## BX A Intercollege Program Courses

### About Course Numbers:

Each Carnegie Mellon course number begins with a two-digit prefix that designates the department offering the course (i.e., 76-xxxx courses are offered by the Department of English). Although each department maintains its own course numbering practices, typically, the first digit after the prefix indicates the class level: xx-1xx courses are freshmen-level, xx-2xx courses are sophomore level, etc. Depending on the department, xx-6xx courses may be either undergraduate senior-level or graduate-level, and xx-7xx courses and higher are graduate-level. Consult the Schedule of Classes ([https://enr-apps.as.cmu.edu/open/SOC/SOCServlet](https://enr-apps.as.cmu.edu/open/SOC/SOCServlet)) each semester for course offerings and for any necessary pre-requisites or co-requisites.

### BX A Seminar I: Building the Wunderkammer

**Fall**: 9 units

BX A Seminar I introduces first-year and rising sophomore internal transfer students to the field of interdisciplinary work through the concept of the Wunderkammer, the cabinet of wonders. How do we identify and categorize objects? How do we define their position in the world and in a collection? What kind of knowledge is conveyed through context, representation, and juxtaposition? This class considers how interdisciplinary work can be produced, analyzed, justified and—most importantly—contextualized. Students engage with theoretical and practical readings from across disciplines, with particular emphasis on interpretive theory. Weekly readings in aesthetic and critical theory introduce students to a particular vocabulary of analysis, practiced in class discussion and written responses. Students will conceive, research, produce and present a creative final project at the end of the semester.

### BX A Seminar II: Transferring Knowledge

**Spring**: 9 units

BX A Seminar II is intended for students transferring into a BX A program during their sophomore year or beyond. We'll consider how knowledge is represented across different modes of media—what language, what signs, what logic guides knowledge acquisition and expression in your varied disciplines? Students engage with theoretical and practical readings from across disciplines, with particular emphasis on interpretive theory. Weekly readings in aesthetic and critical theory introduce students to a particular vocabulary of analysis, practiced in class discussions and written responses. Students will produce written assignments as well as creative responses to the course material.

### BX A Seminar III: Deconstructing Disciplines

**Spring**: 9 units

The BX A Seminar III will engage BX A juniors in examination of critical theory, the structure of disciplinary knowledge, interdisciplinary approaches and methods, and the purpose, categories, and components of research. The course will meet weekly at the beginning of the semester and biweekly or bimonthly at the second half with time given to completing individual projects. The requirements include short readings, participation in online and seminar discussions, individual self-assessment exercises, the production of small creative works and/or research projects, and presentation of work during both BX A Kaleidoscope and a separate class requiring a showcase held during the final exam period. BX A Seminar III is in preparation for the BX A Capstone Project and/or other senior research projects (Dietrich/MCS/SCS thesis, or CFA senior studio work).

### BX A Seminar IV: Capstone Project Research Fall and Spring

The BX A Capstone gives BX A students the opportunity to demonstrate the extent of their interdisciplinary work over the course of their academic career. The BX A Seminar IV will provide students with the opportunity to pursue a multi-semester research project that is both scholarly and/or creative. The project may take the form of a written thesis, a compilation of creative works, an outreach project, etc. The project topic must be pre-approved by the faculty member who agrees to supervise the project and assign a letter grade for the course. Projects are to be completed in one semester, may be worth 3, 6, 9, or 12 units of academic credit, and cannot be taken concurrently with the BX A Capstone Project during the senior year. To register, students must submit an "Undergraduate Research Project Proposal Form" signed by both the student and the faculty advisor, along with a proposal, to their BX A advisor.

### BX A Undergraduate Research Project All Semesters

The BX A Undergraduate Research Project is for students who want to work on a self-designed project with the one-to-one guidance of a faculty advisor. The project should be interdisciplinary in nature, and be a scholarly and/or creative endeavor. The project may take the form of a written thesis, a compilation of creative works, an outreach project, etc. The project topic must be pre-approved by the faculty member who agrees to supervise the project and assign a letter grade for the course. Projects are to be completed in one semester, may be worth 3, 6, 9, or 12 units of academic credit, and cannot be taken concurrently with the BX A Capstone Project during the senior year. To register, students must submit an "Undergraduate Research Project Proposal Form" signed by both the student and the faculty advisor, along with a proposal, to their BX A advisor.
**52-402 BXA Seminar V: Capstone Project Production**

Fall and Spring: 9 units

The BXA Capstone gives BXA students the opportunity to demonstrate the extent of their interdisciplinary work over the course of their academic career. The Capstone should include elements that span the student's CFA and SCS concentrations (for BCSA students), CFA and DC concentrations (for BHA students), CFA and MCS concentrations (for BSA students) or CFA concentration and Engineering major (for EA additional major students). The project can be either a scholarly or creative endeavor, and may take one of many possible forms (e.g., a written thesis, a compilation of creative work or works, an experiment and report, a computer program or animation, etc.). The BXA Capstone sequence covers both semesters of a student's senior year. In the fall, students are enrolled in 52-401 BXA Seminar IV: Capstone Fall (9 units), which meets weekly to discuss strategies for managing research, planning the project and larger theoretical issues related to interdisciplinary work. At the end of the fall course, students will have produced a Capstone Project proposal, an annotated bibliography and multiple versions of their project pitch. In the spring, students enroll in 52-402 BXA Seminar: Capstone Spring (9 units), which has no required classroom time. Instead, students spend the semester doing the research and foundational work necessary for the project, as well as meeting with their faculty and BXA advisors as they create their Capstone Project and prepare to present it at the annual Meeting of the Minds Undergraduate Research Symposium held each May.

**52-590 BXA Internship**

All Semesters

An internship is a supervised professional work experience with clear links to a student's academic goals. BXA students may choose to complete a BXA Internship for elective credit with appropriate individuals or organizations within or outside of Carnegie Mellon University. Junior and senior BXA students in good academic standing are eligible to receive academic credit for one internship. Grading is pass/no pass only. Prior to enrolling in an internship, the student must have a "BXA Internship Agreement Form" signed by their site supervisor and approved by their BXA academic advisor.