IST 511 – Introduction to Interdisciplinary Graduate Studies

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Course Description

IST 511 designed to introduce new MAIS students to interdisciplinary study and to graduate study in general. This course will meet for an all-day session on the Friday before the fall term starts, and then there will be three additional class meetings during the fall term. During this course, we will explore the concept of interdisciplinary study, discuss possible research areas, learn about the MAIS degree and the process for completing it, and develop peer groups.

Course Objectives

- Introduce new MAIS students to the processes and practices of graduate study at OSU
- Introduce students to relevant research resources
- Develop an understanding of what interdisciplinary study requires
- Begin to build a supportive graduate learning community

Course Requirements

1. Completed Program of Study – During the 8\textsuperscript{th} week of the term, you will turn in your proposed program of study. This will include all coursework and thesis/research paper credits.

2. Group Program – One of the challenges with the MAIS degree is finding a cohort with whom you can work successfully to complete your degree. A goal of this course, and IST 512, it to give you the opportunity to meet and form peer groups with other MAIS students. Consequently, you will begin forming a group with whom you will work for at least two quarters, and hopefully for the duration of your degree program. You must have 3-5 people in your group, and must meet weekly or bi-weekly, just to chat, get to know each other, and be helpful to one another in completion of the degree. You will check in with me and provide three progress reports during the term –October 2 (at which time you will tell me who is in your group and your meeting plans); November 6 (to provide an update on how the group is developing, what you’ve been doing, and any problems arising); and December 4 (to summarize how often you met, issued you discussed, and plans for meeting in the winter term). These updates should be no more than one page long, and sent to me via email from one member of the group.

3. Readings and Response Papers – You will be given a few articles to read during the term. For each, you are to write a one-page, single spaced response to the articles, applying what you’ve read to your own program of study and goals, offering up commentary and analysis.

Schedule for the First Day of Class (To be held the Friday before the start of Fall term)

- Introductions
- IST 511 – Goals and the Agenda
- What Is the MAIS and the Process for Completing the Degree?
- Martin Fisk – Associate Dean of the Graduate School
- Lunch
- Discuss Article on Interdisciplinary Study
- Additional Resources
- Form Peer Groups
- Discussion/questions
- Conclusion