

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 Seminar I: Building the Wunderkammer

Fall: 9 units

BXA 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.

52-290 Literacy Across Disciplines

Intermittent: 9 units

This course is intended for CFA students who want to improve their writing and communication skills, with a focus on targeting non-specialist audiences. Assignments and readings will cover formats including artists' statements, grant and other funding applications, and other project proposals. Students will also acquire the critical vocabulary to contextualize their creative work in contemporary conversations about the arts. This course will give you the opportunity to develop skills in identifying and targeting audiences in a variety of rhetorical modes and genres. This course is especially well-suited to sophomores and juniors, but is open to all years.

52-291 BXA Seminar II: Transferring Knowledge

Spring: 9 units

BXA Seminar II is intended for students transferring into a BXA program during their sophomore year or beyond. We'll consider how knowledge is represented across different modes of media—what language, what symbols, 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.

52-292 BXA Student Advisory Council

Fall and Spring: 3 units

This course will provide opportunities for students to promote and refine the mission of the BXA programs. Students will develop and practice leadership skills, including collaboration, communication, and project management. Students will be responsible for planning and running BXA student events, including info sessions, social hours, skills workshops, and alumni events. Students are encouraged to think about how to engage other interdisciplinary scholars and artists as well as how to present their own work and programs to the larger university community.

52-390 BXA Undergraduate Research Project

Fall and Spring

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 their BXA academic advisor.

52-391 BXA Junior Portfolio

Spring

To better assess the goals and needs of BXA students as they enter their final year and prepare for senior-level projects (e.g. BXA Capstone Project), all students will review their own work and assemble a portfolio during the spring semester of their junior year. Students should work with their BXA advisors and their concentration faculty advisors to assemble a portfolio that represents their academic and creative milestones over the course of their college career. This portfolio also includes reflexive written components to allow students to present a narrative of their history with BXA, and identify their goals, visions, ideas, and concerns for their future work—both for senior year, and beyond. Students should provide an assessment of the areas of intersection between their academic and artistic interests, offer their own specific goals for their academic career, and give a self-evaluation of their performance and opportunities to-date, in light of the programs' broader pedagogical goals.

52-392 BXA Seminar III: Deconstructing Disciplines

Spring: 9 units

The BXA Seminar III will engage BXA juniors in examination of critical theory, the structure of disciplines, interdisciplinary approaches and methods, and the components of research. The course will meet weekly, and requirements will include readings, participation in online and seminar discussions, the production of creative works, and research training in preparation for the BXA Capstone Project.

52-400 BXA Seminar: Capstone

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 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 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. Students will only be enrolled in 52-400 (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 Seminar IV: Capstone Fall

Fall: 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 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 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.

52-402 BXA Seminar V: Capstone Spring

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 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 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

Fall and Spring

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.