

INTG 001 -- IDENTITY, INHERITANCE, CHANGE

Course Description

Integrated Studies serves as an introduction to our attempts, past and present, to understand the world and the human place in it. In INTG 001 we will examine how human identity is formed, through social interaction, genetics, or our own heroic exploits. We will work through the importance of our embeddedness within traditions, from our biological natures, to our cultural inheritance, to the mythic frameworks that guide us. We will also focus on the always present process of change, both disrupting and invigorating, that makes life itself possible.

Course Format

This course will be made up of four parts. It will present and consider fundamental concepts in the fields of Anthropology, Biology, and Classical Studies, and advance an integrative conversation on broad questions from the perspectives of all the disciplines. The fields will be presented in three individual streams. Each stream will include one lecture per week -- Biology on Mondays (2-3.30), Anthropology on Tuesdays (noon-1.30), and Classical Studies on Wednesdays (2-3.30) -- along with readings and assignments associated with the stream's content. The final fourth of the course will use the tools we have learned from the disciplines to analyze an additional weekly Common Text. This conversation will begin at our Thursday Lunch Seminar (noon-1.30) and continue into the Friday Synthesis, small-group discussions in your recitation section (times various). It will carry forward a broad open-ended conversation, week-to-week, among the fields and compare their contributions to our general understanding.

Evaluation and Grading

Each of the three streams will have its own requirements, assignments, and grading formula. The final grade for each stream will make up one fourth of the final grade for INTG 001, and will be assigned by each professor teaching the stream. A final fourth of the grade for the course as a whole will come from your performance on the integrative aspects of the course that will be mostly based on our work with the Common Texts for the week. This part of your work will be guided by the ISP Lecturer running your recitation on Fridays. Further details about grading are available on the syllabus for each piece of the course.

Books

Books are available at the [Penn Book Center](#) (which is different from the Penn Bookstore). They are located at: 130 S. 34th Street, 215-222-7600, info@pennbookcenter.com. In addition, several movies are required materials for the course. These are not available at the Penn Book Center, but are widely available online. See each syllabus for details.