

# UNIVERSITY-WIDE OFFERINGS

The Interdisciplinary Studies Committee of the Undergraduate Academic Council has the primary responsibility for establishing and maintaining liaisons with all University schools and colleges and other appropriate campus offices for the purposes of encouraging, promoting, and coordinating interdisciplinary studies on a campus-wide basis. This committee reviews and acts upon all requests for Faculty-Initiated Majors and Minors, and all student requests for individually designed interdisciplinary majors and minors. In addition, the committee recommends and monitors University course offerings to facilitate serious independent study, research, and internships not provided through other course offerings as well as specific courses taught by faculty from more than one school or college.

All “U Uni” undergraduate courses except U Uni 100 are defined as liberal arts and sciences courses for purposes of degree requirements for the B.A. and B.S. degrees. Of “U Uni” courses, only U Uni 205 is a liberal arts and sciences course.

The University offers several undergraduate courses designed to facilitate serious independent study and research as well as internship opportunities that cannot be undertaken through regular course work or through existing offerings of the colleges and schools. Students interested in the courses described in this section may obtain further information and application forms from the Advisement Services Center/ Undergraduate Studies (ASC/US), LI 36 or from the Office of the Dean of Undergraduate Studies, LC 30.

Credits earned through these courses are generally applied to the degree as liberal arts and sciences elective credits. However, when appropriate, such credits may be applied as major credits or minor credits as determined by the student’s respective major or minor departments. Students are advised to check with the department for particular policies or prerequisites regarding the approval of major or minor credit.

## Internships

### U Uni 390 Internship (1–15; as approved)

Internships involving off-campus participation in the work of an agency, institution, or corporate body other than the University, with collateral academic study. Contingent on the approval of a University at Albany full-time faculty member willing to supervise the study and evaluate on-site reports of the student’s progress. *U Uni 390 internships are usually taken for 1–9 credits.* Under extraordinary circumstances, a student may petition the committee for a maximum of 15 credits. **Internships are open only to qualified juniors and seniors who have an overall grade point average of 2.50 or higher.** May be repeated, but each registration must be for an approved project. Application forms may be obtained from the Office of Undergraduate Studies, LC-30. Prerequisite(s): approval of the Interdisciplinary Studies Committee. *Application deadlines: May 1st for summer and fall; December 1st for spring. S/U graded.*

### U Uni 391 Senate Session Assistants Program (15)

A full-time internship program in the New York State Senate. Session assistants work as staff members in senators’ offices for a minimum of 30 hours per week and complete a required academic component including seminars, readings, short papers, book reports, and term paper. Offered spring semester only. **Internships are open only to qualified juniors and seniors who have an overall grade point average of 2.50 or higher** through a competitive selection process. Application deadline in early fall through the campus liaison officer (LC-30). Prerequisite(s): selection process, permission of campus liaison officer. *S/U graded.*

### U Uni 392 Assembly Session Intern Program (15)

A full-time internship program in the New York State Assembly. Interns are assigned to work with members of the Assembly or its committees and research staff for a minimum of 30 hours per week and complete a required academic component including seminars, readings, short papers, mini courses, and term paper. Offered spring semester only. **Internships are open only to qualified juniors and seniors who have an overall grade point average of 2.50 or higher** through a competitive selection process. Application deadline in early fall through the campus liaison officer. Prerequisite(s): selection process, permission of campus liaison officer (LC-30). *S/U graded.*

### U Uni 393 Washington Center Internship (15)

A full-time internship program arranged through the Washington Center. Students are placed in internships in which they work four-and-one-half days a week and participate in a once-a-week seminar. Placements are in a wide variety of Washington, D.C. agencies. Specific information is available in LC-30. **Internships are open only to qualified juniors and seniors who have an overall grade point average of 2.50 or higher.** Additional prerequisite(s): formal application and acceptance by the Washington Center. Application deadlines: April 15 for fall semesters; October 15 for spring semesters. Additional fee required. *S/U graded.* Application forms may be obtained from the Office of Undergraduate Studies, LC-30.

## Independent Study and Research Courses

### U Uni 170, 171 Summer and Winter Directed Reading (2, 2)

A course of reading under the direct supervision of a member of the faculty to explore a significant problem, issue or interest. The student registers for the course in the fall or spring semester, typically completing the readings in the subsequent winter or summer break respectively. Open only to undergraduates who have been designated “Presidential Scholars.” Prerequisite(s): consent of a member of the teaching faculty and permission of the Dean of Undergraduate Studies. May be repeated if content varies. Graded *A–E* or *S/U* at the discretion of the faculty supervisor.

### **U Uni 180 Undergraduate Supervised Research (3)**

Individual supervised research working with faculty in on-going research projects registered with the Dean of Undergraduate Studies. Prerequisite(s): consent of a member of the teaching faculty and permission of the Dean of Undergraduate Studies. Graded *A–E* or *S/U* at the discretion of the instructor. Open to sophomores and juniors. Contact the Office of the Dean of Undergraduate Studies for further information.

### **U Uni 397 Independent Study and Research (1–6; as approved)**

Independent study course with variable credit designed for the independent study of a subject beyond the introductory or survey level, particularly study which builds upon a student's prior academic achievement and experience. Contingent on the consent of an instructor willing to supervise the study. May be repeated, but each registration must be for an approved project. The normal credit load for this course is 3 credits and students desiring more than 3 credits should present special justification. Prerequisite(s): approval of the Interdisciplinary Studies Committee. Further information and application forms may be obtained from Mr. Richard Collier in the Office of the Dean of Undergraduate Studies, AD 214. *Application deadlines: May 1st for summer and fall; December 1st for spring.*

## **University Tutors**

### **U Uni 499 University Tutors (3)**

The University Tutors are an organized group of volunteers to assist the facilitators in the Study Groups set up by Academic Support Services. They are trained to assist students on an individual and group basis. The course for which study groups are available to undergraduates are: A Bio 110F, 111N; A Chm 120N, 121N; A Eco 110M, 111M; A Mat 101, 106, 108, 112 or 113; A Phy 105N, 108N; 140N, 150N; A Psy 101M; and A Soc 115M. Candidates are expected to have an overall academic average of 3.25, be enrolled for 12 credits, earned a grade of *A* or *B* in the Study Group course, pass the personal interview, and secured two letters of faculty recommendation. *S/U* graded.

## **The Freshman Year Experience**

### **U Uni 100 (= E Cpy 120) The Freshman Year Experience (3)**

The purpose of this course is to help you become a more effective student. During the course of the semester, you will learn about the college experience—experiences unique to first year students, transitional stages that you may undergo, and coping strategies that can help you pass through this phase of college life. You will learn how to use and locate important campus resources. You will learn about who you are and how that information helps you choose a major and a career. Finally, you will learn how to increase your chances of succeeding at the University at Albany as your transition through this most critical first year. Only one of U Uni 100 and E Cpy 120 and U Uni 300 may be taken for credit. [IL]

### **U Uni 300 The Transfer Experience (1)w**

This course is designed to help transfer students as they make their transition to the University at Albany. It is a web-based course that is only offered to students as they enter. The course has two primary foci. First, the course focuses on helping students learn more about themselves and their learning styles so they can improve their study habits. Second, the course focuses on helping students learn about the learning resources available to students at the University. Students also complete several writing assignments and receive feedback on their writing skills. Students must successfully complete all five modules to pass the class. Students are expected to complete the course within five weeks after their orientation on campus. Only one of U Uni 100 and E Cpy 120 and U Uni 300 may be taken for credit. *S/U* graded.

## **The Foundations of Great Ideas Program**

### **U Uni 101Z Foundations of Great Ideas I (4)**

This interdisciplinary course deals with key ideas and primary texts—from both Western and other cultures—in the arts and sciences. Based on a selected set of issues in intellectual history, the general organizational scheme focuses upon the universal distinction between order and chaos in these areas: cosmic and divine order, physical order, the order of life and nature, and the order of mind and society. Prerequisite(s): Presidential or College Scholar status. [HU WI]

### **U Uni 301Z Foundations of Great Ideas II (4)**

This interdisciplinary course, drawing on ideas and texts from both Western and other cultures, examines globalization as a phenomenon with broad-ranging consequences across political, economic, cultural, and disciplinary boundaries. Globalization is discussed as a theoretical concept, a popular catch-phrase, a cultural category as well as an economic category. Prerequisite(s): Presidential or College Scholar status. [OD WI]

## **Faculty-Initiated Interdisciplinary Courses**

The Interdisciplinary Studies Committee has approved the following Faculty-Initiated Interdisciplinary Courses. Some are not offered on a regular basis and, therefore, the schedule of classes should be consulted to determine if a course is being offered. The instructor should be contacted for further information about the course.

### **U Uni 150 Selected Interdisciplinary Topics (1–4; as approved)**

Experimental class, the subject varying with instructors and the term offered. Course is designed to present a large body of information without expecting a mastery of detail (e.g., as in a survey course) or to present general theoretical or methodological approaches (e.g., as in a foundations course). See special announcements of courses to be offered under this heading. May be repeated when content differs. Prerequisite(s): Topic must be approved by the Dean of Undergraduate Studies; permission of instructor to register for the class.

### **U Uni 160N Mathematics, Art, and the Creative Process (3)**

Systematic examination of the creative process as the development of an idea from intuitive roots to abstract formalism. Offers many opportunities for the comparative study of art and mathematics, through readings and more direct experience. The course is concerned with seeing and intuition, how they occur in art and mathematics, and how these fields interact.

### **U Uni 230 An Introduction to Disability Studies (3)**

An interdisciplinary introduction to the study of disability with particular attention to social, political, legal, artistic, ethical, and cultural aspects of people with disabilities considered as constituting one of a multitude of diverse groups.

[DP]

**U Uni 310N (= A Bio 311N and A Gog 310N) World Food Crisis (3)**

Interdisciplinary approach to understanding world food problems through analyses of social, political, economic, nutritional, agricultural, and environmental aspects of world hunger. Faculty from several departments in the sciences, humanities, and social and behavioral sciences present approaches from various disciplines. Prerequisite(s): junior or senior class standing or permission of instructor.

**U Uni 350 Selected Interdisciplinary Topics (1–4; as approved)**

Experimental class, the subject varying with instructors and the term offered. Course content should be beyond the introductory or survey level and the course should require prior academic achievement and/or experience related to the topic. See special announcements of courses to be offered under this heading. May be repeated when content differs. Prerequisite(s): Topic must be approved by the Dean of Undergraduate Studies; permission of instructor to register for the class.

## University Library Courses

**U Unl 205 Information Literacy (1)**

One-quarter course to acquaint students with the processes of finding, organizing, using, producing, and distributing information in print, electronic, and other formats. Students will learn about the flow of information in a variety of disciplines, how to be effective at the research process, how to access information in a variety of formats, and how to formulate effective searches on electronic databases and the Internet. Students will be taught to evaluate the quality of Web-based and print information, and will become familiar with practical, social, and ethical issues relating to information.. *Only one course from U Unl 205 and U Unl 206 may be applied toward graduation.* [IL]

**U Unl 206 Information Literacy and the Sciences (1)**

Using examples from scientific, technical, and medical literatures, this quarter course will introduce students to the basic principles and processes of finding, organizing, using, producing, and evaluating information resources in all media and formats. Students will learn about information flow in the sciences, at all levels of presentation, and how to access, search, and retrieve information in a variety of formats. They will learn to formulate effective searching on electronic databases and the Internet, and how to evaluate the quality of the information that they retrieve. They will become familiar with the practical, social and ethical issues relating to the use of information, with special emphasis on the role of scientific information in an increasingly technological society. *Only one course from U Unl 205 and U Unl 206 may be applied toward graduation.* [IL]

**U Unl 489 Topics in Advanced Library Research (1)**

Special topics course designed to provide students with a more sophisticated level of library skills than the basic U Unl 205 course, either through increased familiarity with reference sources of their particular discipline (e.g., humanities, social sciences, sciences) or through experience in using particular types of sources (e.g., government publications). May be repeated for credit when content differs. Prerequisite(s): U Unl 205 or permission of the instructor. May not be offered in 2003-2004.

## University Seminars

**U Fsp 100 University Seminar (1)**

A class that meets once per week over the fall semester with a member of the teaching faculty. Course enrollment is limited to 20 students per section. Course topics vary. Open only to first-semester freshmen. *S/U* or *A-E* graded. Consult schedule of classes for individual seminar topics. May not be offered in 2003-2004.