
INTEGRATED STUDIES

Coordinator, Associate Professor Joseph Reisert

The Integrated Studies Program introduces methods of interdisciplinary analysis and interpretation and encourages students to use these methods to explore important questions about varied aspects of human experience. The goal is to enable students to “connect the dots”—to see connections and relationships that other people miss in order to achieve a deep understanding of central elements of the human experience. Taken together, integrated studies courses provide a strong foundation in the liberal arts, on which students can build during their four years at Colby. The program is supported by grants from the Christian A. Johnson Endeavor Foundation of New York.

Each year the program organizes several offerings of two or three linked courses that focus on a single topic or brief historical period. Students must sign up for all courses in the integrated study. All of the component courses have been designed to complement one another; each brings a distinct, disciplinary focus to the complex phenomena that the integrated study, as a whole, aims to explore.

This intensive experience fosters the growth of an intellectual community among the students and faculty and cultivates multiple intellectual capacities, including both disciplinary and interdisciplinary critical thinking and problem solving, critical writing, and meaningful participation in small-group discussions. Most integrated studies also fulfill several all-College area distribution requirements, providing a broad, interdisciplinary liberal arts foundation for students' subsequent work at Colby.

The individual courses, which have no prerequisites, are described in the list of courses and are cross-listed in their respective departmental sections of this catalogue. Each course is offered for four credit hours. Enrollment in first-year integrated studies is limited to 16 students.

Course Offerings

IS138f New World Disorder: America between the Wars, 1919-1939 The United States emerged from World War I as the world's richest and most powerful nation, but Americans found this no guarantee of individual happiness, social peace, economic security, or political stability. This two-course integrated study examines the sources of Americans' soaring hopes and profound discontents, and how literature expressed the yearnings and disappointments of intellectuals, African Americans, immigrants, and other groups. See English 138 and History 138 course descriptions. **Satisfies the First-Year Writing (W1), Historical Studies (H), and Literature (L) requirements.**
Prerequisite: Concurrent enrollment in English 138 and History 138. *Eight credit hours.* STUBBS, WEISBROT

[IS140] Understanding Law The "rule of law" has often been contrasted with the "rule of men;" the basic idea is that it is better to be governed by impartial principles, fairly applied, than to be subject to the arbitrary decisions of some individual ruler — whoever that may be. But what is law? Different societies have adopted a variety of different legal systems with distinctive institutions and divergent principles. Are Islamic law and U.S. law fundamentally incompatible, or do they share important commonalities? We will explore these two quite different systems of law while also looking at philosophical reflections and literary narratives. See Government 140A and 140B, and History 140 for course descriptions. **Satisfies the First-Year Writing (W1), Historical Studies (H), Literature (L), and Social Sciences (S) requirements.** *Twelve credit hours.*

[IS145] Infinity, Mysticism, and Paradox How can our finite minds comprehend the mathematically infinite? Can reason penetrate the deepest mysteries of being? Is there any escape from the logical paradoxes that inevitably result when reason turns inward and focuses on itself? Trying to think beyond the limits of rational thought may be both fascinating and frustrating, profound and perplexing, but there are also great insights and much delight to be gained from the strategies and techniques that great minds have developed for exploring uncharted territories. See Mathematics 145, Philosophy 145, and Religious Studies 145 for course descriptions. **Satisfies the Literature (L), Quantitative Reasoning (Q), and Social Science (S) requirements.** *Prerequisite:* Concurrent enrollment in MA145, PL145, and RE145. *Twelve credit hours.*

IS147f Body, Mind, Human Kind What does your body know? How does your body know? Where does our human experience truly dwell—in the body, the mind, or some combination? This integrated study explores the overlap of the realms of the mental and of the physical in and through the practice of yoga. It aims to help you gain the skills and self-awareness needed to manage the transition to college, its mental and physical challenges, and to help you make your health and well-being a priority. See Biology 147, Theater and Dance 147A and 147B for course descriptions. **Satisfies the First-Year Writing (W1), Arts (A), and Natural Science with Lab (N,Lb) requirements.** *Prerequisite:* Concurrent enrollment in BI147, TD147A, and TD147B. *Ten credit hours.* KLEPACH, KLOPPENBERG

IS149f Utopia and Dystopia Since classical antiquity, writers and philosophers have dreamed of perfect societies—to which we, today, give the general name "utopias" after the title of Thomas More's celebrated book about one such perfect society. In the modern world, economic growth and the expansion of human knowledge have contributed to the sense that we should be able to succeed in creating a perfect society. Too often, the attempts to build a perfect world have produced brutality and tyranny. In the contemporary period, dreams of utopia seem to have given way to dystopian visions of oppressive futures. What might that say about us? See Government 149A, 149B, and History 149 for course descriptions. **Satisfies the History (H), Literature (L), Social Science (S), and W1 requirements.** *Prerequisite:*

Concurrent enrollment in Government 149A, 149B, and History 149. *Twelve credit hours.* BABIK, MEREDITH, REISERT

[IS224] Global Maine While Maine remains the whitest state in the union, demographic trends are rapidly changing many regions. Refugees, asylum seekers, medical and high-technology workers, undocumented farmworkers, and guest workers in the hospitality industry are transforming urban and rural areas alike. This two-course cluster introduces the diversity of immigrant experiences in Maine through ethnographic readings as well as collaborative documentary work with immigrant and immigrant-support organizations. It provides training in documentary techniques and the opportunity to create films with immigrant and immigrant-support community partners in Lewiston and Portland. See Anthropology 224 and Global Studies 224 for course descriptions. Satisfies Social Sciences (S) and U.S. Diversity (U) requirements. *Eight credit hours.*