BXA Intercollege Program Courses

Note on Course Numbers
Each Carnegie Mellon course number begins with a two-digit prefix which
designates the department offering the course (76-xxx courses are offered
by the Department of English, etc.). 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. xx-6xx courses may be either undergraduate
senior-level or graduate-level, depending on the department. xx-7xx
courses and higher are graduate-level. Please consult the Schedule of
Classes (https://enr-apps.as.cmu.edu/open/SOC/SOCServlet) each semester
for course offerings and for any necessary pre-requisites or co-requisites.

52-190 BXA Freshman Interdisciplinary Seminar
Fall: 9 units
The BXA Freshman Interdisciplinary Seminar introduces first-year students
to the field of interdisciplinary work and arts-based research. Students
engage with theoretical and practical readings from across the various
concentrations, with particular emphasis on aesthetic theory. Guest
lectures complement the weekly readings by giving insight into practical
implementations of these ideas. Students will conceive, research, and
create a final project to be presented at the end of the semester. BXA
internal transfer students should register for 62-399 BXA Interdisciplinary
Seminar to fulfill the interdisciplinary requirement.

52-290 Literacy Across Disciplines
Fall: 5 units
One of the central goals of the BXA program is to help students develop
a technical and conceptual literacy that crosses disciplinary boundaries.
This kind of literacy requires not just disciplinary knowledge but practice
in articulating ideas in ways that effectively reach very different audiences.
This course will give you the opportunity to develop skills in identifying
and targeting audiences in a variety of rhetorical modes and genres.

52-291 Building BXA: A Project Course
Fall: 5 units
The ultimate goal of Building BXA is to produce, as a class, a communal
space that represents BXA and provides a dedicated social space for all
students. Over the course of six weeks, this class will propose, plan, and
build the space, gaining experience in project management, collaboration,
marketing, and budgeting. The details, both large and small, are entirely
up to you. BXA will provide help organizing and funding the project, but the
rest is in the hands of the class. What kind of space do you want to see?
What happens inside that space? How will you design and furnish the space?
How will you promote it to the university at large? The Fall 2013 version
of this class is a pilot program, open to BXA sophomores and juniors. In the
future, this will be a Sophomore Class Project, with registration limited to
BXA sophomores.

52-390 BXA Undergraduate Research Project
Fall
The BXA 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 can 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 BXA
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 the BXA Director/
Academic Advisor.

52-391 BXA Junior Portfolio Review
Spring
To better assess the progress and accomplishments of BXA students as
they enter their final year, students submit a portfolio for review during the
spring semester junior year. Students should work with their BXA
advisor and their concentration faculty advisors to assemble a portfolio
that represents their academic and creative accomplishments over the
course of their college career. This portfolio should also include a reflective
essay in which students evaluate how they integrated their two areas of
interest, and how they will extend that integration into the BXA Capstone
Project in the senior year. Students should identify their own specific
goals for their academic career and how they are fulfilling them in this
reflective essay, as well as how they evaluate their performance in light of
the programs’ broader pedagogical goals. Students in the BXA program
should be working toward being able to: describe the connections between
their chosen concentration disciplines and to integrate them into their
work; communicate ideas in writing, visual expression, and oral expression;
discuss the intersection of history, society, and culture from local and global
perspectives; synthesize mathematical theories and experimental work to
produce real-world knowledge; and use cognitive, behavioral, and ethical
dimensions to make decisions on individual and social levels.

52-399 BXA Interdisciplinary Seminar
Fall: 9 units
The BXA Interdisciplinary Seminar has been designed primarily for BXA
internal transfer students and it is offered in the fall and spring semesters.
Using the arts as primary modes of inquiry, this course’s content probes
the idiosyncratic field of arts-based research by following the principle
that there is no aspect of human life that cannot be studied objectively,
quantified and analyzed. Aside from discussing a digest of the latest writings
on arts-based research, students will try their own approach to arts-based
research by building prismatic artistic and literary constructs inspired by
the reading of some of the most relevant contributions to the famed Charles
Eliot Norton Lectures delivered at Harvard University. Texts will include
examples from Italo Calvino’s Six Memos for the Next Millennium, Frank
Stella’s Working Space, Umberto Eco’s Six Walks in the Fictional Woods,
Jorge Luis Borges? This Craft of Verse, Luciano Berio’s Remembering
the Future, Leonard Bernstein’s The Unanswered Question, and John Cage’s I-
IV.

52-400 BXA Capstone Project
Fall: 9 units
The BXA Capstone Project gives BXA students the opportunity to
demonstrate the extent of their interdisciplinary work over the course of
their academic career. The Capstone Project should include elements that
span the student’s CFA and DC concentrations (for BHA students), CFA
and MCS concentrations (for BSA students), or CFA and SCS concentrations
(for BCSA 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 62-401 BXA Capstone Project I (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 62-402 BXA Capstone Project II (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. Students will
only be enrolled in 62-400 (9 units) when they are unable to complete a
two-semester sequence and need to gain special permission by the BXA
Director/Academic Advisor.
52-401 BXA Capstone Project I
Fall: 9 units
The BXA Capstone Project gives BXA students the opportunity to demonstrate the extent of their interdisciplinary work over the course of their academic career. The Capstone Project should include elements that span the student’s CFA and DC concentrations (for BHA students), CFA and MCS concentrations (for BSA students), or CFA and SCS concentrations (for BCSA 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 62-401 BXA Capstone Project I (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 62-402 BXA Capstone Project II (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.

52-402 BXA Capstone Project II
Spring: 9 units
The BXA Capstone Project gives BXA students the opportunity to demonstrate the extent of their interdisciplinary work over the course of their academic career. The Capstone Project should include elements that span the student’s CFA and DC concentrations (for BHA students), CFA and MCS concentrations (for BSA students), or CFA and SCS concentrations (for BCSA 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 62-401 BXA Capstone Project I (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 62-402 BXA Capstone Project II (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.

52-410 BXA Junior Seminar
Fall: 9 units
The Iranian civilization is one of the oldest continuing civilizations in the world. Music has played an important role in the continuation and preservation of this ancient culture. In this course, the traditional, folk, and contemporary music of Iran will be studied and discussed. The focal point of the course will be the Persian modal system, the Dástgāh. Starting with a historical survey of the ancient and medieval Persian music, different aspects of the Dástgāh system will be demonstrated and discussed. In addition, religious music and folk music of Iran as well as Iranian contemporary music will be discussed during the course.

52-590 BXA Internship
Fall
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 the BXA Director/Academic Advisor.