Interdisciplinary Studies in Liberal Arts (ISLA)

ISLA Courses

ISLA 123. Introduction to Science, Technology & Society. 4 units
Term Typically Offered: F, W, SP
Introductory exploration of science, technology, and society relationships from interdisciplinary perspectives in the arts, communications, humanities, and social sciences. Topic areas include ethics and public policy; gender, race and culture; media arts and society; science and risk communication. 4 lectures.

ISLA 201. Introduction to Interdisciplinary Studies. 4 units
Term Typically Offered: W, SP
Prerequisite: ES 112, ISLA 123, RELS 201, or WGS 201.
Focus on methods, concepts and skills in the Interdisciplinary Studies major, and on career and graduate school opportunities. Refinement of individualized plan of study to reflect professional, educational, and personal goals. 4 lectures.

ISLA 240. Introduction to Media Arts and Technologies. 4 units
Term Typically Offered: F, SP
Prerequisite: Completion of GE C3. Recommended: TH 210.
The intimate connection between the desire for artistic expression and current technologies that can assist that expression. Examination of technologies for theater, sound, cinema, gaming, and embodied media. Guest speakers with expertise. 4 lectures.

ISLA 303. Values and Technology. 4 units
GE Area C4
Term Typically Offered: F, W, SP
Prerequisite: Junior standing; completion of GE Area A with grades of C- or better; completion of one course in GE Area B1 with a grade of C- or better; and one course in GE Area C.
Humanistic investigation into the theoretical and practical applications of technology with specific reference to the social effects of technological change. For all majors. Non-technical. 4 lectures. Crosslisted as HNRS 304/ISLA 303. Fulfills GE Area C4.

ISLA 305. Topics in Public Engagements with STEM. 4 units
GE Area B7; GE Area F
Term Typically Offered: W
Prerequisite: Junior standing; completion of GE Area A with grades of C- or better; completion of GE Area B1 with a grade of C- or better in at least one of the courses; and completion of GE Areas B2, B3, and B4. Recommended: ISLA 123.
Exploration of contemporary issues in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), with an emphasis on public understandings of and engagements with STEM research and teaching cultures. The Class Schedule will list topic selected. Total credit limited to 8 units. 4 lectures. Fulfills GE Area B7 or GE Area F.

ISLA 315. Critical Issues in Latin American Studies. 4 units
GE Area D5
Term Typically Offered: TBD
Prerequisite: Junior standing; completion of GE Area A with grades of C- or better; completion of one course in GE Area B1 with a grade of C- or better; and one lower-division course in GE Area D. Recommended: GE Area D2 or D3.
An interdisciplinary approach to selected topics and issues that address how social, economic, political, and cultural forces have shaped the challenges that face contemporary Latin America. Descriptive subtitles assigned to each course. The Class Schedule will list topic selected. Total credit limited to 12 units. 4 lectures. Fulfills GE Area D5.

ISLA 316. London: From Roman Colony to World Capital. 4 units
GE Area D5
Term Typically Offered: SU
Prerequisite: Junior standing; enrollment in London Study program; completion of GE Area A with grades of C- or better; completion of one course in GE Area B1 with a grade of C- or better; and one lower-division course in GE Area D. Corequisite: ISLA 319.
Selective examination of the historical and cultural legacy of London within the development of Western civilization as well as its influence on the submission and eventual emergence of the non-Western world in the twentieth century. An analytical and interpretive study of how London shaped the social, economic, political and legal institutions of Western society. 4 lectures. Fulfills GE Area D5.

ISLA 319. London Activities. 2 units
CR/NC
Term Typically Offered: SU
Prerequisite: Enrollment in London Study program.
Analytical and interpretive survey of the principal center of the English speaking world. The development of London from Roman administrative capital to modern cultural, financial and political colossus. Credit/No Credit grading only. 2 activities.

ISLA 320. Topics and Issues in Values, Media and Culture. 4 units
GE Area C4
Term Typically Offered: W, SP, SU
Prerequisite: Junior standing; completion of GE Area A with grades of C- or better; completion of one course in GE Area B1 with a grade of C- or better; and completion of GE Area C1, C2, or C3. Recommended: Completion of GE Area C1 or C3.
The interplay of values, media, and culture from an interdisciplinary perspective. Descriptive subtitles assigned to each course. The Class Schedule will list topic selected. 4 lectures. Total credit limited to 8 units with different subtopic; repeatable in same term. Crosslisted as HNRS/ISLA 320. Fulfills GE Area C4.
GE Area B7; GE Area F
Term Typically Offered: TBD
Prerequisite: Junior standing; completion of GE Area A with grades of C- or better; completion of GE Area B1 with a grade of C- or better in at least one of the courses; and completion of GE Areas B2, B3, and B4.

Scientific investigation of the natural features of the Cal Poly landscape and their transformations by land management technology. Analysis of the environmental, economic, social, and political effects of agriculture, resource extraction, and construction technology on that landscape. Emphasis on the educational, land-use, and long term planning issues of technology presented by this case study. 4 lectures. Crosslisted as AG/ISLA/UNIV 330. Fulfills GE Area B7 or GE Area F.

ISLA 340. Media Arts and Technologies: Storytelling. 4 units
Term Typically Offered: F, W, SP
Prerequisite: ISLA 240 or the completion of an ART or TH course in GE Area C3.

Creation of expressive technology-based pre-production works for standard television and film presentation to interactive technological environments. Pre-production script work, storyboarding, flow chart design, collaborative story creation, audience testing, and basic animatic construction. Visiting professionals work with students directly in collaborative workshops. 3 lectures, 1 activity.

ISLA 341. Media Arts and Technologies: Cinematic Process. 4 units
Term Typically Offered: W, SP
Prerequisite: ISLA 340.

Cinematic production including adapting a narrative for different presentation formats, storyboarding, lighting, sound recording, cinematography and editing. Production of short works designed as foundational pieces that can be built upon individually or in teams in independent study. Visiting professionals run collaborative production workshops. 2 lectures, 2 activities.

ISLA 350. The Global Environment. 4 units
GE Area B7; GE Area F
Term Typically Offered: TBD
Prerequisite: Junior standing; completion of GE Area A with grades of C- or better; completion of GE Area B1 with a grade of C- or better in at least one of the courses; and completion of GE Areas B2, B3, and B4.

Interdisciplinary investigation of how human activities impact the Earth’s environment on a global scale. Examination of population, resource use, climate change, and biodiversity from scientific/technical and social/economic/historical/political perspectives. Use of remote sensing maps. Sustainable solutions. 4 lectures. Crosslisted as AG/EDES/ENGR/GEOG/ISLA/SCM/UNIV 350. Fulfills GE Area B7 or GE Area F.

ISLA 355. Interdisciplinary Research Methods. 4 units
Term Typically Offered: F
Prerequisite: ISLA 201. Recommended: STAT 130, STAT 217, STAT 218, or STAT 251.

Exploration of interdisciplinary research strategies, theory, and process, including contextualization, perspective taking, and integration. Development of knowledge and skills needed to conduct original interdisciplinary research. Preparation for senior project or senior portfolio. 4 lectures.

ISLA 393. Action-oriented Ethnography. 4 units
Term Typically Offered: F
Prerequisite: Junior standing; completion of GE Area A with grades of C- or better; completion of GE Area D3; and one of the following: ANT 201, ANT 202, ANT 250, ISLA 123, any ES course, any WGS course.

Development of knowledge and skills needed to conduct original action-oriented ethnographic research. Grounded in the reflexive ‘turn’ in anthropology and critical race, science, technology and society, queer and feminist studies, students will engage questions of authority, representation, critical consciousness and justice. 4 lectures. Crosslisted as ANT/ISLA 393.

ISLA 400. Independent Study Project. 1-4 units
Term Typically Offered: TBD
Prerequisite: Junior or senior standing and consent of instructor.

Independent study project focusing more than one discipline on a problem of study related to the liberal arts. May involve travel and/or independent research. Bibliography and study plan submitted in advance. Total credit limited to 8 units.

ISLA 440. Advanced Interdisciplinary Studies Seminar. 4 units
Term Typically Offered: W, SP
Prerequisite: ISLA 201. Recommended: ISLA 355.

Advanced examination of selected interdisciplinary topic. Topics will be examined from perspective of multiple disciplines. The Class Schedule will list topic selected. Total credit limited to 8 units. 4 lectures.

ISLA 450. Summer Internship in London. 12 units
CR/NC
Term Typically Offered: SU
Prerequisite: Junior standing and consent of the Director of London Study.

Extensive work experience in London. Administration, orientation, and supervision of independent work by the service provider. Intensive two-week orientation, eight-week full-time work assignment. Evaluation by instructor, internship supervisor, and employer. Credit/No Credit grading only. 4 lectures, 8 units of independent study.

ISLA 456. Advanced Project-Based Learning in Science, Technology & Society. 4 units
Term Typically Offered: F, W, SP
Prerequisite: ISLA 123; completion of GE Areas A with grades of C- or better; completion of GE Areas B2 or B3; junior standing; and minor in one of the following: Ethics, Public Policy, Science and Technology; Gender, Race, Culture, Science, and Technology; Media Arts, Society and Technology; or Science and Risk Communication.

Develop, maintain and lead teams in a project investigating complex multi-disciplinary issues in science, technology and society. Integrate knowledge across the minors. 2 lectures, 2 activities.

ISLA 461. Senior Project. 4 units
Term Typically Offered: W, SP
Prerequisite: Senior standing; and ISLA 355.

Selection and completion of an interdisciplinary research or creative project that draws upon at least two disciplines. 4 seminars.
ISLA 470. Selected Advanced Topics. 2-4 units  
Term Typically Offered: TBD 
Prerequisite: Junior standing; and completion of GE Area A with grades of C- or better.

Focused interdisciplinary study of an issue impacting or impacted by the liberal arts, combining the insight and expertise of more than one of the liberal arts disciplines, especially as they interface with the sciences and technology and/or international studies in a study abroad setting. The Class Schedule will list topic selected. Total credit limited to 8 units; repeatable in same term. 2 to 4 lectures.