Interdisciplinary Studies

Interdisciplinary Studies 490 and 498 are for the student completing an individually planned major (for information on the individually planned major see “Major Study Requirements” in the Academics section of this catalog).

100 Special Topics in Health Care and Professions
1-4 credits
Offerings under this designation will include both academic and activity courses for students interested in understanding health care systems and in preparing for future careers in the professions. These courses will be graded on a credit/no credit basis, and cannot be used to satisfy distribution requirements in any area. Any current offerings follow.

100A ST: Introduction to Health Care and its Professions
Spring  K. Mueller  1 credit
This course is designed to introduce students to the broad scope of health care and the academic and personal competencies necessary for the health professions. The history and evolving roles of the professions; professionalism and ethics in health care; and health care access, delivery, costs, and disparities in the US and around the world. Graded credit/no credit.

100B ST: Health Professions I
Fall  K. Mueller  1 credit
Designed for first and second-year students who are pondering a career in a health profession. Students will explore course and major selection across the liberal arts. The role of shadowing, observation, and volunteer work for discerning a career path in the professions will be presented with an emphasis on universal precautions, air-borne and blood-borne pathogens and the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). Upon successful course completion, students will have met the requirements to participate in shadowing experiences at local Walla Walla clinics and hospital. Activity credit limitation applies. Graded credit/no credit. Open to first and second-year students or consent of instructor.

100C ST: Health Professions II
Fall  K. Mueller  1 credit
This course is designed for students preparing for applications to a post baccalaureate program in the health professions. The course will also direct students in the application process, including preparation for admissions testing, writing of personal statements, obtaining letters of evaluation, interviewing, and financing. Activity credit limitation applies. Graded credit/no credit. Open to third and fourth-year students.

125 Applied Liberal Arts and Sciences
Summer-Spring  Major Advisor  1 credit
This one-credit academic course, approved by the major advisor, and supervised by a member of the Career and Community Engagement Center, connects formal off-campus student experiences in applied settings (e.g., internships) with their academic major. Learning Objectives of the course must allow for enhanced student learning within a student’s major at Whitman College in terms of major-specific knowledge, skills, ethics, problems, or organizational systems or cultures. Assignments may include reflective writing, readings, research, report writing, and presentations. Students are required to meet with the Career and Community Engagement Center regularly, to demonstrate progress and to work to connect the experience to their major. This course is graded by the major advisor on a credit/no credit basis, and cannot be used to satisfy distribution requirements in any area. Students must have declared a major in order to enroll in this course. May be repeated for a maximum of two credits. Please see the International Student and Scholar Services web page. Graded credit/no credit. Prerequisite: Major Declared.

150-151 Special Topics in Interdisciplinary Studies
1-4 credits
Any current offerings follow.

200 Special Topics in Interdisciplinary Studies
1 credit
Offerings under this designation will be short-term classes and/or seminars of an interdisciplinary nature. These courses will be graded on a credit/no credit basis, and cannot be used to satisfy distribution requirements in any area. May be repeated for a maximum of four credits. Any current offerings follow.

200 ST: Contemporary Environmental Poetry: A Sampler Course
Fall Dungy 1 credit
In a mixture of discussion, lecture, and applied practice, this brown bag seminar will introduce some of the possibilities for environmental poetry today. We will explore the history, craft elements, and major figures who have brought us to where nature poetry stands today. No preparation required, but be sure to bring your favorite notebook or writing device. In addition to engaging in lively discussions and reading lots of exciting poems, you'll get started on some poems of your own. This course is taught by Visiting Arnold Professor, and is open to students, staff, and faculty. It will be held as a brown bag lunch series. This course does not count towards the Environmental Studies major or the Environmental Humanities major. Graded credit/no credit. Distribution area: None.

210 Global Returns: Critical Engagements after Study Abroad
Not offered 2022-23 2 credits
This course is designed for students returning from Whitman Off-Campus Study programs outside the United States, or after other extended international study. It provides students with the tools, perspectives, and a set of targeted assignments to make sense of and communicate with others about their transformative experiences abroad. When students return from study abroad, too often their time away becomes adjunct or ancillary to the rest of their studies. When this happens, opportunities to situate their international experiences within a larger, critical liberal arts framework are diminished or lost altogether. This course offers students an opportunity to return to their global experiences through critical interrogation and reflection on what it means to live in another culture. Students will analyze their off-campus study through the lens of other forms of global encounter, including colonialism, othering, and cosmopolitanism. Students will also assess different ways study abroad has transformed them, including psychologically and politically. In addition to readings and discussions, students will carry out a group project addressing how global issues in the media are framed and presented differently depending on international location. Graded credit/no credit. Distribution area: none. Prerequisite: Off-Campus Studies program participation or consent of instructor.

220 Fire and Ice: Canadian Issues and Identity
Not offered 2022-23 2 credits
This team-taught course will begin by providing a basic understanding of Canadian geography, history, politics and culture. Building on that broad foundation, we will study an array of current issues (across disciplinary boundaries) that help to shape Canadian identity today. These may include environmental issues, such as the tar sands; economic issues, such as Canada's apparent insulation from the 2007-2009 global financial crisis; border issues, such as fishing rights and terrorism; and national issues, such as Quebec sovereignty. This rich survey of a range of sociopolitical issues will end with an in-depth study of one specific issue that is crucial to Canadian identity, cultural plurality. We will explore the angst surrounding Canada’s multicultural policy and explore a variety of cultural responses ranging from literature to religion and sports. Two meetings per week. Assignments will include a range of quizzes, short written assignments, and a poster presentation.

230 Special Topics in Interdisciplinary Studies
2 credits
Any current offerings follow.
240 Special Topics in Interdisciplinary Studies
3-4 credits
Any current offerings follow.

300 Special Topics in International or Global Studies
1-4 credits
A course which examines a specific topic within the area of international studies. Any current offerings follow.

400 O'Donnell Endowment: Special Topics in Applied International Studies
1-2 credits
The Ashton and Virginia O'Donnell Endowment exists to bring to campus individuals who are expert practitioners in global affairs. O'Donnell Visiting Educators will have expertise in international business, diplomacy, social movements, environmental regulation, immigration, engineering, medicine, development, the arts or other areas involving international study. Offerings under this designation will be short-term classes and/or seminars led by the O'Donnell Visiting Educator. Graded credit/no credit. May be repeated for a maximum of four credits. Distribution area: none. Any current offerings follow.

490 Senior Project
Fall, Spring
Staff
1-4 credits
Interdisciplinary project, reading or research undertaken as part of an approved individually planned major or combined major. Prerequisite: approved individually planned major, or combined major. Distribution area: none.

498 Honors Thesis
Fall, Spring
Staff
1-4 credits
Designed to further independent research projects leading to the preparation of an undergraduate thesis or a project report in an approved individually planned major or combined major. Required of and limited to senior honors candidates. Distribution area: none.