

Integrated Program in Humane Studies

Interdisciplinary

The Integrated Program in Humane Studies (IPHS), the oldest of Kenyon's interdisciplinary programs, involves students in an intensive study of classic works deriving from a wide range of historical contexts, cultural settings, and fields of knowledge. Our mission is to encourage and guide intellectual exploration and experimentation. Balancing tradition and innovation, IPHS is dedicated to helping students clearly and articulately express their interpretations, analyses, and evaluations of classic works ranging from Homer and Dante to Woolf and Proust. By discovering or creating links between areas of knowledge and modes of knowing that are most often segregated by disciplines and departments, IPHS encourages students to think holistically and critically. It also provides students with the opportunity to experiment with an array of expressive media, including essays, films, multimedia presentations, graphic arts, and plays. These projects enable students to develop their craft in written communication, oral communication, critical thinking, and new media skills, including design and composition.

FACULTY

Michael J. Evans, Director, Professor of Humane Studies

Katherine Elkins, Assistant Professor of Humane Studies

Matthew W. Maguire, Assistant Professor of History and IPHS

Josh Levithan, Assistant Professor of Humane Studies

Benjamin W. Schumacher, Professor of Physics

Timothy B. Shutt, Professor of Humane Studies

Timothy J. Spiekerman, Associate Professor of Political Science and IPHS

THE CURRICULUM

Unlike any other program of its kind, IPHS blends lectures, small seminars (typically twelve students), and one-on-one student-faculty tutorials. This unique approach to learning allows students to work closely with their professors. IPHS promotes a sense of community in which intellectual differences are respected and intellectual ties and relations are forged.

By completing the first-year course, students can fulfill 2 units toward a concentration (and 1.5 units of the diversification requirement for humanities or the social sciences). Beyond the first-year course, IPHS students can earn a concentration by completing at least 1 unit of intermediate-level study, including at least one upper-level seminar, and at least .5 unit during the senior year.

INTEGRATED PROGRAM IN HUMANE STUDIES COURSES

IPHS 113Y. *Odyssey of the West: Love and Justice*

Credit: 1 unit

In the first semester, we explore the themes of love and justice, purity and power, fidelity to the family, and loyalty to the state. Through reading selections from the Hebrew Bible, Homer, Plato, Aristotle, Thucydides, Virgil, and Dante, we investigate these themes as they find expression in the Judeo-Christian and Greco-Roman traditions and in their European legacies.

Instructor: Staff

IPHS 114Y. *Odyssey of the West: Reason and Revolt*

Credit: 1 unit

In the second semester, we focus on the themes of law and disorder, harmony and entropy, and modernity and its critics. Beginning with Machiavelli, Shakespeare, and Hobbes, we investigate the desire to construct a unified vision through reason; then we examine the disruption or refinement of that vision in the works of such authors as Nietzsche, Darwin, and Marx. Throughout the year, we explore the connections between the visual arts, literature, and philosophy. In tutorial sessions, students concentrate on developing the craft of writing. IPHS 113Y-114Y will fulfill several of the College's diversification requirements: up to .5 unit of history and/or political science, and/or up to 1 unit of English.

Instructor: Staff

IPHS 215. *Modernism and Its Critics*

Credit: .5 unit

Continuing the inquiries begun in 113Y-114Y, this seminar addresses the rise of modernism, which represented a massive fissure in Western consciousness. A fault line visible since Romanticism suddenly fractured. One consequence was that something utterly unique, highly unsettling, and profoundly revolutionary occurred: the role of art and the artist leapt into extraordinary prominence. Why in modernism do the issues of "self," "society," and "authority" figure so prominently in the aesthetic domain? What does the signal role of art suggest about the character of modernism itself? How successful has art been as the focal point of questions regarding authority? Is art's centrality itself a paradoxical response to the issues of complexity, specialization, fragmentation, and relativity which inform the modern world? In view of modernism's paradoxes and chief concerns, we will address contending views of art and authority in its expression in various disciplines and media, including visual art, architecture, philosophy, literature, music, dance, and film. Readings will include Baudelaire, Dostoevsky, Nietzsche, Woolf, Proust, Kafka, Breton, and Sartre. Films will include *Modern Times*, *Triumph of the*

Will, Metropolis, and Rashomon. This course may be used as .5 unit of history for purposes of meeting the diversification requirements.

Instructor: Elkins

IPHS 225. Galileo to Einstein

Credit: .5 unit

In the early seventeenth century, Galileo's writings on physics and astronomy helped to establish modern scientific thought. Three centuries later, Einstein's work on relativity and quantum theory helped to transform it. The ideas of both men had impact and ignited controversy far beyond the bounds of their scientific disciplines. In this class, we will read essential works by Galileo and Einstein (among others) and explore, not only their discoveries, but also their wider views of Nature and the human striving to understand her. What principles guide the scientific quest? Are there limits to scientific knowledge? What are the relationships between observation and imagination, between genius and ethics, between science and religion?

Instructor: B. Schumacher

IPHS 318. Postmodernism and Its Critics

Credit: .5 unit

This course investigates the phenomenon of postmodernism and considers its relation to the modernist era. We will study key definitions and ask: Can postmodernism be defined as a postindustrial capitalistic phenomenon, as an increasing emphasis on language games, as a refusal of grand narratives, or as a shift from epistemological to ontological concerns? We will look at the advent of structuralism and its response to existentialism, as well as a poststructuralist critique. What does postmodern politics look like, and what are the implications of its critique of humanism? Postcolonialism, feminism, gender studies, and critical race theory will be also considered for their critique of the Western tradition. We will then examine the reinvigoration of religious discourse. Through our study of postmodern architecture, literature, the visual arts, and film, we will explore the nature of dual-coding, the critique of "instrumental" rationality, new representations of the past, identity, time and space, and a new role for the reader/viewer. Finally, we will consider key critics' defense of humanism before asking whether our "information age" demonstrates a clear departure from the tenets of postmodernism. Priority will be given to those students who have taken IPHS 113Y-114Y followed by IPHS 215.

Instructor: Elkins

IPHS 323. Dante's Divine Comedy

Credit: .5 unit

In this course, we will study the whole of Dante's *Divine Comedy* in John Sinclair's Oxford translation. Prerequisite: sophomore standing.

Instructor: Shutt

IPHS 484. Senior Research Seminar

Credit: .5 unit

This course, designed as a research and/or studio workshop, allows students to pursue their own interdisciplinary projects. Students are encouraged to take thoughtful, creative risks in developing their ideas and themes. Those engaged in major long-term projects may continue with them during the second semester.

Instructor: Staff

IPHS 485. Senior Research Seminar

Credit: .5 unit

This course, designed as a research and/or studio workshop, allows students to create their own interdisciplinary projects. Students are encouraged to take thoughtful, creative risks in developing their ideas and themes.

Instructor: Staff

IPHS 493. Individual Study

Credit: .25 unit

This course is for students who wish to do advanced work beyond regular courses or to study topics not included in course offerings. Prerequisites: permission of instructor and director of IPHS.

Instructor: Staff

SPECIAL TOPICS COURSES THAT HAVE BEEN PREVIOUSLY OFFERED:

Classical Greek Warfare and the Rise of Historiography
The Epic in Antiquity
From More to Mill: Theory and Action in English Political Life