Special Programs

Interdisciplinary Studies


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Members of many departments serve as faculty for Interdisciplinary Studies. The policies for the program are determined by a group of faculty known as the Honors Council. The Interdisciplinary Studies Program, which houses two unique minors, was designed to be an academic program for students from any of the major studies areas. The Honors Studies minor provides a program of study which approaches academic subjects from an interdisciplinary perspective. It is composed of specific courses which cross disciplines and requires that an original thesis be submitted for completion of the minor. The International Studies program was designed to provide the tools to help the student develop an awareness of the complexity and interdependence of our international community. The academic course requirements were chosen to create a broad international perspective. An advantage of the Interdisciplinary Studies minor is the opportunity to intern in a variety of international cities and institutions.

Minor in Interdisciplinary Honors Studies — 18 semester hours

Individual courses were designed for students with relatively high ACT scores and/or course grades, plus intellectual curiosity, good communication skills, and motivation toward guided individual and group study of subjects. Taken as a whole, the program encourages the student to begin to evaluate learning from the perspective of an interdisciplinary analysis, thus realizing that no subject or area can be approached from a totally independent position.

The program is open to incoming freshmen and transfer students who have achieved an Enhanced ACT of 24 or higher and express interest in the program. Students will complete an English writing test prior to enrolling in Honors courses. Upperclassmen with a GPA of 3.0 are also eligible to enroll in Honors courses and complete the Honors minor. A student may take no more than two Honors courses in any given semester.

The operation of all aspects of the Honors Program is under the auspices of the Honors Council and its designated representative, the Director of the Honors Program. Qualified students who do not choose the Honors Program as their minor may be admitted to individual courses with permission of the Director of the Program. The Honors minor shall consist of HON 210, 211, 310, 311, and 411 plus additional hours selected from the Honors Program Courses.

Student Organization

Incorporated into the Interdisciplinary Honors Program is the Honors Student Association (HSA). The purpose of HSA is to serve as the social arm of this academic program. It functions as any social organization does, choosing its officers from among the student participants and organizing its functions to further the academic programs of the Honors minor. Any student who is participating in any of the Honors classes is eligible for membership in the HSA.

Student Awards

Academic Excellence Medals Student Award. This award is given to the graduating minor who has the highest academic average in the discipline, provided the average grade in the subject is not less than 3.5 and provided the student has completed, before Awards Day, a minimum of 15 credit hours in the discipline at Union University in courses for which precise grades are computed (as distinguished from courses graded pass or fail).

The Honors Student of the Year Awards are presented to the students active in the Honors Program who have shown the most intellectual and perceptive growth in the year’s time. The awards are determined by the Honors Council which administers the program.
Course Offerings in Honors (HON)

( )-Hours Credit; F-Fall; W-Winter; S-Spring; Su-Summer

210. Introduction to Interdisciplinary Studies (3) F
In this seminar, the student begins to learn the process of looking at the whole of a situation rather than a mere piece of a problem/situation. A new direction is the concept that scholarship carries with it the responsibility of servanthood. Methods of research and utilization of library resources on a variety of topics will be emphasized.

211. Studies in Contemporary Books (3) S
Several works of fiction reflecting widely disparate settings will be studied. Many comparisons and contrasts will be noted, including political machinery, role of the church, and class stratification. It will be a look at manners, customs, social interactions, cultural pretensions, and mores of different nationalities as reflected by representative works of fiction. This course may be taken by all students to satisfy one of the Social Science and Humanities options in the Core Curriculum unless otherwise specified for your program.

310. Special Topics (3) S — Odd
This is an interdisciplinary course which deals with two fields of study showing relationships between the two (such as chemistry and art) or a field such as archeology, which is dependent on several diverse areas (history, art, chemistry, biology, etc.) in actual practice. Teaching methods usually include some travel and visiting lecturers.

311. Great Ideas of Man (3) S — Even
This seminar-style course is designed to show the interdisciplinary nature of man’s ideas, thoughts, and theories. This course will examine some great ideas of man from selected fields in social sciences, natural sciences, humanities, the arts, and professional studies. It is designed to show the interdependence of the fields of study as they operate in a particular time or place. The course will progress from a study of general theories to specific applications.

411. Thesis (4) On Demand
The thesis shall be presented and defended before a committee of three faculty members appointed by the Honors Council. The duration of the thesis work will extend over two semesters. The thesis may be done in conjunction with senior performance requirements already established by such departments as Music, Art, Biology, Chemistry, and other departments at the discretion of the Council and the department. Prerequisite: 12 hours of Honors courses.

One or more of the following courses must be chosen to fulfill the requirements of the program. All are subject to the approval of the Honors Council.

A. 395, Special Studies (2 or 3 credit hours)
B. 495, Independent Studies (2-4 credit hours) Students must meet all requirements stated in this Catalogue for independent study.
C. Interchange of upper-level hours with Lambuth College Honors Program with permission of the Honors Council.
D. Foreign Study Tours (1-4 credit hours) Foreign study tours may be taken for credit for the Honors minor only when prearranged with the Honors Council and the specific requirements outlined and approved by the Council.

Minor in International Studies — 21 semester hours

The International Studies minor is a 21-hour minor, housed in the Interdisciplinary Studies Program and supervised by its designated director and council. The program was instituted as a response to the growing awareness of the interdependence in the international community. Its goal is to provide the student at Union University with a broadly based academic program which will enable the student to interact in the international community in an intelligent and prepared manner.

Required Courses

Language 100 or 200 level if a Living, Non-English, Spoken Language (of the same language) 6 hours
PSC 214 Introduction to International Relations 3 hours
GEO 216 World Regional Geography II 3 hours
SOC 355 Cultural Anthropology 3 hours
Options (6 hours chosen from)
CHR/PHL 349 World Religions 3 hours
ENG 302 The European Novel 3 hours
ECF 211 Principles of Macroeconomics 3 hours
SOC 317 Sociology of the Community 3 hours
ECF 330 International Economics 3 hours
ECF 419 International Finance 3 hours
HIS 322 20th Century Europe 3 hours
PSC 325 Politics and Government of Asia 3 hours
PSC 318 Politics and Government of Europe 3 hours
PSC 431 Internship 3 hours