INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES (No Div)

EXPERIMENTAL STUDIES

This program is designed to facilitate and promote innovations in curricular offerings in relation both to interdisciplinary conceptual focus and experimental pedagogical form. It provides support for faculty efforts to develop a curriculum that creatively responds to intellectual needs and modes of teaching/learning that currently fall outside the conventional pattern. Faculty members interested in offering courses that fall outside the aegis of departmental or existing interdisciplinary programs submit such courses directly to the Committee on Educational Affairs by the Registrar’s deadline for course submission in early spring. Courses that fit within the curricula of departments and interdisciplinary programs, even if interdisciplinary or experimental in nature, are found listed within those departments and programs.

EXPR 99  (W)  Independent Study: Experimental Studies

Open to upperclass students. Students interested in doing an independent project (99) during Winter Study must make prior arrangements with a faculty sponsor. The student and professor then complete the independent study proposal form available online. The deadline is typically in late September. Proposals are reviewed by the pertinent department and the Winter Study Committee. Students will be notified if their proposal is approved prior to the Winter Study registration period.

Class Format: independent study
Grading: pass/fail only

Winter 2020
IND Section: 01

EXPR 420  (S)  Architecture and Sustainability in a Global World

Cross-listings: EXPR 420  GBST 420  ARTH 420  ENVI 420

Secondary Cross-listing

What does it mean to create a sustainable built environment? What do such environments look like? Do they look the same for different people across different times and spaces? This course takes these questions as starting points in exploring the concept of architectural sustainability, defined as "minimizing the negative impact of built form on the surrounding landscape," and how this concept can be interpreted not only from an environmental point of view, but from cultural, political, and social perspectives as well. Over the course of the class, students will explore different conceptualizations of sustainability and how these conceptualizations take form in built environments in response to the cultural identities, political agendas, social norms, gender roles, and religious values circulating in society at any given moment. Students will also travel to South Africa during Spring Break to participate in a township sustainability project. In recognizing the relationship between the way things are constructed (technique of assembly, technology, materials, process) and the deeper meanings behind the structural languages deployed, students will come to understand sustainability as a fundamentally context-specific ideal, and its manifestation within the architectural environment as a mode of producing dialogues about the anticipated futures of both cultural and architectural worlds.

Class Format: seminar; with travel component
Requirements/Evaluation: response papers on class readings (2 pages), leading class discussions, spring break trip to South Africa, and final project/paper (15-20 pages) and presentation
Prerequisites: none, although a course in art/architectural history would be advantageous; registered students will also be required to submit an online application provided by the instructor before enrollment in the course is confirmed

Enrollment Limit: 6
Enrollment Preferences: Art History majors, Environmental Studies majors
Expected Class Size: 6
Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option
Materials/Lab Fee: travel funds will be provided by a Class of 1963 Sustainability development grant
Distributions: (D1)
This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
EXPR 420 (D1) GBST 420 (D1) ARTH 420 (D1) ENVI 420 (D1)

Not offered current academic year