



Cornerstone  
UNIVERSITY®  
BUILD A LIFE THAT MATTERS

Grand Rapids, Michigan

# INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

## DIVISION

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Pete Muir, Ph.D.  
*Division Chair*

The Interdisciplinary Studies (IDS) division exists to serve programs and courses that are interdisciplinary in their nature. It offers B.A. and B.S. degrees in General Studies and Interdisciplinary Studies, and minors in Social Justice and Creativity and Innovation. It also houses the foundational course in Creativity, Innovation, and Problem-Solving, the year-long orientation course for first-year students - Terra Firma - and the Creativity and Innovation Honors Institute.

### DEGREES

Bachelor of Arts (B.A.)  
Bachelor of Science (B.S.)

### MAJORS

General Studies  
Interdisciplinary Studies

### MINOR

Social Justice  
Creativity and Innovation

# FACULTY

**Perini, Donald P.**, Professor of Creativity and Ministry; B.A., Biola University; M.A., Talbot School of Theology; M.F.A., National University

## CORE CURRICULUM FOR THE ASSOCIATE OF SCIENCE DEGREE

**General Studies** *(requires permission of the Dean of Accreditation & Curriculum)*

**Credit Hours**

### GENERAL EDUCATION CORE

BIO-111	Introduction to Biological Sciences .....	4
COM-112	Communication in Culture .....	3
ENG-212**	Writing In Culture .....	3
HIS-114	World Civilization II .....	3
IDS-101	Creativity and Problem Solving .....	2
IDS-103	CU Foundations I .....	1
IDS-104	CU Foundations II .....	1
KIN-100	Total Fitness & Wellness .....	2
KIN-1XX	Activity Course .....	1
LIN-100	Language in Culture .....	3
MAT-110	College Mathematics .....	3
PHI-211	Philosophy in Culture .....	3
REL-104	Old Testament Literature .....	3
REL-204	New Testament Literature .....	3
Social Science Course (PSY-111, SOC-111, ECN-231, ECN-232, CMI-223, SSC-161, SSC-211 or SSC-262) .....		3
Elective Courses .....		22
<b>Total</b> .....		<b>60</b>

\*\* All students must meet the university's competency requirements for writing before being placed into ENG-212. See page 35 for placement criteria.

### CREATIVITY AND INNOVATION MINOR

The Creativity and Innovation minor is designed for anyone who wants to thrive in this emerging world by producing work that is both new and useful. Providing a curriculum that is both theoretically sound and pragmatic, this program will help students discover their vital role as creative cultivators. Special emphasis will be placed on cultivating creative habits, developing talents, practicing innovative processes, and studying current research on creativity. Students who meet a GPA of 2.5 or higher will be awarded a Certificate in Creativity and Innovation. This program is a perfect complement to anyone seeking to enhance their life, talents, and career.

After completing this Certificate Program, the student will have the expertise to:

1. Practice creative habits for talent development
2. Use the basic competencies in the six essential human abilities needed to survive in the Conceptual Age (Design, Story, Systems Thinking, Empathy, Play, and Meaning).
3. Effectively lead others in the Innovative Process (IP), in Design Thinking (DT), and in Creative Problem Solving techniques (CPS).
4. Identify current psychological, neurological, and social theories in creativity.
5. Construct a personal philosophy of creativity which integrates creativity and innovation with your talents, career, and personal endeavors.

### Required Courses

**Credit Hours**

HUM-311*	Imagination in Culture .....	3
IDS-101*	Creativity, Innovation, and Problem Solving .....	2
IDS-202	Creativity in the Conceptual Age .....	4
IDS-205	Strategies for Innovative Thought and Design .....	3
IDS-312	Science of Human Innovation .....	3
IDS-450	Creative Emergence .....	3
<b>Total</b> .....		<b>18</b>

\*Denotes core class

## GENERAL STUDIES MAJOR *(Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Science)*

In special circumstances, the chair of the Interdisciplinary Studies division, in consultation with a student's faculty advisor, may approve a student graduating with a general studies program. Any such program would meet all of the following requirements:

1. Meet minimum credit (120) and grade point average requirements for the Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Science.
2. Meet all core course requirements for the Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Science.
3. Meet minimum residency requirements (60 credits from Cornerstone, with 24 of the last 33).
4. Meet minimum upper-division course requirements (30 credits of 300- and 400-level courses overall).
5. Meet minimum credit (39) and grade point average (2.5) requirements for a major in General Studies.

The General Studies major is available only by approval of the chair of the Interdisciplinary Studies division.

## INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES MAJOR *(Bachelor of Arts / Bachelor of Science)*

In special circumstances, a student wishing to pursue a course of study not available within the stated offerings of Cornerstone University may present a proposal to the Associate Dean of Assessment and Student Success/Chair, requesting approval of an individualized program leading to a baccalaureate degree. Such a program should be thoughtfully designed in consultation with a faculty advisor after the student has had significant college experience. Therefore, a student should not begin the proposal process earlier than the second term of the sophomore year.

Interdisciplinary Studies programs require a minimum of 46 credit hours (excluding core courses) across at least two (2) disciplines. Normally, at least twelve (12) credit hours of upper-division courses, with no presumption of waiver of specified prerequisites, must be taken from each of these two disciplines. The program must also include either an internship or a scholarly research project.

Students must include in their proposal a written statement of purpose. Proposals require the approval of two faculty advisors, the respective division chair or chairs, and the Associate Dean of Assessment and Student Success/IDS Chair. Proposals will not be considered from any student with a current cumulative grade point average of less than 2.8.

## SOCIAL JUSTICE MINOR

A broadly interdisciplinary approach based equally in Ministry, Humanities, and Social Science, this minor allows students to explore the issue of social justice from a Biblical perspective, understanding both its theoretical underpinnings as well as its practical applications in a globalizing world.

After completing this minor, the student should be able to:

1. Identify the foundational ideas that ground social justice in the biblical narrative
2. Formulate an interdisciplinary Christian explanation of the central issues of social justice.
3. Demonstrate concern for working out the biblical call "to do justice" in contemporary social contexts.
4. Judge the appropriateness and faithfulness of particular responses to issues of injustice.
5. Generate a plan of action or set of guidelines that help their community to address a specific issue of social justice

Required courses	Credit Hours
CMI-222      Poverty and Justice .....	3
PHI-353*     Philosophical Ethics .....	3
SOC-243*     Social Problems .....	3
<i>Three courses from the following:</i> .....	9
ECN-231    Macroeconomics	
ECO-241    Environmental Science	
IDS-380    Social Justice Internship	
PHI-413*   Globalization and Localization	
REL-330*   Mosaic Literature	
REL-334*   Prophetic Literature	
SOC-417*   Minorities	
SSC-312    World Affairs	
SWK-311*   Social Welfare Policy	
SWK-346*   Child Welfare	
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>18</b>

\*Has one or more prerequisites

# CREATIVITY AND INNOVATION HONORS INSTITUTE

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## **GOAL**

Building lives that matter by preparing students with competencies needed to engage in an ever-changing world.

## **APPROACH**

We believe *learning is a process that leads to change, which occurs as a result of experiences*<sup>1</sup>. By using effective teaching strategies such as interdisciplinary problem solving, emerging documentation, context lectures, and problem-based learning, students will become lifelong learners, master adapters, and problem solvers who have developed empathetic and collaboration skills needed in today's marketplace. The Honors Institute uses the cohort model, allowing students to get to know each other better so that they may challenge and support each other's learning more effectively.

### **Great Books**

Founded in a life of virtue, students become life-long learners, fully engaged citizens and cultivate a heart that pursues the Good, the True and the Beautiful.

### **Interdisciplinary**

A good education teaches students to examine a subject from a variety of perspectives so that they become well-rounded people who have the ability to think well in any situation or discipline.

### **Creativity and Innovation**

Students will discover their vital role as creative cultivators who bear the image of God through talent development, practicing creative habits and using innovative processes.

## **CREATIVITY AND INNOVATION HONORS MAJOR (2ND MAJOR ONLY)**

The Creativity and Innovation Honors Institute will award students, who complete the program, a major in Creativity and Innovation Studies. Students seeking entrance into the program will need a GPA of 3.5 or higher and an ACT score of at least 25 or SAT score of at least 1100 to be able to apply.

<b>COURSES</b>		<b>CREDITS</b>
IDS-103	CU Foundations I	1
IDS-104	CU Foundations II	1
REL 130	Old Testament Lit.	3
REL 236	New Testament Lit.	3
IDS 140	CIHI Honors I	4
IDS 141	CIHI Honors II	4
IDS 240	CIHI Honors III	4
IDS 241	CIHI Honors IV	4
IDS 340	CIHI Honors V	1
IDS 202	Creativity in the Conceptual Age	4
IDS 205	Strategies for Innov. Thought and Design	3
IDS 312	Science of Human Innovation	3
IDS 450	Creative Emergence	3
Global Studies Requirement		-
TOTAL		38

Students dropping out of the program will have the following equivalents:

### **Courses Completed**

Honors I-II  
 Honors I-III  
 Honors I-IV

### **Equivalent**

ENG-212/IDS-101  
 ENG-212/IDS-101/KIN-100  
 ENG-212/IDS-101/KIN-100/COM-112/PHI-211

<sup>1</sup>Ambrose, Susan. How Learning Works

# COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

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DEPARTMENT/LEVEL AND COURSE NAME

CREDITS/FREQUENCY  
(See page 59 for codes)

## INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

- IDS-101 Creativity, Innovation & Problem Solving 2/1**  
Students will unleash their creative potential to enrich their life and the world as they examine the creative processes, the lifestyles of creative people, the environments and methods of innovative organizations, and the tools of problem solving techniques.
- IDS-103 CU Foundations I 1/1**  
This core course provides a 2-semester curricular/co-curricular experience where CU students are introduced to the “4 C’s” of Christ, Character, Community and Culture that form a foundation for their college experience. The course includes service experience, short lectures, academic readings, discussions and assignments focusing on college transition, Christian worldview and civic and global engagement.
- IDS-104 CU Foundations II 1/1**  
This core course provides a 2-semester curricular/co-curricular experience where CU students are introduced to the “4 C’s” of Christ, Character, Community and Culture that form a foundation for their college experience. The course includes service experience, short lectures, academic readings, discussions and assignments focusing on college transition, Christian worldview and civic and global engagement.
- IDS-140 CIHI Honors I 4/2**  
Readings from Antiquity provides foundational understanding of mythical and philosophical themes at the root of Western civilization. In conjunction with the readings, students will examine related topics, current events and ethical issues using interdisciplinary problem solving approaches, context lectures, emerging documentation, and problem-based learning.
- IDS-141 CIHI Honors II 4/2**  
Readings from Late Antiquity to Early Medieval follows the full transformation and integration of Christian civilization—good, bad, and ugly, with particular interest on the life of the mind and the imagination for the believer. In conjunction with the readings, students will examine related topics, current events and ethical issues using interdisciplinary problem solving approaches, context lectures, and problem-based learning. *Prerequisite: IDS-140*
- IDS-202 Creativity in the Conceptual Age 4/4**  
A course outlining the six essential human abilities needed to survive in the Conceptual Age: Design, Storytelling, Systems Thinking, Empathy, Play, and Meaning.
- IDS-205 Strategies for Innovative Thought and Design 3/4**  
An examination of the latest Creative Problem Solving Techniques (CPS), Design Thinking Tools (DT), and Human Centered Design (HCD). Students will learn to use, lead others, and analyze CPS, DT and HCD effectiveness in real world situations. Emphasis will be placed on how innovative thought can be applied to their specific major and personal endeavors.
- IDS-240 CIHI Honors III 4/2**  
Readings from Renaissance to Enlightenment will show the fusion of humanistic ideas and trajectories in science, politics, philosophy, and theology. Students will examine related topics, current events and ethical issues using interdisciplinary problem solving approaches, context lectures, and problem-based learning. *Prerequisite: IDS-141*
- IDS-241 CIHI Honors IV 4/2**  
Readings from Modernity show the displacement of theistic visions by thorough-going revisions of human knowing and acting. Students will examine related topics, current events and ethical issues using interdisciplinary problem solving approaches, gamification, emerging documentation and problem-based learning. *Prerequisite: IDS-240*
- IDS-312 Science of Human Innovation 3/4**  
This course examines the psychology and neuroscience behind creativity and the sociological research on situations, contexts, and networks of creative activity. *Prerequisite: IDS-202*
- IDS-340 CIHI Honors V 1/2**  
A seminar of the great books covering the 20th and 21st century from writers such as Churchill, Carsen, and Derrida. *Prerequisite: IDS-241*
- IDS-450 Creative Emergence 3/4**  
This course is the culminating course of creativity content which is designed to help students integrate creative theory with their talents, career and personal endeavors. Students will be required to complete a research paper based on current theories and present it both verbally and in writing. *Prerequisites: IDS-202, IDS-205 and Junior status*