

Interdisciplinary Studies

Interdisciplinary Studies (IDSC)

Carrocci (dean), director

Interdisciplinary studies at the University of St. Thomas include a wide range of courses and programs.

Interdisciplinary majors are available in:

Catholic Studies
East Asian Studies (ACTC)
Environmental Studies
Justice and Peace Studies
Russian, Central and East European Studies (ACTC)
Science and Mathematics for Elementary Education
Social Sciences
Women's Studies (ACTC)

Interdisciplinary minors are available in:

Catholic Studies
East Asian Studies (ACTC)
Environmental Studies
Justice and Peace Studies
Legal Studies
Renaissance Program
Urban Studies
Women's Studies (ACTC)

Descriptions of each of these majors and minors will be found in the Departments and Curricula section of the catalog.

Other interdisciplinary courses are listed below.

150 Development of the Natural World

This is an interdisciplinary course which examines our universe and integrates the sciences of biology, chemistry, physics, geology and astronomy. The nature of the cosmos and the Big Bang theory are first introduced, followed by a study of the basic principles of gravity, energy, thermodynamics, electromagnetic radiation, and the structure of matter, including chemical bonding and the Periodic Table. The nature and formation of the stars and planets is followed by a focus on the earth, including plate tectonics and geologic cycles. An introduction to biochemical systems includes a look at cells, biochemical molecules, genetics and evolution. An integrated unit on ecosystems ties together much of the previous work. The scientific method is emphasized throughout the course. The course consists of lecture, discussion and laboratory activities. This course fulfills the laboratory science requirement.

180 English as a Second Language I

Special and individual attention to speaking, writing, reading, listening and study skills. For students whose native language is not English. Offered in fall semester.

181 English as a Second Language II

Continuation of 180. Offered in spring semester.
Prerequisite: 180

281 Topics in American Culture

An interdisciplinary approach to a particular period in American life (the 1920s, the 1950s, etc.). Course will seek to isolate the basic themes that characterized the cultural life of the period and examine their manifestations in the art, music, literature and popular culture of the era. Particular emphasis will be given to the interdisciplinary perspective in approaching the topic.

284 Introduction to Teach Religion

2 credits

The course includes a six-hour seminar including at least three basic skills related to the act of teaching as well as a year of teaching in a local parish religious education program once a week. The teaching placement is done through consultation with each student and cooperating teachers who have a sound understanding of the life and ministry of teacher education in the church. Specific seminar content will enable students to do the following: define the term "concept" and explain how key concepts are developed by learners; explain the relationship of objectives to overall goals of religious education; define the term "strategy" and develop workable plans for teaching within a typical church/school setting.

Prerequisite: Acceptance into St. John Vianney Seminary

291 The Anatomy of Violence

The purpose of this course is to increase the knowledge and understanding of cultural, racial and interpersonal violence and develop a commitment to promoting a violence-free society. Emphasis is on exploration of the extent, causes and effects of violence and strategies for intervention on the micro and macro levels. Specific areas of study include domestic/partner abuse, child abuse/neglect, peer/date violence, elder abuse, sexual assault/sexual harassment, cultural violence, racism and other systemic oppression.

295, 296, 297, 298 Topics

The subject matter of these courses, announced in the annual *Class Schedule*, will vary from year to year, but will not duplicate existing courses. See the description of these courses at the beginning of the "Departments and Curricula" section of this catalog.

310 Washington Semester

The University of St. Thomas is affiliated with the American University's Washington Semester Program, Washington, D.C. Students selected to participate in the program have the option of studying one of several subjects, such as: American national government and politics, U.S. foreign policy, economic policy; justice, peace and conflict resolution. The Washington Semester involves seminars, research and internships drawing on governmental and private organization resources in the Washington, D.C., area. Nominations to participate are made by the university, with final acceptance decided by American University.

330 Renaissance Program Internship

0 credit

Participants in the Renaissance Program complete one internship in a career-related field. Students are encouraged to be creative and to search for inventive ways of implementing a plan of practical work experience. A variety of options and opportunities is available through the Career Center.

333 Renaissance Program Studies

In accord with the Renaissance Program's commitment to foster the integration of theoretical and practical learning, the design of this course is to promote the investigation of some theme or problem having a particularly interdisciplinary focus. This course will rely upon concepts and models stemming from both theoretical and practical sources in an attempt to further integrate aspects of these distinct branches of higher learning. Among the types of issues or topics that could fall within the scope of this course are: the meaning and value of work; the nature and place of technology; the relationship of individual to community; views of self – as worker and theoretician; models and parameters of authority.

340 Criminal Law and the Social Order

Sources of criminal law and traditions and values of society; characteristics of criminal law and an analysis of these characteristics; criminal responsibility and criminal intent; due process; the law at local, state and federal levels, with an emphasis on Minnesota statutes; public opinion regarding the law and its enforcement.

395 Introduction to Pastoral Ministry

2 credits

This is a semester-long pastoral education program that provides for personal involvement and the practical exercise of pastoral ministry. Designed to implement the church's documents and the U.S. Bishops' Program for Priestly Formation, emphasis is placed on the future pastoral ministry of the student. Each student is placed in one of three broad areas of ministry: family counseling; chemical dependency counseling; and death, dying and grief arenas. Training and on-going supervision by qualified professionals is provided.

Prerequisite: Acceptance into St. John Vianney Seminary

466 City Arts: Reading Seminar (HECUA)

An investigation of contemporary studies of intelligence, creativity and thinking processes that uses academic literature and discussions with artists and other resource persons. Special workshops on topics such as writing and thinking, visual studies and communication, and photography encourage students to try new ways of working and different approaches to learning.

467 City Arts: Field Seminar (HECUA)

Field study of art worlds and their role in the Twin Cities. Topics include: the social organization of the arts, doing business in the arts, arts and the urban landscape, making a living as an artist, funding for nonprofit arts organizations, artists and audience, the dispersing city and problem of audience.

468 City Arts: Internship (HECUA) (formerly 471)

The internship is one of the four courses in the City Arts semester. A range of placements is available, from arts organizations and artistic groups to public and community organizations that use the arts in their programs and services.

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469 City Arts: Internship Seminar (HECUA) (formerly 472)

The structured reflection on the internship with other City Arts students. The seminar seeks to integrate the reading and field seminars.

471 MUST Seminar: Research on Urban Issues (HECUA) (formerly 482)

A review of current literature on urbanism from a variety of disciplines and perspectives to provide the necessary theoretical framework for the practical experience of the field work and internship courses in the program. During weekly seminar meetings, students discuss assigned readings and individual research projects.

472 MUST Seminar: Field Studies in the Twin Cities (HECUA) (formerly 483)

Firsthand exploration of Twin Cities urban life, including their people, businesses, economy, government and politics, culture and the arts. Offices and workplaces often serve as classrooms, with presentations and discussions with business people, city mayors, community activists, developers, laborers, artists and many others who serve as informants about decisions that shape city life.

473 MUST: Urban Studies Internship (HECUA)

The internship is one of the four courses in the Metro Urban Studies Term (MUST). A range of placements is available, including public, private and community nonprofit organizations working on urban issues.

474 MUST: Urban Studies Internship Seminar (HECUA)

The structured reflection on the internship with other MUST students. The seminar seeks to integrate the reading and field seminars.

475 Experiential Learning: Career Exploration Externship 2 credits

Students will be placed at work sites throughout the Twin Cities area and beyond where their career interests are matched with the cooperating company's wants and needs. Externs must report to their workplace on at least a half-day basis for four weeks during January Term, a minimum of 80 hours "in- place" time on the job. Supervisors at the co-op company will assign specific tasks, duties and projects. The placements will provide students with opportunities to observe, experience and gain a better understanding of the "real world" as it relates to their own interests, values and objectives. Students will work under the direction of a faculty member and will be responsible for additional research and written assignments. This course offered during January Term only. May be repeated for a maximum total of 4 credits.

475, 476, 477, 478 Experiential Learning

See the description of these courses at the beginning of the "Departments and Curricula" section of this catalog.

479, 480 Honors Seminar 2 credits

These interdisciplinary seminars are intended to develop integrating insights through an analysis of topics chosen from different disciplines. Often they are taught by two faculty members or by a visiting lecturer who holds one of the endowed chairs at the university. Although these seminars are part of the Aquinas Scholars program, any student who receives the permission of the instructor(s) may enroll on a space-available basis. (IDSC 479 is used if the seminar has been approved to partially fulfill a requirement in the core curriculum.)

481 Seminar in International Studies

Directed readings and discussions on political, economic and historical aspects of the international system and the completion of a major research paper on a specific topic to be chosen in consultation with the instructor. The seminar will be led by the director of the international studies major and will feature guest lecturers in political science, economics and history.

487, 488, 489, 490 Topics

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491, 492, 493, 494 Research

See the description of these courses at the beginning of the "Departments and Curricula" section of this catalog.

495, 496, 497, 498 Individual Study

See the description of these courses at the beginning of the "Departments and Curricula" section of this catalog.

International Business

See Division of Business.