achieved from our academic perspective. And an integral part of what we do, from an analytical protocol, is to scope a problem that can't be easily answered by any one discipline or perspective.

So, one of the easiest ways of scoping an interdisciplinary problem is to simply travel. Going to a new place, struggling with a different language, engaging with a different culture, all present a large number of problems. Interestingly, these are problems we don't usually have at home, such as finding the right bus or ordering a glass of wine or figuring out which line to stand in at the post office. In fact, traveling is always something of a problem-solving affair. The benefit, of course, which always overshadows the frustrations, is the confidence we gain when we do figure it out. And the beauty of traveling—especially alone—is that we do figure it out. We have no other choice.

Equally, I feel the joy of traveling really begins when you start to feel as if you're a part of the place you're visiting. For example, last summer I returned to Dublin, Ireland, for six weeks. I spent time there at the National Library/Film Archives researching the early developments of documentary film between 1895 and 1915. Summer days in Dublin in late May and early June seem to go on forever (i.e., begins to get light half past four and it gets dark around eleven pm) so there's plenty of light and time to tackle my favorite travel problem—how do I really get to know this place?

Getting to know a place is first and foremost a problem of geography, isn't it? Not only do you need to know how to get around but you also need to figure out where the best cafes and restaurants are and the friendliest pubs with the best live music. Of course, gaining a sense of belonging requires that one learn a bit of the culture. Observation is certainly key here. You fit in best when you learn how to relate with people in their ways—rather than your own. Doing so quickly opens up many doors and opportunities. In this case, it's a sociological problem, isn't it? Fitting in also requires that you figure out the ebbs and flow or pace of life in your temporary home. It's easiest to meet people who aren't in a rush to get to work or get home and who have the time to stop and chat a moment longer than is necessary to pass on directions. Another problem of getting to know a place is gaining a full understanding (or, rather, appreciation) for the beauty that every place offers. Here is where the tourist fast track—as opposed to the slow-travel—doesn't get the job done. And, often, if we opt for the former, we're left with nothing more than a superficial appreciation of the place we're visiting.

Dublin Bay cannot be properly understood in only a few glances. Even if we see it at its finest moments, we can't get the fullest sense of what it is until we've spent a bit of time with it, discovering its many different expressions.



Knowing Dublin Bay comes about slowly as you walk its quays and shorelines. It comes as you're hiking the Howth Peninsula on a rain-struck afternoon, or as you're standing out on the Dún Laoghaire east pier in the early morning before the fog lifts, or as you're strolling the Sandymount Strand at afternoon low tide. Knowing Dublin Bay comes as you're climbing Dalkey Hill for the views, or sitting out on the lawn on the backside of the Haddington Hotel watching a thunderstorm rolling down from the northwest over the Poolbeg Stacks, or when you're visiting James Joyce's Martello tower at

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SP 2017 REGISTRATION REMINDERS

Registration for Spring 2017 has begun. Quick Reminders. I-LA Freshmen and Sophomores need to meet with Jessie, our ASC, before getting your registration codes. We do this for two reasons: 1) to help you keep on track with your degree progress and 2) provide you with an opportunity to spend a bit more time with you ASC. In the data we've found, meeting more regularly with you ASC is one of the essential factors for finishing your degree in a reasonable time frame. It's equally important that seniors meet with Jessie as well, so we can make sure there aren't any last minute surprises or holdups as you complete your program of study.

Registration opened for Seniors on October 25th. Juniors began registering on the 27th. Sophomores, on November 4th. Freshmen begin registering on November 11.

Juniors and Seniors, we know it's frustrating to have to wait until departments open up their 300/400 level classes to all students. Usually contacting the professor and explaining you're an Interdisciplinary Liberal Arts major helps you to get into a course you really want to get into. Equally, you can take this approach if courses are full and you're on a waiting list. One of the most reliable ways of getting into the class is to 1) contact the professor before the start of the semester and 2) also make sure you make it to the first class—even if you haven't got in yet. This communicates that you're really committed to getting into the course. Most professors respond positively in such cases.

Spring 2017 reminders: if you're planning on graduating this spring, you need to have successfully completed LB 200 (Research Methods in the Liberal Arts) first. It's the prerequisite for getting into Senior Capstone (LB 492). If you haven't yet taken LB 200, you'll need to take it in the spring and then take LB 492 during the summer session. And it's also important to remember that LB 200 is designed to be taken the first semester of your sophomore year so do try and take it around this time. It's sets a foundation for what you'll be doing in a lot of your upper division Liberal Arts courses in your junior and senior years. Some of you may be considering taking independent study credit. If so, you'll need to stop by the Liberal Arts Dean's Office and pick up a LB 495 Independent Study form. You'll fill this form out with the professor who is going to be overseeing your independent study and then return it to the program director for approval. Once you do and your required IS form is approved, then you'll be given access to register for Liberal Arts independent study.

For those of you thinking about taking courses in the summer, we will be offering LB 200 (online) during the second 4-week session. LB 492 (online) will be offered during the third 4-week session. Summer courses can be challenging so do keep in mind that we condense the work we normally do during a full 16-week semester to that of 4 weeks. As you're thinking about your workload and your out of class commitments this summer, do remember that the usual hourly workload expectation set by CSU policy is that for every hour you spend in class, you should also expect to spend 2 hours on out of class work. This comes out to around 9 hours per week for a 3-credit course taken during the normal 16-week semester. For a 4-week summer course, the time expectation per week you should reasonably expect for your 3 credit courses increases to 36 hours total. We highly recommend that for those of you who are considering taking summer courses do not sign up for more than one 3-credit course per summer session. If you do, just remember that the workload for more than one course is enormous. So do take a moment to carefully judge how much you can do—given your busy summer life—and don't take on more than you can handle.

See the back side for a schedule of Liberal Arts courses offered this coming spring and summer session terms.

COMMENTS FROM YOUR ASC

Your Well Being as the Seasons, Semesters Change



Students experience ebbs and flows, highs and lows each semester. The fall semester has pretty standard markers.

First, there is the flurry of excitement and activity when school starts. There is intense energy and school spirit at Ram Welcome, the carnival and the Ram Events throughout the first week. After all that Ram Pride, we then come down to the basic stressors of starting something new. I can see that some students are a bundle of nerves trying to find the right classrooms, (even seniors have a hard time negotiating the Clark Building!), changing schedules around, or working to connect with a new roommate. Around week four, when we all start to finally feel comfortable with our routines, the first sniffle occurs in a classroom. Illness hits the campus. More people start coughing and missing class and the instructors lecture with sore throats. But soon, the stimulation returns. Weeks six and seven are here which mean: prepping for midterms, deciding whether if it is time to drop a class and juggling multiple papers due on the same day! It is a time for deep intellectual rigor. This time can also lead to feeling stressed and anxious. This is also around the time when I ask you to meet with me, your Academic Success Coordinator, to go over spring classes, to consider new choices for minors and to discuss plans to improve your overall experience here. We schedule that check-in around these weeks so you have some time to peruse class options and see if there are tools you could consider using to help. I want to provide a place and space to debrief your ever-changing semester experience. There are great benefits and privileges to immersing yourself in university life. But being in school often means you will experience stress in a variety of forms. Recognizing your humanity in these times is also a major part of your learning here. Being aware of your particular struggles, asking for help and then utilizing resources can make a big difference. Here are just some of the services CSU offers:

-Health Network: for counseling, medical, optometry, and health education, this is your one stop for a variety of needs. Health.colostate.edu

-Case Management: if you are dealing with a crisis situation in your personal or family life, they are here to help. Studentcasemanagement.colostate.edu

-CSU Center for Mindfulness: A newer addition on campus that offers resources and guided mindful exercises on their website. There are also Drop in Meditation for strategies and tips to calm your mind and feel more centered. They meet every Wednesday in the LSC at 12:10pm

-TILT Building: so many great offerings here from tutoring, to one on one academic coaching, to learning about time management and sharpening your reading skills for all those peer-reviewed journal articles. Check out all the learning programs at Tilt.colostate.edu

Jessie Stewart
Academic Success Coordinator
College of Liberal Arts

For appointments call 970.491.3117

Our thanks go to Brian Hull who served as editor for this newsletter.

GETTING TO KNOW I-LA GRADUATES OR FELLOW MAJORS

ALEC WALSH, '14



I am currently enrolled in the College Student Personnel (CSP) master's program at Bowling Green State University located in Bowling Green, Ohio. The CSP program is one of the oldest and well-networked programs in the student affairs profession. The curriculum is interdisciplinary by nature, drawing from the fields of psychology, sociology, history, women and gender studies, ethnic studies, and more. A major part of the program is an internship experience that allows me to apply what I learned in class

to my work with college students. I live and work at Baldwin Wallace University a small, private liberal-arts university in Berea, Ohio (the Cleveland area). I work as both a Hall Director in the Office of Residence Life and a Graduate Assistant in the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life. My internship provides me with a place to live, a stipend, tuition assistance, and a few other helpful benefits. The Cleveland area has been a very exciting place to live, especially with the Republican National Convention and the NBA Finals over the summer.

My interdisciplinary liberal arts degree from Colorado State has given me an advantage to be able to think generally and easily between different disciplines. There were many terms and concepts that I became familiar with during my undergraduate years that provided me more contexts about some of what we are learning in our coursework at BGSU. I am also able to share first-hand experience the value of a liberal-arts education in our society. I have learned how to take in information critically, speak and write confidently, and explain certain concepts and the importance of them to others. I can relate to others easily with my broad understanding of different disciplines, and I have a larger appreciation for learning in general. I will be finishing my Master's in May 2017, and I hope to find a job within the higher education profession at a large public university.



MAGGIE PARSONS, SENIOR

I owe a lot of my success at Colorado State University to the wonderful staff, the flexible degree programs offered, and specifically The Interdisciplinary Liberal Arts Degree Program. As a First Generation Scholar, the first member of my family to attend a four-year university, finishing college was not only a goal I was determined to achieve, but it was a milestone for my ancestors and I. When my parents divorced the summer of my senior year of high school, the idea of affording college, let alone finishing, seemed farfetched. However, my First Generation Advisor, Barbara Musslewhite, reached out to me and restored hope that I could afford to go to my dream school by offering me a scholarship, and more importantly, a community of other First Generation Scholars who supported me throughout my undergraduate journey.



It hasn't always been easy. My sophomore year I was enjoying

my academic and on-campus life as a Resident Assistant in Braiden Hall, when I found my academic future called into question once again. My family was moving out of state and I doubted my ability to finish school. Sitting in my advisor, Jesse Stewart's office, I felt helpless. I inquired about declaring a dual major, wondering if I could graduate on time, and also trying my hardest to come to peace with the fact that my family would be moving across the country without me. As someone whose family means everything to them, I never thought leaving CSU before I was ready could be a choice I would have to make. What's more, I couldn't see myself finishing up my degree at another university. Jesse Stewart and Carmody Leerssen both worked tirelessly to put together a degree program that would allow me graduate with a degree in Interdisciplinary Liberal Arts with a Political Science minor. Their plan would also allow me to finish my courses online, not forcing me to sacrifice my one love for another: my ram family for my real family.

If it weren't for the great people that have advised and supported me throughout my academic career, alongside the flexibility of The Interdisciplinary Liberal Arts Degree Program, I wouldn't be where I am today. I am currently living with my family in Florida and finishing up my Colorado State University degree online. I am also supporting myself by working at a prestigious law firm and taking introductory law school courses at the local university. The flexible degree programs and wonderful staff at CSU have created so many opportunities for me that I will be forever grateful.

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Sandycove and you've just climbed the claustrophobic-tight stone staircase up to the parapet for a glimpse of "[T]he sea, the snotgreen sea."

And we haven't yet even talked about those crazy unpronounceable Irish names, have we? Really, Dún Laoghaire is a lot easier to pronounce than you'd expect. Crazy perhaps but it's just Dun Leary with a few extra vowels and some unexpected consonants thrown in for good measure.

Getting to know Dublin—or any place one visits—is an interdisciplinary problem. You need to know a little bit about its history, its people, its geography, its language, its weather, its cuisine, its literature/film—and, most importantly, its music and pubs. After all, it's Dublin.

GETTING TO KNOW YOUR I-LA INSTRUCTORS & STAFF

Hello there! My name is Okee Hanna. It's hard for me to believe but I have worked at CSU for almost 18 years. I was raised in Mililani Town, Hawaii on the island of Oahu. I moved to Fort Collins in March of 1984 and have lived here since. I have worked as an Administrative Assistant for the College of Liberal Arts for six years and thoroughly enjoy working here. My favorite part of the job is interacting with students like YOU!



One exciting development in Liberal Arts is that we are now offering a new minor: Legal Studies. If this interests you, please stop by during normal business hours and I would love to talk more with you about this minor and how it might be a perfect match for your current major.

On a personal note, I am a CSU Hui O'Hawai'i member, through CSU's APACC, and a member of the College of Liberal Arts' First Generation Executive Committee. If you're from the islands, be sure to get on the mailing list and learn how you can get involved with our annual lu'au. Even if you're not from Hawaii but would like to learn some Polynesian dancing, you too can get involved and enjoy a touch of island paradise in Colorado!



If you are a first generation student, please let me know if there is anything I can assist you with as being the "new kid" can be pretty overwhelming!

Thank you for reading all about me! I sure hope you stop by and introduce yourself to me!

GETTING TO KNOW YOUR LIBERAL ARTS COURSES

One course we take great pride in co-offering (with the department of Communication Studies) is **LB/SPCM 455 Narrative Film as a Liberal Art**. We offer this course every spring and it's one of the best ways you can a) satisfy some key upper division requirements and b) also get to watch some amazing narrative films. The general purpose of this course (and its sister-course, LB/JTC456 Documentary Film as a Liberal Art) is interdisciplinary by design. These courses look at film as both (1) a distinct form of media/cultural communication but also (2) as a vehicle for exploring issues relevant to the topics you've already encountered in your other classes. Actually, one could argue that films are by nature interdisciplinary objects because they exist as (a) aesthetic experiences, (b) human situations, and (c) specific moments in both space and time. Although we shall spend a little time talking about film analysis and reviewing concepts and strategies related to film studies (we are watching films after all), Narrative Film as a Liberal Art will be focusing more on how each film allows us to discuss certain human situations and complexities from the perspective of Liberal Arts. The films we will be watching will touch on diverse situations such as human cloning, assisted suicide, Hollywood stardom, Eurocentric African exoticism, genocide, civilian life in time of war, pirate radio, etc. In short, we'll be watching films that won't necessarily be of the Great Works of Cinema variety. Although we shall be doing a little of this, the larger purpose of the course isn't so much the study of great filmmaking as it is the use of cinema to explore key issues and human realities we're faced with today. Really, what better way is there to spend a semester than watching great films and then talking about them afterwards?

SPRING 2017 I-LA COURSE OFFERINGS

LB492 Senior Capstone Seminar: T/R 11am - 12:15 pm.
LB492 Senior Capstone Seminar: M/W 5- 6:15 pm.
LB200 Liberal Arts Research Methods: T 9-9:50 am.
LB170 World Lit to 1500: T/R 12:30-1:45pm.
LB171 World Lit, Modern Period: M/W/F 12-12:50 pm.
LB205 Contemporary Legal Studies T/R 2-3pm.
LB456 Narrative Film as a Liberal Arts: T/T 5-5:30-6:45 & W 7-9:50 pm (Lab).
LB300 Specialized Professional Writing: M/W 2-2:50 pm. & F (recitation sections, various times).

SPRING 2017 I-LA COURSE OFFERINGS (ONLINE)

LB492 Senior Capstone Seminar
LB200 Liberal Arts Research Methods
LB380 Liberal Arts & Meaningful Work

SUMMER 2017 I-LA COURSE OFFERINGS (RI & ONLINE)

LB200 Liberal Arts Research Methods (2nd Session)
LB492 Senior Capstone Seminar (3rd Session)

