Colby

INTEGRATED STUDIES

Coordinator, *Associate Professor Margaret McFadden*

Integrated Studies is an innovative academic program designed to introduce first-year students to methods of interdisciplinary analysis and interpretation and to encourage them to use those methods to explore important questions about varied aspects of 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 clusters of three courses that focus on a relatively brief historical period, studying that era from the perspectives of different disciplines. Students must sign up for all three courses. Integrated studies clusters allow students to explore a subject in great depth, working closely with a team of three faculty members in small, seminar-style classes. Students learn how to gain mastery of an important topic in considerable depth and from varied points of view. At the same time, the clusters provide a coherent context in which students can explore vital questions about human experience, pursuing an understanding of moral, political, aesthetic, spiritual, and epistemological issues as they are relevant to the cluster topic.

This intensive experience enables students to develop important intellectual capacities, including training in both disciplinary and interdisciplinary critical thinking and problem solving, critical writing, and meaningful participation in small group discussions. Each cluster also fulfills several all-College area distribution requirements, so each provides a broad, interdisciplinary liberal arts foundation for students' subsequent work at Colby.

The courses within each cluster, 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 each first-year cluster is limited to 15 to 20 students.

Course Offerings

IS126f The Green Cluster A three-course cluster on environmental ethics, activism, and biological science. See Biology 131 (lab B is designated for this cluster), English 126, and Environmental Studies 126 for course descriptions. **Satisfies the First-Year Writing (W1), Literature (L), Natural Science with lab (N,Lb), and Social Science (S) requirements.** *Twelve credit hours.* **N,W1,Lb** BEVIER, CARLSON, STAFFIERE, STOKES

[IS129] Islands in the Sun A three-course cluster with a focus on islands as lands of special origin and biological richness—lands that, as settings, give their own special twist to literature and film as well. Special attention will be paid to the scientific importance of the Galapagos Islands of Ecuador. See Biology 129, English 129, and Geology 129 for course descriptions. **Satisfies the First-Year Writing (W1), and Natural Science (N and N,Lb) requirements.** *Twelve credit hours.* **N,W1,Lb**

IS135f New York: Modern Global City Focus on New York City as an enormously influential place. Study and analysis of a range of cultural "texts" produced in and about New York, from literature to visual culture to the built environment; situating those works in larger historical, political, and economic contexts. Why do so many move to New York. What do they do when they arrive? How does New York serve as an economic and cultural control center in a globalized world? What might our focus on this city and its people teach us about the powerful forces that shape our worlds? An all-expenses-paid October field trip to New York is central. See American Studies 135A and 135B and English 135 for course descriptions. **Satisfies the First-Year Writing (W1), Historical Studies (H), Literature (L), and Social Science (S) requirements.** *Twelve credit hours.* **H,W1** BURKE, LISLE, MCFADDEN

IS136s America in the Postwar World: 1945-1970 The United States in the postwar era waged a Cold War with the Soviet Union that verged on full-scale nuclear war, and it experienced upheaval in race, gender, and ethnic relations, politics, and culture. Explores connections among these developments. How did music, literature, television, and film document and comment on the social and political rebellions that defined the era? How did changing opportunities of African Americans and women reshape cultural expression? And how did the development of a new consumer culture transform the nation? See American Studies 136A, American Studies 136B, and American Studies 136C for course descriptions. **Fulfills Arts (A), First-Year Writing (W1), and Historical Studies (H) requirements.** *Twelve credit hours.* **W1** CLARK, LISLE, MCFADDEN

[IS137] America in the 1930s The devastating crash of the U.S. economy in 1929 caused many Americans to question their faith in capitalism, and their values, ways of organizing family life, sense of community, and understanding of the social contract between citizens and their government. Americans used art, film, photography, literature, material culture, design, and other creative forms to represent their views and to reinvent and re-imagine a vibrant new America from the ruins of the old. We

explore these cultural responses to economic and political crisis, paying special attention to the ways different groups contended to define the complexities of the Depression years and shape the national future. See American Studies 137A, American Studies 137B and Philosophy 137 for course descriptions. **Satisfies the Arts (A), First-Year Writing (W1), Historical Studies (H), and Social Science (S) requirements.** *Twelve credit hours.* **L,W1**

[IS157] Creating the Digital Age of Theater and Music, 1983-2010 The year 1983 saw the release of the Yamaha DX-7, the first commercially successful all-digital synthesizer, as well the first feature film with completely digital special effects (*The Last Starfighter*). *Time* magazine's Jan. 3, 1983, cover featured the computer as "the machine of the year." This cluster gives students opportunities to express their creativity, learn the fundamentals of design and abstraction, and take their first steps into the technical knowledge required to make their own contributions to the merging of digital technology with the creative arts. See Computer Science 157, Music 157, and Theater and Dance 157 for course descriptions.**Satisfies the Arts (A) and Quantitative Reasoning (Q) requirements.** *Twelve credit hours.* **A**

[IS175] Ancient Greece: Nature and Culture in Classical Athens An interdisciplinary introduction to the world of ancient Greece. A three-course cluster focusing on historical, philosophical, scientific, and literary texts to examine how the Greeks made sense of themselves and their social and natural worlds. See Anthropology 175; Philosophy 175; Science, Technology, and Society 175 for course descriptions.**Satisfies the Historical Studies (H), Literature (L), and Social Science (S) requirements.** *Twelve credit hours.* **L**