

INTERDISCIPLINARY LIBERAL ARTS



FALL 2015 ILA BROADSIDE

NEWS, EXTRAS, REGISTRATION INFO, PLANS & CURRICULUM UPDATES

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

I'd like to share with you some recent thoughts I've had concerning the value and benefit of our B.A. degree program.

Firstly, an Interdisciplinary Liberal Arts degree is one of the best undergraduate majors one can choose in that it is tailor made for the type of world (and workplace) you're headed into after graduation. Why? For one it exposes you to a diverse set of disciplinary perspectives rather than simply concentrating on a specific discipline.

As you are exploring your academic curiosity, you're also being exposed to different ways of seeing, different critical approaches and, most importantly, different conclusions to issues and topics important to today's world. And what you'll find is just how often an issue or concern you've already explored, say in a history class, with suddenly appear again in a literature class or an economics class or in a film studies course. You'll be saying to yourself, "hey, I've come across this already in another class but not in the same way as now." And suddenly you'll be looking at something you've looked at before but from a different perspective. Because you're never exactly home in one specific discipline you're learn to be at home in all of them.

Yes, this experience mirrors what you're going to be faced with after graduation. The world has changed dramatically in the past twenty or so years in two important ways: interconnectivity & access. At no time in history has the world been as interconnected or accessible as it is right now. Technology, transportation, communication have changed the world in that it brings everything closer together. Resources, people, jobs, products, these are all connected now in global structures. And so are the tasks, challenges and realities each of us face today.

Secondly, most careers and professions now expect graduates who are able to see and understand and act in ways that transcend any one locality or expertise. Concerns, challenges and insights are simply not isolated events any longer--were they ever? We can't, for example, discuss economic issues without also talking about history, ecology, health, the environment—even education. For example, an issues such as water rights here in the west is not only a resource or agricultural concern; it's also a historical concern, an ecological concern, a political concern, a psychological concern, a legal concern, even a geographical concern.

Certainly we need experts and choosing what might be called a traditional major is a great route for establishing/gaining such expertise. But there's also a pressing need for the management and integration of such expertise, for individuals who can coordinate information and the perspectives of more than one expertise or disciplinary response so as to utilize and organize individual efforts into a concerted yet integrative response. For example climate events such as Hurricane Katrina are not only a problem for scientists but also for economists and historians and sociologists and cultural experts and politicians and for those who manage public opinion. But equally artists and performers are needed too so we can gain a better sense of the human intangibles associated with climate realities or disasters. And what we best learn in our program of study—and what makes it unique—is how to value and utilize each these various contributions.

Finally, what makes this program equally unique is its adaptability, which was one of the key reasons for offering the major in the College of Liberal Arts here at CSU. Not only is it the perfect major for most anything you want to do after graduation but it's also perfect for those of you who can't (or don't want to) identify with any one discipline. Or for those of you who wish for a greater say/choice in the courses you do take at CSU. In fact it's a degree program that adapts to who you are and what you are studying, as opposed to you adapting to a specific program of study. Most importantly, when you change, it can change with you.

SPRING 2016 REGISTRATION REMINDERS

Spring 2016 registration is nearly here. A few things to remember. Freshmen and sophomores need to meet with Jessie, our ASC, before you can register. We do this only to make sure you're on track. We also encourage last semester seniors to also contact Jessie. Doing so reduces the chances of you having to suddenly deal with any last minute surprises, such as—oh no, I still need to TAKE what class to graduate!

Registration opens on October 26 for Seniors. Juniors, October 30. Sophomores, November 6 & continuing Freshmen, November 13. And remember most questions about course registration can be found on your RamWeb homepage under the 'Registration' heading. For specific questions about ILA don't hesitate to contact Jessie, your ASC, or the program director.

Juniors and Seniors, we do know it's sometimes frustrating to have to wait to get into a course because access to a course is limited to majors within a department first. It's one of the realities every interdepartmental major faces, and we've been working on a solution to this problem. But until then, remember, oftentimes contacting instructors and simply explaining to them you're an ILA major helps to eventually get you into a course. If you find you are having great difficulty with getting into classes, do let us know.

As you're thinking about Spring 2016 registration, do keep IN MIND the following ILA curricular expectations. You must complete LB 200 (Research Methods in the Liberal Arts) first before you can register for LB 492 (Senior Seminar). And LB 200 is designed to be taken your first semester of your sophomore year so do take it as close to this time as is possible. If you are considering working with an Independent Study, do stop by the CLA Dean's office to pick up a LB Independent Study Intent form. You'll need to complete the form before you are able to register for your LB Independent Study.

For those of you who are beginning to plan your spring and summer schedules, do keep these scheduling commitments in mind. We shall be offering one section of LB 200 and two sections of LB 492 (on-campus) this coming spring. Those of you who haven't taken LB 200 yet but are planning on graduating in Fall 2016 should plan accordingly. Equally, for those of you working on the online (distance) ILA degree, we shall be offering one online section each of LB 200/LB 492 this coming spring. In addition, we shall be offering one section of LB 200 in the first four-week summer session and one section of LB 492 in the following eight-week session.

Don't forget, for online summer classes, CSU is continuing with a new summer class model where both on-campus and online students will register for the same online class through their normal registration access channels (i.e., RamWeb for on-campus students and Online Plus for distance students).

SPRING 2016 ILA COURSE OFFERINGS

LB COURSES OFFERED SPRING 2016

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).

LB COURSES OFFERED (ONLINE) SPRING 2016

LB492 Senior Capstone Seminar
LB200 Liberal Arts Research Methods

LB COURSES OFFERED (ONLINE) SUMMER 2016

LB492 Senior Capstone Seminar
LB200 Liberal Arts Research Methods

COMMENTS FROM YOUR ASC

*I dwell in Possibility –
A fairer House than Prose –
More numerous of Windows –
Superior – for Doors –*

These are the first four lines of one of my favorite Emily Dickinson poems.

But it is the first four words, (which is also the title of this work) that I point to as the most impactful of all the poetry I have read. I think about and talk a lot about possibility. In my graduate work, discussing what could be, theorizing potentials for human connection, understanding, and progress was always thrilling. I often ask students, "What do you envision for this semester, this year? What is possible for you?"

It makes sense, then, that I thoroughly enjoy this major. The Interdisciplinary Liberal Arts major is all about possibilities: it is about crafting and designing a curriculum that you want, encouraging you to showcase your interests. The interdisciplinary approach has a long tradition. For example, the polymath is a 17th century term for someone who relishes in learning lots of different subject matters, also more well-known as "a Renaissance man" or life-long learner. In all cultures, citizens appreciate and respect others who want to explore knowledge. We enjoy hanging out with people that have a variety of interests, who are curious, who get excited to engage in ideas. If you've chosen this major, YOU are that person. You are someone who embraces multiplicities. You are the polymath.

I am happy to be working with the students who chose this major. I have been a part of the Liberal Arts for nearly 20 years. My Bachelor's degree was in English, my Master's was in Communication Studies, and my PhD was in the Philosophy of Rhetoric. I taught in the Communication Studies department here at CSU and have done advising for that department and Journalism and Media Communication for the past two years. Clearly, I like school. And I like talking to students about their educational goals. Now that I advise for Liberal Arts, I want to keep the idea of possibility as a running theme in appointments. Have you thought of study abroad? Internships? Trying a class in an unfamiliar department? I am looking forward to meeting with you and getting ready for the semesters ahead. I am here to help with the process of this degree, discuss curriculum combinations for over a dozen departments, give information about second field options, connect you to resources, and create plans for completion with you.

What experience can you create with this major? Think of the possibilities.

I encourage you to read the full poem here and then peruse the site to read some others: <http://www.poetryfoundation.org/poem/182904>

Jessie.Stewart@colostate.edu

To make an appointment call 970-491-3117



NEW TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO ILA MAORS

Recently we have purchased two video cameras and two audio recorders. These are available for check-out by ILA majors who have course related projects or creative endeavors you need to explore that enhance your experience here as ILA majors. Please see the main Dean's Office for information about when these resources will become available for check-out.

Equally, if there's technology you feel that would enhance your ILA experience, don't hesitate to let us know so we can provide (hopefully) such resources in the future.

WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH ILA MAJORS AND GRADUATES?

OLIVA SOBCZYK, SENIOR

One of the first questions I was asked when I returned home from my study abroad travels was "describe your experience in three words". I was taken aback, how could I possibly describe how much Prague meant to me with simply only three descriptors? It took me quite a few seconds, if not minutes to finally come up with an answer, the first eye-opening, the second life-changing, and finally edifying (three words clearly were too few, hence the hyphens, but I did my best).

It was immensely eye-opening to surround myself with so many different cultures, in so many different countries. I was lucky enough to travel through many countries in Europe, and learned so much about different cultures by doing so. It was amazing to be able to hop onto a plane and enter a new country, with a new culture, new language, and a new way of life.

Living in another country is life-changing. It teaches the pertinent life skill of adaptability. You will find yourself in new situations, that you may not be sure how to handle, but you will figure it out. You will have a new appreciation for diversity, and learn things that sitting in a classroom cannot ever teach you. You will return home with a new perspective of yourself, and your own culture. As the world becomes more globalized, employers will appreciate your worldview outlook.

The historical element of study abroad was easily my favorite part. It is one thing to learn about past events, and completely another thing to see the sites where these momentous events actually occurred. It was hard to fathom entering buildings that are older than the United States itself. There is so much history in these countries; they give you an opportunity to learn something new each and every day.

If you are considering an education abroad, or if you have the opportunity to, take it. I have not met anyone who has regretted their decision to immerse themselves in a new culture. There are not many times in your life where you will have the opportunity to get out of your comfort zone, and experience so many new things. When I look back on my college experience, I know that my semester in Prague will be what stands out most. I encourage you to experience a new country for yourself; you will not regret it.

HANNAH BASTIAN, CLASS OF '12



I graduated from Colorado State University in the spring of 2012. While my graduation was an exciting time of celebration with supportive friends and family, I learned quickly that not everyone sees potential in graduating with an Interdisciplinary Liberal Arts degree. In my case, my minors in English, Italian Studies and Women's Studies seemed to further confound those same people who appeared to be searching for a more simple answer. That lack of clarity didn't worry me. I fell into my area of study by allowing myself to be led by my interests and passions. The material we covered in my undergraduate career often fascinated me. This enthusiasm helped me fully engage with my classes and led me down an educational route that was unique to me.

Shortly after college, my sister and I embarked upon a road trip lasting months, driving around the US border. Afterward we each moved to our favorite city, which is how I have found myself in Portland, Oregon for the past couple years. My time here has led to an engagement with the arts community, and has revealed my passion for working with seniors. This led me to pursue grad school, in the Arts and Administration Program at the University of Oregon.

Grad school begins in the fall. I am looking forward to new adventures and ready to make another move forward. This move is exciting for me, as it narrows my focus in a way that feels right to me. The degree could lead to work in a variety of venues: museums, performance art, or art combined with healthcare. This works for me, as it allows me to move toward something specific while still maintaining openness toward whatever unexpected options may arise.

JEN MCDERMOTT, CLASS OF '15



During my senior year of college one of my least favorite questions that was asked of me was "what are you doing after graduation?" The thought of graduating and not knowing exactly what I wanted to do frightened me! Now that I have graduated it is not such a scary question. I am actually excited about what the future holds. Since I was so indecisive about what I wanted to do with the rest of my life, I decided to take a gap year to try and figure out what direction I want to go in. Do I want to go to nursing school, study public health or go to law school? Although some people knock a Liberal Arts degree, I am so happy to have one because I feel like my options are endless and I am not stuck in one field. Now when I get asked "what are you doing after graduation?" I

feel relief and answer excitedly about the adventures I'm about to embark on. This winter I will be living in Vail and I will be teaching skiing. I also plan on traveling this summer to either New Zealand or South America to continue my love for travel and exploring different cultures. During my gap year I hope to learn more about myself and what I am passionate about so I can choose a career path that I am excited about. I think one of the biggest things college students need to understand is that it is okay to not know exactly what you want to do after college and that the most important thing is to find something that will make you happy!

GETTING TO KNOW YOUR ILA INSTRUCTORS & STAFF

Dr. John Kitchens earned his B.A. in English from CSU in 1996 and is thrilled to be teaching at his alma mater. After he graduated, he left Colorado to follow various academic pursuits as well as satiate a strong sense of wanderlust. He earned his M.Ed. from Louisiana State University, his M.F.A. from Northern Arizona University, and a Ph.D. from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. In addition to literature and education, John's diverse academic background includes studies in political theory, philosophy, and cultural studies. His favorite subjects are the literature and philosophy of modernism, and because he's originally from Alabama, he especially likes Southern Gothic literature. He taught at Whitman College in Walla Walla, Washington for four years, and eventually returned to Fort Collins after brief stints in Oregon and Arizona.

Not only does John teach for the College of Liberal Arts, he has started his own local business, Rocky Mountain Mustard Company. The mustards are spicy hot and made in Fort Collins. He's always had a penchant for fiery foods, and he has worked for hot sauce and salsa companies. He hopes to expand the business to include other condiments and sauces. In his spare time he enjoys traveling and spending time in the outdoors. John has traveled to 13 countries in Europe as well as taking a few trips to South and Central America. Some of his favorite spots are Paris, Copenhagen, Prague, and Rome. He is also a dedicated outdoorsman, and has explored numerous national parks and wilderness areas in the United States and Canada. Favorite places include Banff and Yosemite National Parks, the Oregon Coast, and the Frank Church Wilderness of No Return in Idaho. He's happy to be back in Colorado where the outdoor opportunities are so plentiful. John is particularly drawn to the red rock canyons and rivers of the Colorado Plateau. He loves mountain biking in Fruita and Moab, and hiking in the Colorado National Monument, Canyonlands, and the Grand Canyon. He has also spent a lot of time on the Colorado and Green Rivers. More local activities include rafting and kayaking the Poudre River, and backpacking in Indian Peaks Wilderness and the Roosevelt National Forest. And of course, Rocky Mountain National Park. Around town John plays ultimate Frisbee, and enjoys walking his black and tan coonhound, Waylon.

Brian Hull, M.A. is currently teaching World Literature the Modern Period for the Interdisciplinary Liberal Arts program. Hull graduated from CSU with a Masters in English Literature in 2010. He concentrated on African-American Literature and specifically the American playwright August Wilson. From 2003-2006 and in 2010-2011 he lived in Toulouse, France where he taught English at the university level to students studying Modern Applied Languages. While living there he became fluent in French and the expatriate experience sparked a lifelong appreciation for Francophone literature, gastronomy and culture. Hull, in addition to his work as a professor, is a professional musician working as a solo artist and also with his group Meadowlark Jivin' that has played in Northern Colorado since 1997.

Hello there! My name is **Okee Hanna**. I was raised in Mililani Town, Hawaii (on Oahu). I



moved to Fort Collins, Colorado in March 1984 and have lived here since. Since moving to Colorado, I have learned how to snowboard, ski (water and snow), skurf, golf, and frisbee golf (I know, the last three sports can be done just about anywhere). I played recreational softball (both co-ed and women's league) for about 10 years, before my time was needed by my two fabulous children.

I began working for the College of Liberal Arts Dean's Office on November 16, 2010.

However, I've worked a total of 16 years for CSU (January 1999). What I really love about working in a university is the interaction I get with so many people. I have been involved with so many of CSU's events as a volunteer just because I'm proud to be here and strongly recommend you get involved as well, if you have the time and enjoy all the things CSU has to offer.

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 and learn some Polynesian dancing! 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 (okay, maybe not all about me) and I sure hope you stop by and say, "Hi!" and introduce yourself to me!

ILA IS A PROUD SPONSOR OF THE ASSOCIATION FOR INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

For those of you who are already beginning to think about how best to actually begin professionalizing your degree program, your program of study is associated with a professional organization. We are in fact a proud sponsor of the Association for Interdisciplinary Studies, an international professional organization founded in 1979 centered around the concerns and ambitions of academic programs nationally & internationally that are similar to yours. There are in fact yearly conferences, resources and membership opportunities open to you all. Especially those of you close to graduation joining the Association For Interdisciplinary Studies is an excellent way of beginning to build your professional credentials as you are making your transition into your career lives. Joining this professional organization is an excellent way of also beginning to build the network you'll need as you begin your successful careers. And for those of you who are unsure as to what career paths are open to you, this may be a great place to begin to get a sense of how you can make your specialized degree work for you.

