

INTERDISCIPLINARY THEMATIC PLAN

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The Interdisciplinary Thematic Plan of the Liberal Studies major is constituted by the Core Courses (27 units), the Personalized Coordinated Program (21 units), and the Senior Project (3 units).

CORE COURSES: The Core Courses form a well-integrated sequence that addresses the most important knowledge in the three areas of Liberal Studies: humanities and arts, natural sciences, and social sciences. Students should take LBST 300 and LBST 302A during their first semester in the major. These courses must be completed before taking LBST 302B in the second semester. Take LBST 301 during the first or second semester. LBST 301 and LBST 302B are prerequisites for the third semester courses: LBST 303, 304 and 305. LBST 304 **and** either LBST 303 or LBST 305 must be completed before taking PHIL/LBST 401.

PERSONALIZED COORDINATED PROGRAM: The Personalized Coordinated Program consists of upper-division coursework directed toward an interdisciplinary problem, theme, or issue, chosen in close coordination with a faculty advisor from Liberal Studies. To promote an interdisciplinary approach, students must take no more than 9 units of coursework from a single department and no more than 15 units from one of the three Liberal Studies areas: humanities and arts, natural sciences, and social sciences. Students should consult with a Liberal Studies advisor before enrolling in any ITP courses. To make an appointment, contact the Department of Liberal Studies by coming to Humanities 214 or calling (657) 278-2794. Each semester, students should proceed through the sequence of Core Courses and fill in the remainder of their schedules with ITP courses from their Personalized Coordinated Program. Samples of actual Personalized Coordinated Programs are available on the LBST website:

http://hss.fullerton.edu/liberal/thematic_plan_examples.asp

SENIOR PROJECT: Students complete the program with a Senior Project, such as a thesis or creative work, on a topic that relates to the theme of their Personalized Coordinated Program.

The Senior Project requires completion of 3 units of Independent Study (499) distributed over the last two semesters prior to graduation. In the next to the last semester, one unit of 499 is devoted to the development of a project proposal and an annotated bibliography. In order to register for 499, students need the approval of a full time faculty member and a registration permit from that faculty member's department. Satisfactory completion of this one unit of 499 requires the approval of a senior project proposal. The proposal must be approved and signed by both the full time faculty member who has agreed to act as project supervisor and a Liberal Studies advisor. The proposal must include a clear description of the topic, a well-defined research plan, an annotated bibliography, and a specific schedule for the completion of the project including realistic due dates for drafts or other indications of progress. In the last semester prior to graduation the project should be completed through registration for two final units of 499. If unusual circumstances warrant, a student may take all three units of 499 in a single semester with the joint approval of the project supervisor and a Liberal Studies advisor.

All ITP students are required to attend at least one Senior Project Workshop prior to or during their enrollment in their first unit of 499. Senior Project Workshops include presentations by ITP students currently completing their projects and a faculty-taught module on techniques and procedures for the successful completion of a research paper or similar project. The workshops provide opportunities for ITP students to learn and gain support from peers and faculty. All ITP students are required to present a short work-in-progress report on their Senior Project at a Senior Project Workshop during their final fall or spring semester prior to graduation. No ITP student can graduate without a satisfactory presentation of his or her work at a Senior Project Workshop.