BA in Interdisciplinary Studies

The Interdisciplinary Studies major provides a creative and challenging invitation for students to design a unique 60-credit major exceeding the scope of a single perspective. Students begin the program by taking the required Interdisciplinary Studies Gateway Seminar, which surveys the history of disciplines and how they constitute major and minor degree programs. This gateway course then turns to study the various disciplines as they are constituted at Naropa. With this background, students work with an advisor, their peers, the Gateway Seminar instructor, and two faculty mentors to design a unique focus of study within two or three disciplines called a Learning Agreement and learn the practice of interdisciplinarity. This approach ensures that students bring an informed, interdisciplinary, and committed perspective to designing their Learning Agreement. The Advanced INTD Research Seminar (INTD380) fosters interdisciplinary research methods by providing students with skills necessary for work in their chosen areas of study and across the disciplines. Students are required to take two Special Topics courses in Interdisciplinary Studies (INTD490). The final component of the program is the Capstone Seminar (INTD480) taken in the final semester and designed to guide students through their senior thesis and portfolio.

Declaration of Major

In accordance with university policy, students can declare their major at any time. In order to progress through the course work in this major, students should take any course prerequisites at the earliest opportunity. Because of the nature of this program, it is important to meet with program faculty either before you declare or soon after. Please consult with your Academic Advisor to plan your schedule in the program.

BA students may not declare the major in Interdisciplinary Studies after they have completed 90 credit hours.

Degree Requirements

BA Interdisciplinary Studies

Approval by the program lead of Interdisciplinary Studies of a Learning Agreement outlining the student’s focused, achievable, individualized program.

Students will design their Learning Agreement for a BA in Interdisciplinary Studies in the Gateway Seminar.

Sixty credits are generally earned at 300-level classes and above. These credits will be accumulated by completing the courses listed in the student’s approved Learning Agreement and will include credits earned from the following required courses:

- INTD301 The Gateway Seminar [3]
- INTD380 Advanced INTD Research Seminar [3]
- Six credits of: INTD490 Special Topics [3]
- INTD480 The Capstone Seminar [3]

Course work to be applied to the major may include up to 9 credit hours of Independent Study and 9 credit hours of transfer and/or consortium credits.*

Interdisciplinary Studies students must attend the Gateway and Capstone seminars, Special Topics, and Advanced Research courses in residence.

100–200 level courses are intended for first- and second-year students. In some programs, courses are developmental and cumulative in skill advancement (e.g., Visual Arts, Music, Performing Arts, Traditional Eastern Arts). In some cases, 100- and 200-level courses are acceptable to fulfill the 12-credit hour requirement for each discipline.

* Note: This does not constitute an increase in the total number of transfer credits allowed. A maximum of 60 transfer credits will be accepted.

Learning Agreement

The Learning Agreement is an intensive investigation into the areas of academic interest. The student will be guided through this investigation by a careful consideration and interaction with the professor teaching the Gateway Seminar. In order to reflect the interdisciplinary nature of the Bachelor of Arts program, the Learning Agreement must incorporate disciplines from at least two but no more than three of the BA programs offered at Naropa. Students must select a minimum of 12 credit hours at the 300- level or above from each BA program’s list of required courses provided in the course catalog. This is to ensure that they receive basic fluency, literacy, and methodology for each discipline.

Course Listings

INTD210
Introduction to Gender and Women’s Studies (3)

Gender and women’s studies begins with Hanisch’s premise that “the personal is political” as a means of thinking about personal issues as broader political and structural issues, resulting in various levels of privilege and oppression. We investigate “first-wave” feminism, second wave concerns and critiques, and third wave ideologies and queer theories. We examine the constructed nature of gender and identity via historical, theoretical, and cross-cultural texts to develop conscious approaches to thinking about the intersections of race, sexuality, and class. In addition, the course seeks to sharpen our critical awareness of how gender operates in cultural contexts and in our own lives in order to participate in social change. We read a diverse group of historical and contemporary feminist and queer writers, activists, and theorists.

INTD301
The Gateway Seminar (3)

The required Gateway Seminar in the Interdisciplinary Studies program surveys the history of disciplines as they are studied in colleges and universities. These disciplines, psychology, religious studies, fine arts, etc., traditionally constitute what becomes a student’s major and minor degree program. From that vantage
point, the Gateway Seminar then turns to study the various disciplines as they are constituted at Naropa. With this background, students then choose their INTD mentors and create their Learning Agreement, which is the template for their own program in Interdisciplinary Studies. This approach ensures that students bring an informed and educated perspective to their unique focus. This course is a prerequisite to INTD program of studies. It enables students to decide if this major is best for them.

**INTD310**
**Feminist and Queer Methods of Inquiry (3)**
Feminist and queer scholarship informs methods of information gathering and distribution; and challenges philosophies of science and how science has begun to address these challenges. The course examines how feminist, queer and contemplative ways of knowing can inform the research process and explore postcolonial, diasporic and critical race perspectives on feminist epistemology. Students take a contemplative tour through diverse methods of inquiry, including by not limited to memoir, observation, participant observation, archival research and experimentation. Through personal reflection and observation of gender in the world, students create diverse work products that both bear witness to gender in the everyday world and stand in resistance to oppressive power structures.

**INTD380**
**Advanced INTD Research Seminar (3)**
This course aims to foster INTD research methods by providing students with skills necessary for work in their chosen areas of study, through a critical comparative examination of the practices, protocols, theories and methods of disciplinary education as these have developed intellectually and institutionally over the past several centuries. In systematically comparing the methods and rhetorical strategies of different disciplines, and focusing upon the history of modern educational practices, the course develops critical thinking and research skills essential to laying a foundation for work during the subsequent thesis-writing semester. At the same time, the seminar fosters the community-building work of Interdisciplinary Studies as a contemplative forum for the discussion of broad academic issues confronting university education today. prerequisite: COR115.

**INTD490**
**Special Topics Seminar: Making Friends with Death and Dying (3)**
The Special Topics Seminar investigates the application of theories and methods of interdisciplinarity to specific historical, critical and theoretical issues and problems. Specific topics are announced each semester and are generated by the students.

Spring 2015 Making Friends with Death and Dying This course contemplates death and dying from diverse perspectives: (1) the bio-medical approach of Dr. Sherwin Nuland’s *How We Die*; (2) Joan Didion’s literary memoir *The Year of Magical Thinking*; (3) the contemplative hospice training of Judith Lief’s *Making Friends with Death*; (4) traditional Tibetan Buddhist teachings [Fremantle’s *Luminous Emptiness*]. By integrating these various approaches we move towards a holistic understanding of the human experience of death and dying.

**INTD491**
**Directed Honors Reading (3)**
The honors directed reading seminar is designed to enable interdisciplinary students to read in their respective fields of study as proposed in their Learning Agreement, or concepts that are currently significant, controversial, or seminal in their fields of which texts the student would not otherwise be assigned in a course at Naropa. By permission of instructor. Open to INTD majors only.

**INTD492**
**Honors Directed Research (3)**
The honors directed research seminar is designed to enable interdisciplinary students to do research in their respective fields of study as proposed in their Learning Agreement, or concepts that are currently significant, controversial, or seminal in their fields of which texts the student would not otherwise be assigned in a course at Naropa. By permission of instructor. Open to INTD majors only.

**INTD499**
**Independent Study: Interdisciplinary Studies (1)**
This course offering is an opportunity for students to engage in in-depth, concentrated study with a particular faculty member for a semester. The design of study and coursework is decided upon by the student and faculty member.