

INTERDISCIPLINARY LIBERAL ARTS

SPRING 2016 I-LA BROADSIDE

NEWS, EXTRAS, REGISTRATION INFO, PLANS & CURRICULUM UPDATES

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

What does it mean to be interdisciplinary? It's the question I'd like to explore here. It means—in our case—a program of study situated in between academic disciplines, as opposed to being inside one, say English Literature or Anthropology or Economics or any of the 14 disciplines that make up the College of Liberal Arts here at Colorado State University. It also means not only being in between but also among disciplines. Being among disciplines requires specific skills and a different sort of awareness. It means knowing how to manage and negotiate differing and sometimes competing perspectives. Perspective allows us to know something. But differing perspectives allows us to know the same thing differently. So being interdisciplinary is more about not choosing the one answer or perspective but, rather, working with a number of perspectives so as to find an answer.

Before we go any further, however, we need to look at disciplines first. Without disciplines it wouldn't be possible to be interdisciplinary. Disciplines are vital for intellectual achievement and understanding. Mostly, because these provide us with focus and a structure for developing knowledge. Disciplinary learning allows us to go deeper into a particular perspective or methodology and it can—and often does—give us spectacular answers. Disciplines also help us manage our distractions, to suspend these a while as we concentrate on a specific manner of seeing or knowing what is important or vital about the disciplinary subject at hand.

Within the College of Liberal Arts, we have three larger categories of disciplinary knowledge, i.e., similar means and methods of investigation, each with their own identities, procedures, assumptions, and outcomes. These are 1) the Humanities, 2) the Social Sciences and 3) the Arts. And of course within each of these we have further divisions of focus, expertise and emphasis. For example, within the arts we have the visual arts, the performance arts and art history. Within social sciences we have economics, sociology, anthropology and political science. Here the greater emphasis is on a particular manner of investigation, where observation, experimentation and quantitative research are key players. Whereas in the humanities, say Literature, Philosophy, History, or Languages, Literatures & Cultures, the preeminent features of investigation/conclusion depend more on interpretive or reflective study. And here qualitative research is more the norm. Of course there's much crossover and a differentiation of qualitative and quantitative measure/means is visible in every discipline.

There are a number of metaphors we might use so as to better visualize/envision a program of study that we could codify as interdisciplinary study. Allen F. Repko, in his textbook, *Interdisciplinary Research, Process and Theory*, introduces three metaphors as a way of summarizing in general terms the differences, as he sees it, between disciplinary and interdisciplinary practices. These metaphors quickly communicate what I believe is valuable—and different—about our major. The first metaphor is “boundary crossing,” or what Repko describes as “the process of moving across knowledge formations for the purpose of achieving an enlarged understanding.” This somewhat helps to explain the general purpose of our study. A second metaphor is ‘mapping.’ Maps are intriguing objects, aren't they? They are usually the spatial but also abstraction/symbolization of space. Repko calls this the ‘carving up of knowledge space’ for the purpose of ‘display[ing] information that is gathered from a variety of sources.’ This helps us to visualize one of our key methodologies. Our third, and final, metaphor is “bridge building,” which connotes an ability to span existing chasms or gulfs that exist between ‘locations of knowledge.’ Equally it connotes what I see as one of the key creative forces of interdisciplinary study—connectivity. When we build bridges we connect different spaces, thus allowing individuals within these spaces to move back and forth across what once was a formidable or perhaps even impassable barrier.

FALL 2016 REGISTRATION REMINDERS

Registration for Fall 2016 is nearly upon us. ILA Freshmen and Sophomores need to meet with Jessie, our ASC, before you can register for fall classes. We ask you to 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, you mean I have to take even more classes?

Registration opens on April 5th for seniors. Juniors, April 8th. Sophomores, April 15th & continuing Freshmen, April 22nd. Don't forget, most questions about course registration can be found on your RamWeb homepage under the 'Registration' heading. But don't hesitate to contact Jessie, your ASC, or the program director. We're here to help.

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. 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 Fall 2016 registration, do keep in mind the following ILA curricular expectations. Your must complete LB200 (Research Methods in the Liberal Arts) first before you can register for LB492 (Senior Seminar). And LB200 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 a professor on an Independent Study, do stop by the CLA Dean's office to pick up a LB Independent Study Intent form, which you and the faculty member sponsoring your independent study will need to complete before you will be allowed to register for any LB495 Independent Study credits.

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 LB200 and one section of LB492 (on-campus) this coming fall. Those of you who haven't taken LB200 yet but are planning on graduating in Fall 2016 should plan accordingly—and register for LB200 this summer. Equally, for those of you working on the online (distance) ILA degree, we shall be offering one online section each of LB 200/LB492 this coming fall. In addition, we shall be offering LB200 in the first four-week the 2016 summer session and one section of LB492 in the following eight-week session. Overrides for summer registration for LB492 will be granted only if you are enrolled in LB200. Do contact Jessie for assistance.

For online summer classes, CSU is continuing with the summer class model first introduced in recent years 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).

SUMMER/FALL COURSE OFFERINGS

LB COURSES OFFERED SPRING 2016

LB492 Senior Capstone Seminar: T/R 11am - 12:15 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.
LB455 Documentary Film as a Liberal Arts: M/W 5-5:50 & W 6-7:45 pm (Lab).
LB300 Specialized Professional Writing: M/W 2-2:50 pm. & F (recitation sections, various times).

LB COURSES OFFERED (ONLINE) SUMMER 2016

LB200 Liberal Arts Research Methods (1st 4-weeks)
LB492 Senior Capstone Seminar (8-weeks)

COMMENTS FROM YOUR ASC

A TIME TO VENTURE?

The university is designed to be a space of exploration. It is place to delve into ideas, expand and challenge what you think you know, hunt for new answers, and discover



connections that were seemingly disparate. But not all of your learning is housed here. Your engagement extends beyond the historical buildings, beyond the classroom walls. Some of you are taking our courses hundreds or thousands of miles away and are still very much a part of Colorado State University and the cultivation of our academics. The expansion of your thought and widening the reach of university ideals is why education abroad opportunities are now a big part of what advisors talk about with students. We know that students who take advantage of study abroad programs report back that it was one of the most enriching experiences to their life as well as their learning. It is one of the best parts of college and students were not even “here.” CSU and the Interdisciplinary Liberal Arts major have provided many ways to make education abroad a part of your plan:

Education Abroad Office: CSU has an entire office of staff, advisors, and resources to help you plan your trip. The office also runs informational fairs and sessions on topics such as understanding financial aid and looking for scholarships. My favorite part of their website is the “Program Search” tab. Here you can do advanced searches of hundreds of programs and organize by region, country, program type, when you want to go, and even what kind of housing you want. Start your search at educationabroad.colostate.edu

Semester at Sea: Semester at Sea just signed a five year contract with CSU and their first official voyage as partners begins this fall. The ship will be a floating classroom and dorm for 700 students who will visit 13 cities and 12 countries. Best of all, because it is now a CSU affiliated program, the wide variety of classes offered are all approved to fit with degree requirements. Take a look at semesteratsea.org

Range of travel times: If you do not want or are not able to be gone from your home, job, or family for a full semester, there are many 3-6 credit programs that meet over winter or summer breaks for a few weeks to a month. Let me name just a few of the spectacular options: a travel writing program in Croatia and Italy, a criminal justice study in the Czech Republic, and a PR focused program in New Zealand. You also have the option of earning credit for an international internship.

The Interdisciplinary Liberal Arts major and credit transfers: Our degree is one of the most flexible when looking at how credits from education abroad programs transfer back in. We encourage a well-rounded liberal arts education, and most study abroad programs will have a range of class offerings in the liberal arts such as languages, history, media studies, journalism, economics, and so on.

CSU students are taught to be global citizens, and you traveling the extra mile for your education will be rewarding far beyond the credits earned. If you have questions about how to get started, what programs to consider, how to pay for the travel, and what courses to look for, please visit the Education Abroad office and make an appointment to see me. Bon voyage!

Jessie Stewart
Academic Success Coordinator
College of Liberal Arts

For appointments call 970.491.3117

WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH ILA MAJORS AND GRADUATES?

OLIVA SOBCZYK, SENIOR



Choosing a major is a decision that bears a lot of weight. It is a decision that many of us make before we may believe that we are ready. Your major has the possibility to dictate your professional career. As an interdisciplinary liberal arts major quickly approaching graduation, I am often asked "what are you going to do with a liberal arts degree?" It was Blake Nordstrom who made me realize the answer. I can now say "what am I not"

not ready to do? As an intern for Nordstrom this summer, I had the privilege of hearing Mr. Nordstrom give a talk. After his talk, he opened the floor for questions. Someone asked him about his college experience and major. He stated that he attended the University of Washington and received a degree in economics. He then went on to say that his brother received a degree in liberal arts. He also said in response that he now wishes he had done what his brother did. He said that he has "never once in his life used those supply and demand graphs" (I am also an economics major but I chose to overlook that tidbit) he had learned as an Economics major. Mr. Nordstrom went on to say how relevant his brother's liberal arts degree is to the Nordstrom business today. Everyday, we read, listen to, and communicate with others. That is the point of a degree in liberal arts. It teaches you to analyze information that you receive from others, transform it into your own words, and send it on to a new audience, so they too understand what you know. So despite the fact that Mr. Nordstrom dissed on my other degree, I appreciate him for proving to me the value of a (or any) Liberal Arts degree. It follows a broad-based curriculum that allows you to learn from, and be successful in, not one field, but every field. So thank you, Mr. Nordstrom, for proving to me that liberal arts as a degree, is one of the most viable degrees you can obtain.

Inspired by Blake Nordstrom, Co-President of Nordstrom.

JEORDIN WILEY, SOPHOMORE



My name is Jeordin Wiley. I am an Interdisciplinary Liberal Arts Major here at Colorado State University. August of 2013, I began my freshman year following in the footsteps of all my favorite writers (Hemingway, Hunter S. Thompson, Tom Wolfe, Bukowski and even Whitman), by joining the Journalism department. Yet, after months of consideration and two semesters of classes, I wondered if a career in journalism was ideal for me. How would I feel in the future if I was checking facts and police monitors to cover stories that may fail to rise my interests for a living? I imagined working at a newspaper, and as I covered events and stories for my News-

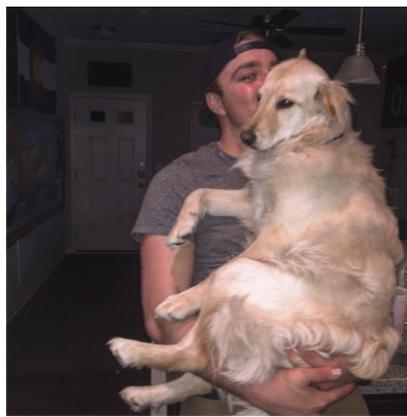
writing class, my passion for journalism wavered. I entered the field because I had a passion for writing, but needed a medium where I could make a living out of that passion.

I wondered, "Why am I not following my heart's desire, just because there is money to be made elsewhere?" A lot of students may find themselves facing this decision, and many will choose the alternative—you may choose to follow what will make you most financially successful, but personally, I believe my soul comes before all lesser evils of the material world. I decided I would reject the status quo, learn what I love and truly follow my passion. I am a writer and a poet. To excel in my craft I would need proper training, so I talked to my advisor before my second year at CSU and discussed changing my major to English, with a concentration in Creative Writing. I would learn the tricks of the masters and find my voice.

And I would have stuck with my English Major if it had not been for my other interests. I began taking a philosophy class, along with a history course and I became enamored, fascinated by both subjects. I was conflicted, there was so much I wanted to pursue. What would I do? What could I do? I wanted to do it all. So, once again, I consulted my new advisor. I told her of my frustrations, ranting enthusiastically about how intrigued and undecided I had become with my new knowledge. Her exact words, "You know what? I think I actually have something that might be the right fit for you." It was then that she introduced me to the Interdisciplinary Liberal Arts major. Under this new major, my course of study would cover all my interests. Currently, I am in my third year studying creative writing, philosophy, history and (my original point of entry), journalism. When they say you can't have your cake and eat it too, they obviously did not have Interdisciplinary Liberal Arts in mind. I encourage all students, future and current, to follow the path that will bring them the most happiness and not to settle for anything less.

MITCH PARSONS, JUNIOR

My name is Mitch Parsons and I am a junior. I love Jesus, I love people almost as much as I love animals, I draw and paint as often as I can, and in my free time I play football for the University. Tilly is my one year old golden retriever-border collie mix and people like her more than me. I have gotten used to being her "plus one" to places because I am commonly asked, "hey what is Tilly doing this afternoon? I want to take her hiking and if you're not busy, you can come too." But honestly I completely understand. When the stresses of life start to overwhelm me I like to unplug and draw or paint something. A lot of what I draw are cartoons like Disney characters or Minions but I have also drawn all of my tattoos which are based around my faith. Finally, I play tight end for CSU. I almost didn't include that in my description of myself because I make a concerted effort not to have my identity tied to football but it takes up such a large portion of life now and plans



for the future that I felt it needed to be included.

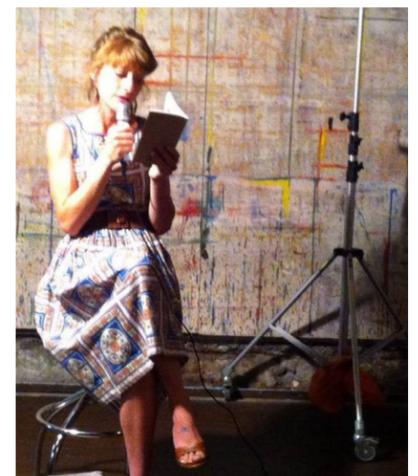
In the school of Liberal Arts I am an Interdisciplinary Major with minors in business administration and sports management with hopes of pursuing my Master's in public communication and technology. In general I am a very competitive person and strive to be best at whatever I am doing and I am proud to be able to say that I made the Dean's List last semester. My choice of studies is perfect for me because it has plugged me into other opportunities on campus. Last semester I was one of twenty people on campus chosen for the Denver Broncos

Sports Management Institute. Being in this program has allowed me to do an internship through the athletic department's marketing office. Through this internship I found something I am very passionate about: working with and motivating kids to be their best. I was tasked with facilitating the "Reading with the Rams" program where student athletes read to kids at local schools. Another committee that I am involved with on campus is S.A.A.C. or the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee. Our mission concerns uniting student-athletes, administration and the community. And, just as I was about to submit this piece, I found out I was named a service award winner for the 2015-2016 Mountain West Student-Athlete Advisory Committee Community Service Team and will represent all of the CSU sports teams with this position.

Everything that I am studying in the school of Liberal Arts and that I am involved with on campus blends perfectly with my personal mission and my plans for my future. Personally, I believe that as student-athletes we have the ability to have a large influence on people, especially our communities but too often that influence isn't positive. In the future I want to be in a role where I can use the social influence that collegiate or professional athletes have to positively impact the lives of others. The scope of jobs that I have and the ability to affect others is broad, but I would love to work in community relations within a school's athletic department or for a sports organization. The classes that I am taking right now and the opportunities I have been given because of the school of Liberal Arts are preparing me for changing lives one day.

MEG SCHIEL, CLASS OF 2013

Hi everyone, I'm Meg Schiel, a former graduate of the Interdisciplinary Liberal Arts program. Since then I've been combining my interests in the arts and a love of literature to help me define and realize my career path. I have been working with a local non-profit publishing company, Wolverine Farm Publishing and in the past several years we've been bringing into realty a multi-year expansion, which includes the opening of a brand-new community meeting house in December of this year—Letterpress & Publick House—on Willow lane in downtown Fort Collins. I'll post a web-link here for those of you who might be interested in checking out what the world of a local non-profit publishing company might look like: <http://www.wolverinefarm.org/about/>. And, yes, I have a real job too, one that I rather like a lot as well. Currently I'm working as a Library Assistant with the Poudre River Public Library District, helping the public, leading story times, and running literary programs for children and teens. Equally, I'm currently considering returning to graduate school to earn a Master's Degree in Arts Leadership, Entrepreneurship and Arts Advocacy. It's really a direction I want to pursue more of in a professional capacity.



I promise you, there's an interesting world that awaits you and you'll never really know where it's eventually going to take you—or where you're going to be taking it. That's the fun and beauty after graduation. And for most of us, where we will eventually end up is the novel mystery that awaits us—especially for those lucky enough to have had both the wherewithal and opportunity to earn an Interdisciplinary Liberal Arts degree. It really does prepare you for just a about anything you might image.

GETTING TO KNOW YOUR ILA INSTRUCTORS & STAFF

Lani Mozer, M.A. Hello! My name is Lani Mozer and I'm teaching World Literature for the Liberal Arts Department. I have been teaching this class for four years and love being able to introduce (and reintroduce) students to ancient texts that have become an important part of the culture and world views of the present day.

I received my Master's of Arts degree from CSU in Spanish Literature after a Bachelor's degree in English Literature from Montana State University. Before using these degrees in teaching the World Literature course, I taught English, Humanities and all levels of Spanish at Poudre High School here in Fort Collins. My career has been focused on teaching students to read in their first and second languages and I believe the skill of sensitive reading is fundamental to success in all areas of life. The World Literature class is a place where students can develop this skill while learning about diverse cultures and time periods.

When I'm not reading or teaching I have many outdoor interests such as bicycling, skiing and camping in my Airstream! I spend time with my family which includes my husband, Clark, a Mini Australian shepherd, Tucker, my three children, their spouses and a total of six grandchildren between them. Life in Fort Collins has been very good to me for over 37 years!

