

INTEGRATED LIBERAL STUDIES (ILS)

ILS 109 – EXPLORING INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES IN LITERATURE

3 credits.

Explore the social, historical, and political contexts of literature and literary analysis from an interdisciplinary perspective.

Requisites: None

Course Designation: Breadth - Literature. Counts toward the Humanities req

Level - Elementary

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

Repeatable for Credit: Yes, unlimited number of completions

Last Taught: Spring 2026

Learning Outcomes: 1. Identify methods of literary study

Audience: Undergraduate

2. Recognize the principles of literary analysis

Audience: Undergraduate

3. Develop an introductory understanding of how the study of literature relates to other academic disciplines (such as sociology, history and/or political science)

Audience: Undergraduate

4. Develop an introductory understanding of how the study of literature relates to the study of other cultural artifacts (such as film)

Audience: Undergraduate

5. Think critically about the complexities of one's own culture compared with larger global communities

Audience: Undergraduate

6. Develop an appreciation of the complexities of the interpretative process within historical and cultural contexts

Audience: Undergraduate

ILS 110 – EXPLORING INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES IN THE HUMANITIES

3-4 credits.

An introductory seminar that explores how people make meaning across times, cultures, media, and disciplines.

Requisites: None

Course Designation: Breadth - Humanities

Level - Elementary

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

Repeatable for Credit: Yes, unlimited number of completions

Last Taught: Fall 2025

Learning Outcomes: 1. Identify and explain how people make meaning across times, cultures, media, and disciplines at an elementary level

Audience: Undergraduate

2. Critically analyze diverse approaches to how people make meaning in past and present at an elementary level.

Audience: Undergraduate

3. Begin to recognize and synthesize diverse types of knowledge and disciplinary approaches to how people make meaning.

Audience: Undergraduate

ILS/ENVIR ST 126 – PRINCIPLES OF ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

4 credits.

Relates principles of environmental science to our daily activities, with an eye to sustainability, conservation, and systems thinking. Introduces science as a process of inquiry and discovery rather than just a pre-established set of facts. Topics relate to energy, water, and land use, and include food, electric power, materials, buildings, transportation, and waste.

Requisites: None

Course Designation: Breadth - Physical Sci. Counts toward the Natural Sci req

Level - Elementary

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

Repeatable for Credit: No

Last Taught: Spring 2026

Learning Outcomes: 1. Apply foundational principles of Environmental Science to practices such as sustainability, conservation, and systems thinking

Audience: Undergraduate

2. Practice science as a process of inquiry and discovery, using the UW-Madison campus as a living laboratory

Audience: Undergraduate

3. Connect campus systems to wider environmental issues relating to energy, water, land use, and waste

Audience: Undergraduate

4. Analyze sustainability issues and practices using a systems-based approach

Audience: Undergraduate

5. Explain the social, economic, and environmental dimensions of the sustainability challenges of operating a large public research institution

Audience: Undergraduate

ILS 153 – WAYS OF KNOWING IN THE SCIENCES

4 credits.

Introduces science as a process of inquiry and discovery, not as a pre-established set of facts. Emphasizes hands-on learning in both laboratory and lecture environments with small group work and interactive discussion.

Requisites: None

Course Designation: Breadth - Physical Sci. Counts toward the Natural Sci req

Level - Elementary

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

Repeatable for Credit: No

Last Taught: Spring 2025

Learning Outcomes: 1. Identify and explain how scientists make sense of the natural world.

Audience: Undergraduate

2. Identify and evaluate the use of evidence-based arguments in science, including quantitative, spatial, and statistical thinking.

Audience: Undergraduate

3. Critically analyze what science is and what it is not.

Audience: Undergraduate

4. Demonstrate the ability to recognize sloppy, or fake, science on the basis of logical reasoning.

Audience: Undergraduate

5. Distinguish between scientific ways of knowing and other ways of knowing.

Audience: Undergraduate

6. Explain how science interacts with economics, social norms, culture, politics, and religion, all of which affects both the trajectories and public perceptions of scientific inquiry.

Audience: Undergraduate

7. Recognize the role of, and need for, scientific knowledge in human flourishing.

Audience: Undergraduate

ILS 198 – DIRECTED STUDY

1-3 credits.

Individual mentored study with a faculty member.

Requisites: Consent of instructor

Course Designation: Level - Elementary

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

Repeatable for Credit: Yes, unlimited number of completions

Last Taught: Fall 2009

ILS 199 – DIRECTED STUDY

1-3 credits.

Individual mentored study with a faculty member.

Requisites: Consent of instructor

Course Designation: Level - Elementary

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

Repeatable for Credit: Yes, unlimited number of completions

Last Taught: Spring 2015

ILS 200 – CRITICAL THINKING AND EXPRESSION

3 credits.

Explores the three modes of argument and expression: verbal, visual, numerical. Engages in critical thinking about how these modes are structured and used. Practice in, and interpretation of, the three modes.

Requisites: Satisfied Communications A requirement

Course Designation: Gen Ed - Communication Part B

Breadth - Humanities

Level - Elementary

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

Repeatable for Credit: No

Last Taught: Spring 2026

Learning Outcomes: 1. Identify and explain how people think critically and analytically across times, cultures, media, and disciplines.

Audience: Undergraduate

2. Critically analyze diverse approaches to how people communicate in written and oral modes.

Audience: Undergraduate

3. Apply critical and analytical thinking to written and oral modes of communication.

Audience: Undergraduate

4. Recognize and evaluate diverse types of critical thought across many different modes of expression, including written, oral, artistic, and mass media.

Audience: Undergraduate

ILS 201 – WESTERN CULTURE: SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, PHILOSOPHY I

3 credits.

Western science and technology in the making. Major developments viewed in philosophical and social context, from antiquity to 17th century.

Requisites: Not open to students with credit for HIST SCI 201.

Course Designation: Breadth - Natural Science

Level - Elementary

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

Repeatable for Credit: No

Last Taught: Fall 2025

Learning Outcomes: 1. Identify and explain critical developments in how the natural world has been analyzed and understood across premodern and early modern times and cultures.

Audience: Undergraduate

2. Identify and explain how science and its history have served a wide range of purposes in the premodern and early modern periods.

Audience: Undergraduate

3. Recognize and evaluate how premodern and early modern science has been deeply shaped by its historical, social, cultural, intellectual, and material contexts.

Audience: Undergraduate

4. Interpret and evaluate historical sources to construct persuasive arguments concerning science and its history in the premodern and early modern periods.

Audience: Undergraduate

ILS 202 – WESTERN CULTURE: SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, PHILOSOPHY II

3 credits.

Western science and technology in the making. Major developments viewed in philosophical and social context from the 17th to early twentieth century.

Requisites: Not open to students with credit for HIST SCI 202 or 404

Course Designation: Breadth - Natural Science

Level - Elementary

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

Repeatable for Credit: No

Last Taught: Spring 2026

Learning Outcomes: 1. Identify and explain critical developments in how the natural world has been analyzed and understood in early modern and modern periods and cultures.

Audience: Undergraduate

2. Identify and explain how science and its history have served a wide range of purposes in early modern and modern periods.

Audience: Undergraduate

3. Recognize and evaluate how early modern and modern science has been deeply shaped by its historical, social, cultural, intellectual, and material contexts.

Audience: Undergraduate

4. Interpret and evaluate historical sources to construct persuasive arguments concerning science and its history in the early modern and modern periods.

Audience: Undergraduate

ILS 203 – WESTERN CULTURE: LITERATURE AND THE ARTS I

3 credits.

The development of literature and the arts in the ancient and medieval world, including Akhenaton's Egypt, Homer's Troy, Euripides' Athens, Virgil's Rome, and Dante's Florence. Literature and art in the context of society and ideas.

Requisites: None

Course Designation: Breadth - Literature. Counts toward the Humanities req

Level - Elementary

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

Repeatable for Credit: No

Last Taught: Fall 2025

Learning Outcomes: 1. Demonstrate an understanding of major cultures, events, art, and literature within the ancient and premodern history of the Mediterranean world and the Near East.

Audience: Undergraduate

2. Demonstrate skills in critical reading, thinking, and communication about literature, art, and culture.

Audience: Undergraduate

3. Evaluate and critique the historical conditions that shape your own worldview through the humanistic study of ancient and premodern cultures.

Audience: Undergraduate

4. Demonstrate critical acumen, cultural sensitivity, empathy, curiosity, and intellectual grounding through the study of ancient and premodern art, literature, and culture..

Audience: Undergraduate

ILS 204 – WESTERN CULTURE: LITERATURE AND THE ARTS II

3-4 credits.

The development of literature and the arts from the Renaissance to the modern period, including such figures as Shakespeare and Michelangelo through T.S. Eliot and Picasso. Literature and art in the context of society and ideas.

Requisites: None**Course Designation:** Breadth - Literature. Counts toward the Humanities req

Level - Elementary

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

Repeatable for Credit: No**Last Taught:** Spring 2026**Learning Outcomes:** 1. Analyze and evaluate early modern and modern art and literature in relation to the cultures that produced them.

Audience: Undergraduate

2. Demonstrate an understanding of historical and contemporary interpretations of early modern and modern art and literature.

Audience: Undergraduate

3. Demonstrate an understanding of the way that culture shapes the form, content, interpretation, and reception of art and literature.

Audience: Undergraduate

4. Critically evaluate both the contributions and shortcomings of "Western" culture and its history.

Audience: Undergraduate

5. Analyze, evaluate, and integrate multi-disciplinary approaches to human endeavor.

Audience: Undergraduate

ILS 205 – WESTERN CULTURE: POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, AND SOCIAL THOUGHT I

3 credits.

The development of Western political, economic and social thought, from its origins in classic Greece and the Judaeo-Christian tradition, through Rome and the Medieval period, to the Renaissance and Reformation.

Requisites: None**Course Designation:** Breadth - Either Humanities or Social Science Level - Elementary

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

Repeatable for Credit: No**Last Taught:** Fall 2024**Learning Outcomes:** 1. Identify and explain critical developments in the history of western social, economic, and political thought from antiquity through the Middle Ages.

Audience: Undergraduate

2. Interpret and evaluate ideas and arguments from western social, economic, and political thought from antiquity through the Middle Ages.

Audience: Undergraduate

3. Recognize and evaluate how ancient and medieval social, economic, and political thought interacted with its historical context.

Audience: Undergraduate

ILS 206 – WESTERN CULTURE: POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, AND SOCIAL THOUGHT II

3 credits.

The development of Western political, economic and social thought from the Reformation to the present day: the origins, logic and evolution of liberalism, Marxism, and organic conservatism as the principal systems of thought of the modern age.

Requisites: None**Course Designation:** Breadth - Either Humanities or Social Science Level - Elementary

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

Repeatable for Credit: No**Last Taught:** Spring 2024**Learning Outcomes:** 1. Identify and explain critical developments in the history of western social, economic, and political thought from the Renaissance through the 19th or 20th centuries.

Audience: Undergraduate

2. Interpret and evaluate ideas and arguments from western social, economic, and political thought from the Renaissance through the 19th or 20th centuries.

Audience: Undergraduate

3. Recognize and evaluate how Renaissance and modern, economic, and political thought interacted with its historical context.

Audience: Undergraduate

ILS/RELIG ST 234 – GENRES OF WESTERN RELIGIOUS WRITING

3 credits.

Explores literary forms through which religions originating in western culture convey ideas. Focuses on Jewish, Christian, Muslim and related religious texts.

Requisites: Satisfied Communications A requirement

Course Designation: Gen Ed - Communication Part B

Breadth - Humanities

Level - Intermediate

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

Repeatable for Credit: No

Last Taught: Spring 2026

Learning Outcomes: 1. Identify and explain significant genres of religious writing.

Audience: Undergraduate

2. Identify ways in which written religious expressions are employed and deployed across various contexts and themes, such as pluralism, authority, race, identity, and violence.

Audience: Undergraduate

3. Demonstrate proficiency in close reading, interpretation, and written and oral analysis

Audience: Undergraduate

4. Demonstrate proficiency in categorizing, analyzing, and comparing diverse systems of value and belief in a variety of contexts.

Audience: Undergraduate

ILS 253 – LITERATURE AND SOCIETY

3 credits.

Representative episodes in the interaction of literature and society, organized either around a set of social institutions and their literary connections or around a set of literary forms and their social connections.

Requisites: Sophomore standing

Course Designation: Breadth - Literature. Counts toward the Humanities req

Level - Intermediate

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

Repeatable for Credit: No

Last Taught: Spring 2026

Learning Outcomes: 1. Analyze literary works from an interdisciplinary perspective with an emphasis on their interaction with society, including social institutions.

Audience: Undergraduate

2. Identify and explain historical and cultural developments in the interrelationship between literature and society.

Audience: Undergraduate

3. Demonstrate an understanding of how literature and society interact.

Audience: Undergraduate

4. Critically assess literary representations of society and its institutions.

Audience: Undergraduate

ILS 254 – LITERATURE AND SCIENCE

3 credits.

Examination of the interactions between science, technology, and literature.

Requisites: Sophomore standing

Course Designation: Breadth - Literature. Counts toward the Humanities req

Level - Intermediate

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

Repeatable for Credit: Yes, unlimited number of completions

Last Taught: Fall 2024

Learning Outcomes: 1. Analyze literary and dramatic works from an interdisciplinary perspective with an emphasis on the role and place of the scientific content therein.

Audience: Undergraduate

2. Identify and explain developments in the history of science and their relationship to and place in literary and dramatic works.

Audience: Undergraduate

3. Demonstrate an understanding of how literature, art, and science interact.

Audience: Undergraduate

4. Critique literary and dramatic representations of scientific issues.

Audience: Undergraduate

5. Formulate creative responses to scientific ideas and their representation in dramatic and literary works.

Audience: Undergraduate

ILS/ENVIR ST 255 – INTRODUCTION TO SUSTAINABILITY SCIENCE

4 credits.

Explore the foundations of sustainability using the UW-Madison campus as a living laboratory. Ground your feet on the UW-Madison campus and ask questions about the energy we use, the food we eat, the air we breathe, the land we occupy, the goods we purchase, and the waste we create. A blend of environmental sciences and studies. Use principles of chemistry, physics, and biology to understand the dynamics of our human and earth systems, but also explore societal issues like public health and social justice, all through the context of sustainability and the UW-Madison campus community.

Requisites: None**Course Designation:** Breadth - Physical Sci. Counts toward the Natural Sci req

Level - Elementary

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

Repeatable for Credit: No**Last Taught:** Fall 2025**Learning Outcomes:** 1. Identify drivers of climate change and describe effects both locally and globally

Audience: Undergraduate

2. Explain sustainability as depicted in models of the Triple Bottom Line

Audience: Undergraduate

3. Explain the sustainability challenges of operating a large public research institution, making connections from local to national and global contexts

Audience: Undergraduate

4. Analyze top-down versus bottom-up approaches to addressing sustainability issues on our campus and in the wider world

Audience: Undergraduate

5. Describe the intersection of sustainability goals with issues relating to communities of color and First Nations communities, particularly in Dane County and Wisconsin

Audience: Undergraduate

6. Value the human and natural capital necessary to sustain our life support systems on this planet

Audience: Undergraduate

ILS 298 – DIRECTED STUDY

1-3 credits.

Individual mentored study with a faculty member, at the intermediate level.

Requisites: Consent of instructor**Course Designation:** Level - Intermediate

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

Repeatable for Credit: No**ILS 299 – DIRECTED STUDY**

1-3 credits.

Individual mentored study with a faculty member, at the intermediate level.

Requisites: Consent of instructor**Course Designation:** Level - Intermediate

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

Repeatable for Credit: No**Last Taught:** Spring 2024

ILS/AGROECOL/RELIG ST 304 – PLANTS AND RELIGION

3 credits.

Plants play an important role in just about every aspect of our lives and culture, including religion. Learn about the ways plants are used and understood in religions including Judaism, Christianity, Islam, and indigenous and pagan traditions. Apply theories from across the humanities to interpret plants and ecological themes in religious practices, works of art, literature, architecture, and gardens. Define important societal questions, collect and analyze evidence using primary sources, present original conclusions, and contribute to ongoing discussions about the relationship of people and plants. Think critically about the similarities and differences between your own use and understanding of plants and those of larger global communities.

Requisites: Satisfied Communications A requirement or graduate/professional standing

Course Designation: Breadth - Humanities
Level - Intermediate

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S
Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement

Repeatable for Credit: No

Learning Outcomes: 1. Identify and employ various approaches to interpreting plants and ecological themes in religious works of art, literature, architecture, gardens, and practices.

Audience: Both Grad & Undergrad

2. Describe key concepts of world religions and how they have and continue to understand and incorporate plants into their traditions and beliefs.

Audience: Both Grad & Undergrad

3. Practice interpretative methods within multiple historical and cultural contexts.

Audience: Both Grad & Undergrad

4. Apply critical approaches to understanding in religious practices and beliefs and alternative ways of considering them.

Audience: Both Grad & Undergrad

5. Compare and contrast the complexities of one's own culture and larger global communities.

Audience: Both Grad & Undergrad

6. Extract and analytically summarize arguments from secondary source books on plants and religion.

Audience: Graduate

7. Develop an original humanities argument based on primary sources and using secondary sources to construct a framework.

Audience: Graduate

8. Analyze current academic debates about plants and religion across religious studies, history, folklore, sociology, and art history.

Audience: Graduate

ILS/LITTRANS/SCAND ST 321 – HUMANS AND OTHER ANIMALS IN NORDIC LITERATURE AND FILM

3 credits.

Engage with major questions in the field of animal studies while studying a variety of Nordic texts that center the animal, including novels, tales, and feature and documentary films. Through fiction, film, and theory, tackle questions such as: What distinguishes humans from animals? Can humans speak for animals, and should they try? And, what can Nordic literature and film teach us about humans and other animals in the Anthropocene?

Requisites: Satisfied Communications A requirement or graduate/professional standing

Course Designation: Breadth - Literature. Counts toward the Humanities req

Level - Intermediate

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

Grad 50% - Counts toward 50% graduate coursework requirement

Repeatable for Credit: No

Last Taught: Spring 2026

Learning Outcomes: 1. Identify and critically engage with major questions in the field of animal studies in a Nordic context in class discussion, in writing assignments, and on exams.

Audience: Both Grad & Undergrad

2. Interpret film and literature in their cultural and historical contexts in class discussion, in writing assignments, and on exams.

Audience: Both Grad & Undergrad

3. Analyze literature and film in multiple genres--including novels, tales, and feature and documentary films--in formal papers.

Audience: Both Grad & Undergrad

4. Synthesize, interpret, and respond to current scholarship in the fields of Nordic literary studies, film studies, and animal studies in formal papers.

Audience: Graduate

ILS/ITALIAN 350 – ROME: LUST FOR GLORY

3-4 credits.

Examines the development of Rome, "the Eternal City," and its continuing presence as both a metaphoric and physical focal point of Italian artistic and cultural sensibilities. Outline the development of Rome's authoritative or "mythical" status in literature, art, architecture and film, beginning in the Augustan era and arriving to today, focusing on significant moments in the creation and expansion of the actual city and its cultural influence in the late-Middle Ages, the Renaissance, the era of the Risorgimento (Unification of Italy), and the rise of Fascism. Develop ability to think critically about how the diverse material productions of writers (historians, playwrights, poets), painters, sculptors, architects, philosophical thinkers, and later filmmakers of the periods covered reflect one another and reflect the ideas and ideologies of their age.

Requisites: Sophomore standing**Course Designation:** Breadth - Literature. Counts toward the Humanities req

Level - Intermediate

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

Repeatable for Credit: No**Last Taught:** Spring 2025**Learning Outcomes:** 1. Demonstrate knowledge of Roman society and culture in both Antiquity, the Pre-Modern, and Modern Eras.

Audience: Undergraduate

2. Examine, analyze, and interpret texts in translation and material culture.
Audience: Undergraduate

3. Critique Roman society and culture throughout the periods under review and compare them to other societies and cultures and to each other.

Audience: Undergraduate

ILS/POLI SCI 363 – LITERATURE AND POLITICS

3-4 credits.

Interactions between literature and politics, and the role of literature more generally in the functioning of the political systems. Not open to students with credit for POLI SCI 570 prior to fall 2017

Requisites: Sophomore standing**Course Designation:** Breadth - Social Science

Level - Intermediate

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

Repeatable for Credit: No**Last Taught:** Spring 2026**Learning Outcomes:** 1. Understand how literary writing affects political consciousness.

Audience: Undergraduate

2. Explore how literary works represent and negotiate political questions in writing.
Audience: Undergraduate

3. Encourage students of literature to read and think politically.

Audience: Undergraduate

ILS/ITALIAN/LITTRANS/POLI SCI 365 – MACHIAVELLI AND HIS WORLD

3 credits.

Introduces students to the major works of Machiavelli through the close reading of his writings in cultural and historical contexts. Discussion and targeted writing assignments will aim at cultivating in students 1) a broad understanding of Machiavelli's principal intellectual attitudes, 2) a deeper understanding of his literary sensibility, and 3) the ability to articulate controversies and complexities surrounding his thought.

Requisites: Satisfied Communications A requirement**Course Designation:** Breadth - Literature. Counts toward the Humanities req

Level - Intermediate

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

Repeatable for Credit: No**Last Taught:** Fall 2025**Learning Outcomes:** 1. Develop a broad understanding of Machiavelli's principal intellectual attitudes.

Audience: Undergraduate

2. Cultivate a deep understanding of Machiavelli's literary sensibility.

Audience: Undergraduate

3. Articulate controversies and complexities surrounding Machiavelli's political thought.

Audience: Undergraduate

ILS/LACIS 367 – THE LITERATURE OF MIGRATION AND THE MIGRANT EXPERIENCE IN THE AMERICAS

3 credits.

Explores literature to understand representations and experiences of migration within the United States, and in the Americas more broadly, over time and across cultures. Focusing on literature and employing historical and psychoanalytic interpretive approaches, critically analyze artistic and literary representations of the migrant experience. Topics include: the relationships between literature, art, and migration; the role of migrants in constructing the United States; the role of art and literature in the empowerment of marginalized groups. Analyze literary texts in their contexts using tools of literary analysis and express ideas about literary texts and art from a critical perspective.

Requisites: Sophomore standing

Course Designation: Ethnic St - Counts toward Ethnic Studies requirement

Breadth - Literature. Counts toward the Humanities req

Level - Intermediate

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

Repeatable for Credit: No

Last Taught: Spring 2026

Learning Outcomes: 1. Evaluate literature in its relationship to migration by means of various communicative, deliberative, and persuasive argumentation.

Audience: Undergraduate

2. Identify in literature historical patterns of migration within the US and the Americas and their importance to understand current national culture and tensions.

Audience: Undergraduate

3. Understand through literature concepts and theories and apply them to the interpretation of literature across cultures.

Audience: Undergraduate

4. Recognize, analyze, and evaluate in literature the intersections between culture and other socially meaningful categories, such as race, class, gender, identity, ethnicity, disability, and sexuality as they are represented within literature .

Audience: Undergraduate

ILS 369 – MAGICAL REALISM AND POSTMODERNITY

3 credits.

Examines the concept of magical realism and its cultural implications.

Provides a critical framework for evaluating literature, art and movies and engaging in basic research, particularly when it comes to narrative analysis. Pays particular attention to the Latin-American boom, a time of big writers and big literature that presses the limits between fiction and reality, modernity and postmodernity.

Requisites: Sophomore standing

Course Designation: Breadth - Literature. Counts toward the Humanities req

Level - Intermediate

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

Repeatable for Credit: No

Last Taught: Spring 2026

Learning Outcomes: 1. Identify the role of history in Latin American cultures and demonstrate its importance for understanding those cultures.

Audience: Undergraduate

2. Demonstrate awareness of the ways in which Latin American culture is found in various geographic settings.

Audience: Undergraduate

3. Recognize, analyze, and evaluate the intersections between culture and other socially meaningful categories, such as race, class, gender identity, ethnicity, disability, and sexuality as they appear within literary and artistic practices.

Audience: Undergraduate

4. Evaluate literature, art, and movies connected to "Magical Realism" by means of various communicative, deliberative, and persuasive modes.

Audience: Undergraduate

5. Demonstrate an understanding of the historical moment that we inhabit and the way in which some Latin American artists analyze it and express it.

Audience: Undergraduate

6. Identify, explain, and critically analyze the making of meaning in "Magical Realism."

Audience: Undergraduate

ILS 371 – INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES IN THE ARTS AND LITERATURE

3-4 credits.

Selected interdisciplinary topics in literature and art with emphasis on social, historical and political contexts.

Requisites: Sophomore standing

Course Designation: Breadth - Literature. Counts toward the Humanities req

Level - Intermediate

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

Repeatable for Credit: Yes, unlimited number of completions

Last Taught: Fall 2025

Learning Outcomes: 1. Identify and explain how people make social, cultural, historical, and political meaning in literature and art.

Audience: Undergraduate

2. Critically analyze diverse approaches to how people make social, cultural, historical, and political meaning through literature and art.

Audience: Undergraduate

3. Recognize and synthesize diverse types of knowledge and disciplinary approaches to how people make social, cultural, historical, and political meaning in literature and art.

Audience: Undergraduate

ILS 372 – INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES IN THE SOCIAL SCIENCES

3 credits.

Interdisciplinary analysis of selected topics in the social sciences.

Requisites: Sophomore standing

Course Designation: Breadth - Social Science

Level - Intermediate

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

Repeatable for Credit: Yes, unlimited number of completions

Last Taught: Spring 2024

Learning Outcomes: 1. Identify and explain how people make social, cultural, historical, and political meaning in the social sciences.

Audience: Undergraduate

2. Critically analyze diverse approaches to how people make social, cultural, historical, and political meaning in the social sciences.

Audience: Undergraduate

3. Recognize and synthesize diverse types of knowledge and disciplinary approaches to how people make social, cultural, historical, and political meaning in the social sciences.

Audience: Undergraduate

ILS 373 – INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES IN THE HUMANITIES

3-4 credits.

Interdisciplinary analysis of selected topics in the humanities.

Requisites: Sophomore standing

Course Designation: Breadth - Humanities

Level - Intermediate

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

Repeatable for Credit: Yes, unlimited number of completions

Last Taught: Spring 2025

Learning Outcomes: 1. Identify and explain how people make social, cultural, historical, and political meaning in the humanities.

Audience: Undergraduate

2. Critically analyze diverse approaches to how people make social, cultural, historical, and political meaning through the humanities.

Audience: Undergraduate

3. Recognize and synthesize diverse types of knowledge and disciplinary approaches to how people make social, cultural, historical, and political meaning in literature and art.

Audience: Undergraduate

ILS 400 – CAPSTONE INTEGRATION SEMINAR

3 credits.

Capstone experience seminar for Integrated Liberal Studies (ILS) students.

Requisites: Junior standing and declared in Certificate in Integrated Liberal Studies

Course Designation: Breadth - Either Humanities or Social Science
Level - Advanced

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

Repeatable for Credit: Yes, unlimited number of completions

Last Taught: Spring 2026

Learning Outcomes: 1. Recognize and synthesize arguments, concepts, and approaches to how people make meaning in light of humanistic and social scientific inquiry.

Audience: Undergraduate

2. Formulate new questions about and integrate new approaches to how people make meaning in light of humanistic and social scientific inquiry.

Audience: Undergraduate

3. Analyze arguments, concepts, and approaches to how people make meaning in light of humanistic and social scientific inquiry.

Audience: Undergraduate

4. Articulate and assess the value of a liberal education in light of humanistic and social scientific arguments, concepts, and approaches.

Audience: Undergraduate

ILS/JEWISH/SOC 423 – MODERN JEWISH THOUGHT

3 credits.

How do Jews fit into the modern world? While the "Jewish Question" initially referred to debates about Jewish emancipation (the struggle for equal citizenship and social integration that started with the French Revolution), it later served to describe modern Jewish political and social thought about the identity, place, and role of the Jews in the modern world. Beginning in the late 19th century, as cultural assimilation, economic impoverishment in eastern Europe, and rising antisemitism sowed doubts about the viability of emancipation and traditionalism alike, Jewish thinkers proposed new answers to the Jewish question. Learn about some of the major answers they debated, including revolutionary universalistic utopias (socialism and Communism), various forms of Jewish nationalism, hyphenated identities, cultural pluralism, and cosmopolitanism. Work to contextualize these ideas historically while also considering whether and how they remain relevant to the present.

Requisites: Sophomore standing**Course Designation:** Breadth - Social Science Level - Intermediate

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

Repeatable for Credit: No**Last Taught:** Fall 2025

Learning Outcomes: 1. Engage with major figures, ideas, and debates in the social and political thought of Jews about the "Jewish Question" from the late 19th century until the mid-20th century
Audience: Undergraduate

2. Understand these ideas in relation to the historical contexts in which they were produced

Audience: Undergraduate

3. Enter into a dialogue with past thinkers, critically assessing whether and how their ideas may remain relevant to the changed circumstances of the present

Audience: Undergraduate

ILS/POLI SCI 463 – DECEPTION AND POLITICS

3-4 credits.

Deception and truth telling as matters of fundamental political concern. Writers ranging from Plato to John Rawls have grappled with the problem of deception and truth-telling in politics. Flattery, hypocrisy, lying as a matter of state, lying as a matter of policy: philosophical explorations of these and related phenomena are the central focus.

Requisites: Sophomore standing**Course Designation:** Breadth - Either Humanities or Social Science Level - Intermediate

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

Repeatable for Credit: No**Last Taught:** Fall 2025

Learning Outcomes: 1. Explore deception – and truth telling – as matters of fundamental political concern.

Audience: Undergraduate

2. Examine flattery, hypocrisy, lying as a matter of state, and lying as a matter of policy: philosophical explorations of these and related phenomena are at the center of this course.

Audience: Undergraduate

3. Explore writers ranging from Plato to John Rawls and how they have grappled with the problem of deception and truth-telling in politics.

Audience: Undergraduate

ILS 490 – RESEARCH IN INTEGRATED LIBERAL STUDIES

2-3 credits.

Provides opportunities to pursue advanced research in integrated liberal studies.

Requisites: Consent of instructor**Course Designation:** Level - Advanced

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

Repeatable for Credit: Yes, unlimited number of completions**Last Taught:** Spring 2021**ILS 681 – UNDERGRADUATE HONORS THESIS**

3 credits.

Individual study for juniors or seniors completing theses for honors as arranged with a faculty member.

Requisites: Consent of instructor**Course Designation:** Level - Advanced

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

Honors - Honors Only Courses (H)

Repeatable for Credit: No**ILS 682 – UNDERGRADUATE HONORS THESIS**

3 credits.

Individual study for juniors or seniors completing theses for honors as arranged with a faculty member.

Requisites: Consent of instructor**Course Designation:** Level - Advanced

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

Honors - Honors Only Courses (H)

Repeatable for Credit: No

ILS 691 – UNDERGRADUATE THESIS

3 credits.

Individual study for juniors or seniors completing theses as arranged with a faculty member.

Requisites: Consent of instructor

Course Designation: Level - Advanced

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

Repeatable for Credit: No

Last Taught: Fall 2008

ILS 692 – UNDERGRADUATE THESIS

3 credits.

Individual study for juniors or seniors completing theses as arranged with a faculty member.

Requisites: Consent of instructor

Course Designation: Level - Advanced

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

Repeatable for Credit: No

Last Taught: Spring 2009