

INTERDISCIPLINARY CORE

All universities have a general education core. Most require students to select from a cafeteria plan of lower division courses from various disciplines. USAO is distinctive in offering an interdisciplinary, liberal arts core that spans all four years of its students' academic careers. The Interdisciplinary core (IDS) includes two types of classes. There are skills courses that teach students to express themselves clearly in both speech and writing and to master skills in areas such as math and computer science. In addition, there are also concept courses that emphasize the complexity and interconnectedness of the human world. The interdisciplinary nature of these courses means that they examine topics from multiple academic perspectives and just not from the view point of a single field or specialization. To emphasize the broad, multi-faceted nature of the interdisciplinary approach, the concept courses are team-taught. This means that a course in *American Civilization*, for instance, might be taught by a historian and a literature professor who would examine issues of the American past, identity, and values from the perspectives of both their fields, using literature, art, and film to examine the American tradition, as well as more familiar lecture approaches.

These concept courses begin in the freshman year with IDS 1133: *The Individual in Contemporary Society*, which examines the human condition in the early twenty-first-century and the issues and responsibilities that individuals must face in the contemporary world. Later concept courses cover the *Physical and Life Sciences*, the nature of *American Civilization*, the development and impact of *World Thought and Culture*, and an overview of the history of *Political and Economic Systems and Theories*. A faculty-guided, independent Senior Seminar project provides a capstone experience that completes and closes USAO's undergraduate curriculum.

COURSE LISTINGS IN IDS

Preparation

1 hour

IDS 1001 USAO ORIENTATION

This course is required for students who enroll at USAO. 1 hour.

All first-time entering students (except transfer students with 31 or more credit hours) must enroll in a section of USAO Orientation.

Interdisciplinary Skills

15 hours

IDS 1013 RHETORIC and PUBLIC SPEAKING

Development of skill in analyzing, assessing, and formulating arguments; in understanding the relationships between logic and language; and in organizing and presenting speeches based on these skills and understandings. 3 hours.

IDS 1113 WRITING I

Extensive practice in writing, with emphasis on expository and persuasive essays based on a study of rhetoric and the writing process. 3 hours. Prerequisite: basic skills competence.

IDS 1213 WRITING II

The writing of critical papers based on the study of drama, fiction, and poetry, together with practice in applying close reading techniques to literature. 3 hours. Prerequisite: grade of "C" or better in IDS 1113.

IDS 1223 MATHEMATICS IN THE MODERN WORLD

Exploration of the structure, language, and thought processes of mathematics. 3 hours. Prerequisite: basic skills competence.

IDS 2003 INTRODUCTION TO COMPUTER SCIENCE

Practice and theory in general computer concepts, including computer capabilities, data representation, and programming techniques. 3 hours.

Artistic Expression (Fine and Performing Arts) **2 hours**

Two hours must be successfully completed from any of the following:
Art 1003, 1112, 1122, 1212, 1662, 2732
Drama 1403, 1801, 2113
English 2403
Music 1021,1031,1041,1051,1061,1081,1091,1102, or 1203
Photography 1023

Physical Expression **2 hours**

Two hours must be successfully completed from the following:
PHED 1011 *and* 1 hour chosen from:
PHED 1001,1021,1031,1041,1061,1081,1091, 1111, 1121,1141,1151,1161,1181,1191,2101.

Interdisciplinary Ideas (Team-Taught) **30 hours**

- IDS 1133 THE INDIVIDUAL IN CONTEMPORARY SOCIETY
Examination of the individual in mass society. Topics include major theories of human nature and human behavior, issues and problems confronting the individual, and strategies for health and success in a changing world. 3 hours.
- IDS 2011 FOUNDATIONS OF SCIENCE LABORATORY
An interdisciplinary laboratory offering experiments in both the biological and physical sciences. Co-requisite: Foundations of Life Science – IDS 2023. 1 hour.
- IDS 2013 FOUNDATIONS OF PHYSICAL SCIENCE
IDS 2013 and 2023 should be taken in sequence. Introduction of basic concepts of the scientific method illustrated by the physical sciences of astronomy, physics, chemistry, and geology. Topics include the historical and philosophical development of these sciences and their relationship to modern concerns with technology, environment, and energy. 3 hours.
- IDS 2023 FOUNDATIONS OF LIFE SCIENCE
IDS 2013 and 2023 should be taken in sequence. Continuation of the study of the scientific method with illustrations from the life sciences. Topics include fundamental elements of life sciences, such as cell structure and function, classification systems and evolution, and their relationship to modern concerns with environment, genetics, and population dynamics. 3 hours.
- IDS 2133 AMERICAN CIVILIZATION (HISTORY/GOVERNMENT) I
IDS 2133 and 2143 should be taken in sequence. Examination of American ideas and culture through the Civil War era. The course explores the experiences of American peoples by focusing upon government; values; religious, social, and political concerns; and creative expressions. 3 hours.
- IDS 2143 AMERICAN CIVILIZATION (HISTORY/GOVERNMENT) II
IDS 2133 and 2143 should be taken in sequence. Examination of American ideas and cultures from the Civil War era to the present. The course explores the experiences of American peoples by focusing upon government; values; religious, social, and political concerns; and creative expressions. 3 hours.
- IDS 2880 SPECIAL TOPICS
Special topics in interdisciplinary studies. 1-4 hours. ELECTIVE CREDIT ONLY.
- IDS 3223 POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SYSTEMS AND THEORIES
Examination of representative global political and economic theories and practices with emphasis on contemporary public policy alternatives for the United States. Includes a discussion of the relationship of geography to the development of political and economic systems and strategies. 3 hours.

- IDS 3313 WORLD THOUGHT AND CULTURE TO 500 C.E.
 IDS 3313, 3323, and 4333 should be taken in sequence. Examination of representative thought and expression of a number of world civilizations to approximately 500 C.E. The course focuses on significant achievements in architecture, art, drama, literature, music, philosophy, religion, and science. 3 hours.
- IDS 3323 WORLD THOUGHT AND CULTURE FROM 500 C.E. TO 1650 C.E.
 IDS 3313, 3323 and 4333 should be taken in sequence. Examination of representative thought and expression of a number of world civilizations from 500 C.E. to 1650 C.E. The course focuses on significant achievements in architecture, art, drama, literature, music, philosophy, religion, and science. 3 hours.
- IDS 4333 WORLD THOUGHT AND CULTURE FROM 1650 C.E. TO PRESENT
 IDS 3313, 3323, 4333 should be taken in sequence. Examination of representative thought and expression of a number of world civilizations from 1650 C.E. to the present. The course focuses on significant achievements in architecture, art, drama, literature, music, philosophy, religion, and science. 3 hours.
- IDS 4522 SENIOR SEMINAR
 Synthesis of the interdisciplinary program by writing several short papers and completing a formal project. The project may integrate a student's major field with the IDS program. 2 hours. Prerequisite: completion of IDS courses below the 4000 level.
- IDS 4880 SPECIAL TOPICS
 Special topics in interdisciplinary studies. 1-4 hours. ELECTIVE CREDIT ONLY.

To learn more about IDS, visit our IDS web page conveniently linked to the USAO homepage: www.usao.edu.

Minor in Liberal Arts

Required Courses (18 hours)

Course	Title	Hours Required
IDS 3223	POLITICAL & ECONOMIC SYSTEMS & THEORIES	3
IDS 3313	WORLD THOUGHT & CULTURE TO 500 C.E.	3
IDS 3323	WORLD THOUGHT & CULTURE, 500 C.E. TO 1650 C.E.	3
IDS 4333	WORLD THOUGHT & CULTURE, 1650 C.E. TO PRESENT	3

Additional liberal arts hours, approved by both advisor and the director of Interdisciplinary Studies 6

No courses can be substituted for the four specified IDS courses required for the liberal arts minor. No course may count for credit in the liberal arts minor and also count for credit in either a major or another minor.