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 learned from our academic programs. 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 LibraryFilm Archives researching the early developments of documentary film between 1885 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 geography problem, isn’t it? Fitting in also requires that you figure out the ebb and flow or pace of life in your temporary home. It’s easiest to meet people, and the best way to get to know a place is by gaining a full understanding (or, rather, appreciation) for the beauty that every place offers. Here is where the tourist fast track—remember 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 glimpses. 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 or even sitting down and dipping your toes in the Howth Peninsula on a rain-stuck afternoon, or as you’re standing out on the Dún Laoghaire pier in the early morning mist, watching the early morning trawlers leave the harbor or you’re strolling on the Sandymount Strand at afternoon low tide. Knowing Dublin Bay as you’re climbing Dalkey Hill for the views, or you’re moving from the lanes behind the Haddington Hotel watching a thunderstorm roll down from the northwest over the Poolbeg Stacks, or when you’re visiting James Joyce’s Martello tower (continues on page 2)
thrown in for good measure. But it’s just Dun Leary with a few extra vowels and some unexpected consonants. We? Really, Dún Laoghaire is a lot easier to pronounce than you’d expect. Crazy perhaps.

Parapet for a glimpse of “[T]he sea, the snotgreen sea.” Sandycove and you’ve just climbed the claustrophobic-Aght stone staircase up to the

Many opportunities for me that I will be forever grateful. 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.

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 an atmosphere in which I have thoroughly enjoyed my educational experience and would highly recommend it to others.

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 Millili 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’ Asian American Student Alliance. 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 I-LA INSTRUCTORS & STAFF

One course we take great pride in co-offering (with the department of Communication Studies) is LB/PSCM 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/ITC456 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.

LB5000 Liberal Arts Research Methods: T 9:50 am.

LB170 World Lit to 1500: T/R 12:30-2:45pm.

LB171 World Lit, Modern Period: M/W 12-12:50 pm.

LB205 Contemporary Legal Studies T/R 2-3pm.

LB456 Narrative Film as a Liberal Arts: T/T 5:30-6:45 & W 7:90-9:50 pm (Lab).

LB300 Specialized Professional Writing: M/W 2-2:50 pm. & F (recitation sections, various times).

SUMMER 2017 I-LA COURSE OFFERINGS (ONLINE)

LB200 Liberal Arts Research Methods (2nd Session)

LB492 Senior Capstone Seminar (1st Session)