

Cross Disciplinary Path Descriptions

Africana Studies

Africana studies embraces a number of scholarly disciplines and subjects at Sarah Lawrence College, including anthropology, architecture, art history, dance, economics, film, filmmaking, history, Islamic studies, law, literature, philosophy, politics, psychology, religion, sociology, theatre, and writing. Students examine the experience of Africans and people of African descent in the diaspora, including Latin America, the Caribbean, North America, and beyond. Study includes the important cultural, economic, technological, political, and social intellectual interplay and exchanges of those peoples as they help make our world. Students will explore the literature of Africans and peoples of African descent in various languages, including Spanish, Portuguese, French, and English. The dynamics of immigration and community formation are vital in this field. Students will examine the art and architecture of Africa and the diaspora; their history, societies, and cultures; their economy and politics; the impact of Islam and the Middle East; the processes of slavery; the slave trade and colonialism; as well as postcolonial literature in Africa, Latin America, and the Caribbean. The program also includes creative work in filmmaking, theatre, and writing.

Architecture and Design Studies

Architecture and design studies at Sarah Lawrence College is a cross-disciplinary initiative that offers a variety of analytical approaches to the cultural act of constructing environments, buildings, and aesthetic, yet functional, objects. Courses in architectural and art history and theory, computer design, environmental studies, physics, and sculpture allow students to investigate—in both coursework and conference—a wide range of perspectives and issues dealing with all facets of built design. These perspectives include theoretical explorations in history and criticism, formal approaches that engage sociopolitical issues, sustainable problem solving, and spatial exploration using both digital and analog design tools. Courses of study might include structural engineering in physics and projects on bridge design that reflect these structural principles in courses on virtual architecture and sculpture; the study of the architecture and politics of sustainability in class and conference work for art and architectural history and environmental studies; and sculpture and art history courses that engage issues of technology, expression, and transgression in the uses of the techniques and crafts of construction. When coordinated with participating faculty, programs of study offer an excellent preparation for further engagement in the fields of architecture (both theory and practice), in digital and environmental design, and in engineering.

Cognitive and Brian Science

Description TBD.

Classes from Disciplines such as Biology, Computer Science, Mathematics, Philosophy, and Psychology comprise the classes available within this cluster.

Development Studies

Description TBD

Classes from Disciplines such as Anthropology, Economics, Environmental Studies, Geography, History, Politics, Public Policy, Sociology and Writing comprise the classes available within this cluster.

Ethnic and Diasporic Studies

Ethnic and diasporic studies as an academic discipline lies at the intersection of several increasingly powerful developments in American thought and culture. First, interdisciplinary and comparative scholarship has become so prevalent as to represent a dominant intellectual norm. Second, the use of this new scholarly methodology to meet new academic needs and illuminate new subject matter has given rise to a plethora of discourses—women's studies; Native American studies; African American studies; gay, lesbian, and transgender studies; and global studies. Third, and perhaps most important, there has been a growing recognition, both inside and

outside academia, that American reality is incorrigibly and irremediably plural and that responsible research and pedagogy must account for and accommodate this fact.

We define ethnic and diasporic studies, loosely, as the study of the dynamics of racial and ethnic groups (also loosely conceived) who have been denied, at one time or another, full participation and the full benefits of citizenship in American society. We see these dynamics as fascinating in themselves but also feel that studying them illuminates the entire spectrum of humanistic inquiry and that a fruitful cross-fertilization will obtain between ethnic and diasporic studies and the College's well-established curricula in the humanities, the arts, the sciences, and the social sciences.

Gender and Sexuality Studies

The women's studies curriculum comprises courses in various disciplines and focuses on new scholarship on women, sex, and gender. Subjects include women's history; feminist theory; the psychology and politics of sexuality; gender constructs in literature, visual arts, and popular culture; and the ways in which gender, race, class, and sexual identities intersect for both women and men. This curriculum is designed to help all students think critically and globally about sex-gender systems and to encourage women, in particular, to think in new ways about themselves and their work. Undergraduates may explore women's studies in lectures, seminars, and conference courses. Advanced students may also apply for early admission to the College's graduate program in Women's History and, if admitted, may begin work toward the Master of Arts degree during their senior year. The MA program provides rigorous training in historical research and interpretation. It is designed for students pursuing careers in academe, advocacy, policymaking, and related fields.

Health Science and Society

Health, science, and society is a cluster of undergraduate and graduate courses, programs, and events that addresses the meaning of health and illness, advocacy for health and health care, and structures of medical and scientific knowledge. Courses and events are multidisciplinary, bringing together perspectives from the humanities, creative arts, social sciences, and natural sciences. Undergraduate students who are interested in health, science, and society are encouraged to take courses across the curriculum and to design interdisciplinary conference projects.

Over the past 25 years, as health and disease have been examined from social, economic, political, and historical perspectives, there has been an increased awareness of the ways in which definitions of disease are framed in relation to the values, social structures, and bases of knowledge of particular communities. Globalization has required us to understand health and disease as crucial international issues, and environmental health is increasingly seen to be a matter of policy that has significantly differential effects on different populations. Public talks and events are regularly scheduled to bring together undergraduate and graduate faculty and students to consider these questions of health, medicine, and scientific knowledge from a broad variety of perspectives.

This focus of study may be of interest to students interested in the health professions, including premed, nursing, or allied professions such as physical therapy, allowing them to combine courses in the natural sciences with explorations of the social sciences, arts, and humanities. Similarly, students in the arts and humanities who are interested in health and illness may find that incorporating science and social science into their educational program enables them to achieve a greater depth of understanding and expression in their work.

The health, science, and society program offers undergraduate students the unique opportunity to take advantage of Sarah Lawrence College's nationally recognized graduate master's programs in [Human Genetics](#) and [Health Advocacy](#), both the first such graduate programs offered in the country. Events and programs are also coordinated with the graduate programs in [Art of Teaching](#) and [Child Development](#) and in collaboration with the [Child Development Institute](#).

International Studies

What kind of global society will evolve in the 21st century? Linked by worldwide organizations and communications, yet divided by histories and ethnic identities, people everywhere are involved in the process of re-evaluation and self-definition. To help students better understand the complex forces that will determine the shape of the 21st century, Sarah Lawrence College offers an interdisciplinary approach to international studies. Broadly defined, international studies include the dynamics of interstate relations; the interplay of cultural, ideological, economic, and religious factors; and the multifaceted structures of Asian, African, Latin American, Middle Eastern, and European societies. A variety of programs abroad further extends students' curricular options in international studies. The experience of overseas learning, valuable in itself, also encourages more vivid cultural insight and integration of different scholarly perspectives. The courses offered in international studies are listed throughout the catalogue in disciplines as diverse as anthropology, art history, Asian studies, economics, environmental science, geography, history, literature, politics, and religion.

Latin American and Latino/a Studies

This program in Latin American and Latino/a studies (LALS) is devoted to the interdisciplinary investigation of Latin American, Caribbean, and Latino cultures, politics, and histories. Through a variety of disciplines, students will have opportunities to explore the vibrant cultural life of Latin American and Caribbean countries, as well as the experiences of the Latino communities in the United States. Course offerings will include language, literature, dance, film, music, art, and other cultural expressions as a way to familiarize the students with a world that is rich in imagination, powerful in social impact, and defiant of the stereotypes usually imposed upon it. Students will also interrogate the complex political dynamics involved in such processes as (post)colonialism, migration, revolution, social movements, citizenship, and the cultural politics of race, gender, sexuality, and class. The histories of conquest, colonialism, development, and resistance in the area also require broad inquiry into the often turbulent and violent realities of political economic forces.

As this program is concerned with a broad set of border crossings, faculty in LALS are also committed to expanding educational experiences beyond Sarah Lawrence College. Accordingly, students are encouraged to study abroad through Sarah Lawrence College programs in Cuba, Argentina, and Peru or with other programs in Latin America. Students will also have opportunities to explore the borderlands closer to Sarah Lawrence College, including Latino communities in New York City and Westchester County.

Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies

Description TBD

Classes from Disciplines such as Art History, Economics, Geography, History, Politics, Religion and Sociology comprise the classes available within this cluster.

New Genres and Interactive Art

New genres and interactive art span offerings in visual arts, film and media, and computer science to foster technical and digital literacy in the arts. Designed for experimentation, this initiative helps students establish digital proficiency while supporting the exploration of a wide range of new media forms and technologies. Courses of study might include visual programming, artificial intelligence, gaming, robotics, experimental animation, computer arts, experimental media design, data visualization, real-time interactivity, digital signal processing, cross-platform media environments, and mobile media development. Students are encouraged to coordinate these project-based investigations of the digital throughout their studies in the humanities, including literature, philosophy, politics, sociology, theatre, and writing.

Political Economy

Description TBD

Classes from Disciplines such as Economics, Geography, History, LGBT Studies, Politics, Psychology, Public Policy, Sociology, and Writing comprise the classes available within this cluster.

Sarah Lawrence Interdisciplinary Collaborative on the Environment (SLICE)

The Sarah Lawrence Interdisciplinary Collaborative on the Environment (SLICE) was developed to allow Sarah Lawrence College (SLC) students, faculty, and community partners to study a variety of environmental topics across the humanities as well as the sciences and social sciences. As multiple human and non-human induced environmental crises unfold and disproportionately affect vulnerable frontline communities, students in SLICE courses will engage in a shared dialogue about the human-environment interaction in courses that seek to understand environmental crises and their impacts on organisms and ecosystems; the social and economic forces contributing to climate and other environmental injustices; and the complex relationships between humanity, animality, race, class, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, and the natural world. The SLICE curriculum includes a unique, Mellon-funded, cross-institutional pedagogy bringing together students from Sarah Lawrence College and Bronx Community College (BCC) for events, workshops, discussions, collaborative projects, and field trips focused on climate justice and the humanities. SLICE cluster courses come together during 2 two-week interludes each semester to focus on interdisciplinary learning, seeking to understand, historicize, and analyze relationships between humans, animals, the land and environment from the perspectives of the arts and humanities, as well as mathematics, science, social science. SLICE-affiliated courses will also participate in events and workshops, while continuing course meetings throughout the semester. SLC and BCC students in SLICE -cluster and -affiliated courses will have the opportunity to present their research at an interdisciplinary symposium each spring.

Urban Studies

Urban studies is dedicated to the study of cities across disciplines, focusing on the fabric of cities and the culture, society, and economy particular to cities and to those who live within them. Some of the topics that urban studies may explore are the histories of cities; space, design, and power; cities and suburbia; the city and the country; megacities; casino urbanization; cities remembered (memoirs based on urban space); and cities of the future (real and science fiction cities). Among the many themes addressed in urban studies are space and sociability, including urban planning, public and private space, social relations and structures, the right to city space, gender and power, urban social movements, and public art. Among the many disciplines that offer courses related to urban studies are anthropology, architecture, economics, environmental studies, politics, public policy, and sociology.