

CRITICAL STUDIES PROGRAM

Academic Year

2011-2012

Department Chair

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Description of Program/Major

The Critical Studies Program (CSP) is a fall-semester program designed for certain regularly admitted first-year students to enhance their skills in critical reading, reasoning, and writing. These students are identified for the CSP based upon the results of a critical thinking assessment administered during freshman orientation and are required to take IS1300 (Interdisciplinary Studies) in the fall of their freshman year.

Department Courses and Descriptions

Interdisciplinary Studies (3)

IS 1300

Interdisciplinary Studies is a three-credit-hour course that provides entering freshmen with opportunities to develop further their intellectual skills in areas essential to college success: critical thinking, reading, and writing. Typically, the instructors for this course are faculty members who teach in majors in each of the three undergraduate fields of study (i.e., sciences, humanities, and social sciences). Students will be able to improve their abilities to understand, analyze, and evaluate college-level material; to communicate effectively; to assess their own educational objectives; and to investigate their roles and responsibilities in the learning process. Strict adherence to the university's attendance policy and weekly participation in small-group study sessions led by peer tutors are required elements of the course. The course is offered only in the fall semester. A student may not drop the course or repeat it without express permission of the Critical Studies Program Director or Academic Enrichment Program Director, depending upon student's designation. *Enrollment is limited to students identified by the University as being required to take the course.*