

- ANNOUNCING -

HUMANITIES AND SCIENCES DIRECTED STUDIES SEMINAR

Fall 2009

Course Description

The Directed Studies Seminar is an opportunity for students to investigate an idea or topic of their own choosing in concert with others. Each participant brings his or her project idea to the seminar, conducts an inquiry using a variety of resources and materials, produces a final project synthesizing the results of the inquiry, and presents these results to others. Students will work collaboratively throughout the semester by providing each other with feedback throughout the inquiry process. Through this process, students will learn how to design, revise, research, and manage an individual project from inception to completion. Writing, reading, and discussions relevant to the processes of inquiry and project development will be incorporated and shared. The Directed Studies Seminar creates opportunities for students to strengthen critical thinking, written and oral communication, and skills associated with successful inquiry. It is also an opportunity for students to integrate their studies in the liberal arts with their work in their chosen disciplines.

In the **Directed Studies Seminar**, each student works on his or her own project, but brings the project, the processes of inquiry, the steps taken, and the final project to the community of the **Seminar** for collective and cooperative reflection, consultation, and presentation under the **direction** of the instructor. **It is not an Independent Study**, and the difference is important: as the title *Independent* study indicates, a student works *independently* with relatively little consultation with a supervising instructor. In the *Directed Studies Seminar*, students work on individual projects in cooperation and consultation with others and under the *direction* of the instructor.

Some things are appropriate projects for the Directed Studies Seminar, and some aren't. For instance, if a music student is composing new work for her/his Senior Recital and wants to pursue an inquiry that places that work in a larger context (the repertoire of solo piano composition in the 21st century, say, or serial music from WWII to the present, or 'new' opera, with a focus on the work of Phillip Glass, or approaches to collaboration across disciplines), that would be perfect. However, the Directed Studies Seminar is *not* the place for the same student to compose the music for her/his Senior Recital.

The Directed Studies Seminar classes are scheduled, and attendance is expected. If your schedule—in school or out—will regularly prevent you from being in class, it is not appropriate for you.

A student accepted into the Directed Studies Seminar will have the opportunity to explore a topic or project that would not be possible within the confines of other classes in the curriculum, and s/he will be able to do so under the direction of the instructor and with the support and input of seminar members. This is a remarkable chance to pursue your individual curiosity *with* the support and encouragement of the instructor and others with a similar intensity of focus.

Directed Studies Seminar Goals

In the Directed Studies Seminar, students will

1. create a creative/intellectual synthesis between their work as artists and their studies in the liberal arts;
2. design, research, and manage a personal project from inception to completion;
3. collaborate with peers to respond thoughtfully and critically to the work of others throughout the inquiry process;
4. engage in a reflective process of regularly re-examining and re-imagining their goals and progress;
5. write, read, and discuss significant ideas and issues relevant to the processes of inquiry and project development;
6. develop self-directed learning goals and the self-assessment criteria to evaluate the progress and quality of their project, process, and learning during the semester; and
7. present their final product and the results of their inquiry to others.

Meeting time of seminar for Fall 2009: Tuesdays and Thursdays 4:30 – 5:50

Credits: 3 Humanities and Sciences credits (nature of project determines if class meets Humanities, Sciences or Social Sciences requirements)

Who is eligible to apply? Applications are accepted from students who

1. are juniors or seniors;
2. have completed the college writing requirement (signature required);
3. have authorization from their department chair (signature required); and
4. have taken the course before. Decisions will be made on a case-by-case basis. Priority will generally be given to students who have not previously taken the course. *Please contact the H&S office for more information in advance of submitting a second application.*

Instructions for application: Applications must be complete and typed. A complete application includes the attached information sheet and the project proposal. The application form is also available in electronic form on the Cornish website. See “Directed Studies Application” on the Humanities and Sciences page under “Other Links.”

Applications must be submitted to the Humanities and Sciences office.

Application due date: March 20, 2009

Questions? If you have questions about the Directed Studies Seminar, contact Linda Krutenat, Humanities and Sciences Department Coordinator at lkruatenat@cornish.edu or 726-5166.

**HUMANITIES AND SCIENCES
HS 392/492 DIRECTED STUDIES SEMINAR
APPLICATION AND PROJECT PROPOSAL FOR FALL 2009**

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Name: _____

Department: _____

Class as of Fall 2009: **Junior** **Senior**

Contact information

Phone: _____ **Email:** _____

Is this project related to previously existing or on-going work? YES NO

If yes, explain.

If yes, please identify any advisors or other faculty already involved in this work.

AUTHORIZATION

Please obtain the following signatures in support of your application.

Department Chair (in-major) clearance to enroll in course if accepted

Chair _____ **Date** _____

Registrar verification of completion of college writing requirement

Registrar _____ **Date** _____

PROJECT PROPOSAL (attach on separate pages) The proposal should be about 600 words of typed prose and should address methodology, rationale, objectives, and desired outcomes. Specifically, it should include the following:

- a description of the project you wish to do, including specific resources or materials you might use, approaches you might take in your investigation, and ideas for the final product you wish to create;
- mention of any challenges you foresee with this investigation;
- the significance of this project to you at this stage of your academic and artistic career at Cornish; and
- what you hope to achieve (for yourself as an artist, citizen, or scholar) through working on this project.

A successful project proposal should be substantive and clear. Specifically, it should show your consideration of the field(s) of study your investigation will require, examples of resources you either have or will need to find, such as texts or other works, people you might talk to, or topics you might have to research. The proposed project should also be appropriate to the framework of one semester. While it is not expected that all steps, resources, or final product details can be identified at this time, your proposal should be coherent and specific, and your basic ideas clear.