

# Integrated Learning

---

**Department  
Goals**

Integrated Learning provides all BFA students with a series of collaborative experiences that extends beyond the boundaries of their own major, integrates disciplinary skills and knowledge and is sited within a public context. Students work in interdisciplinary teams with a community organization, and focus on team building and research to address the needs of the communities and to implement real-world solutions when possible. The goal is to move beyond the traditional boundaries of the classroom and respond to community challenges using students' diverse visions. Through collaborative projects students will:

- Negotiate diverse public spheres
- Work in interdisciplinary teams
- Develop trans-disciplinary problem-solving skills
- Conceptualize, analyze and define issues and solutions
- Plan and propose creative solutions for a specific context, informed by engagement with a community group

# Integrated Learning

Integrated Learning courses are woven throughout the entire undergraduate curriculum and are structured as follows:

- A two-credit introductory studio course taken in the Foundation Year
- A three-credit Liberal Arts elective course taken in the sophomore year
- A two-credit elective studio course taken in the junior year

## Connections Through Color and Design

ILMS100                      2 credits

A second-semester Integrated Learning studio course introducing Foundation students to contextually-based problem solving using fundamentals of color and design. Students learn Munsell color theory, practical aspects of color mixing such as value, hue and chroma, as well as computer color application. Skills developed: Students solve problems that engage the larger community, trans-disciplinary practice, research, and collaboration.

## Integrated Learning Liberal Arts

ILML200                      3 credits

An integrative course using collaborative methodology, synthesizing diverse perspectives, using the skills of creative and critical thinking, clear communication and information literacy. See the Liberal Arts department for offerings.

## Integrated Learning Studio

ILMS300                      2 credits



An upper-division interdisciplinary studio course offering unique core content that shifts from term to term. This studio affords students the opportunity to engage with professionals from various fields and expand their notion of problem solving beyond their major in public site realworld challenges.

A limited choice of ILMS300 courses will count for the Sustainability Minor. Please see the Interdisciplinary Studies Director.

Examples of previous and planned ILMS 300 courses:

## Ban the Bottle Abolish the Bag:

Ways to reduce plastic pollution in our oceans. Students begin by researching the impact plastic trash has on our local oceans, wildlife and communities. They will then work in multidisciplinary teams to develop proposals to educate and encourage the reduction, reuse and refusal of plastic bags, bottles and containers.

## Mobile Local: LA's Food Truck Revolution

Mobile Local will focus on issues of social sustainability and cultural influence through systemic understanding of Los Angeles and its unique pedestrian culture. Qualitative, ethnographic research techniques, interviews, site visits, and eating will be used as primary research methods. Instructor: Christopher Michlig Partner: Southern California Mobile Food Vendors Association

## Comic Heroes: From 2D to 3D

An exploration of comics and their 3-D counterparts. Outcome may be an intriguing marketing promotion or perhaps a "nal product" that could range from a virtual world, to an action gure, a digital game, or even a user-created and edited website. Partner: Top Cow / Hero Initiative

## RADI-O:

Student teams learn about FM, AM and Internet radio production, producing content that reports, engages, and rediscovers the Westchester community. Students gain hands-on experience in the audio production studios at both Otis and LMU, while learning to listen, record and edit the sound around them. As a class we will produce a creative, fun, and informative radio show to be available online at Otis and rebroadcast on the LMU radio stations.

Partners: KXLU, KLMU, Da Vinci Design School

## Community Crossover:

Identity-based projects in the public realm. Conceptualize and produce art and design interventions in collaboration with partners Breathe LA. Research their rich history, define core values and help to convey their unique character to intended audiences. Outcomes may include digital and graphic media campaigns, unique product development, physical space alterations or experiential events and exhibitions. Instructor: Todd Erlandson  
Partner: Breathe LA

## Course Descriptions

# Integrated Learning

---

## **Course Descriptions**

### **Neighborgapbridge**

Changing the World, One Neighborhood at a Time. Can artists and designers collaborate and assume the role of ethnographers to investigate our Otis neighbors? Can they identify “gaps” in communication, interests and values and propose “bridges” to connect them? Creative. Blue Sky. Out There. Walking Distance. Partner: WC Senior Center, WC/ Loyola Branch Library and The Custom Hotel

### **Otis Goes Green - Global Green USA:**

This course provides art and design students with the knowledge and tools needed to make ecodesign an integral part of the design process. Students in this course will have an opportunity to help Otis become Green, discuss Green Design with top Green Designers and attend a Green Design Show. We believe it is at the design education level where we have the best opportunity to create a sustainable future. Partner: Global Green International

### **Design for Social Impact**

Introducing students to the complexities of social design leadership and teach them to design local product systems that can be validated and then scaled to fit different contexts. Engaging directly with local communities in need, students will conduct hands on research and develop actionable social design strategies, with an emphasis on systems and tools. Partner: Urban Compass  
Examples of ILML 200 courses: 3 Credits

### **Designing The Political**

This course investigates the role of artists and designers as powerful agents of protest and progress. Emphasis will be placed on a historical contextualization of political graphics to learn more about the role of propaganda, the face of the enemy, and the power of the visual text to shape the perception of the “other” for better or worse. Partner: Center for the Study of Political Graphics

### **Festival**

Students will learn what goes into building and promoting a successful community festival. They will create a business, marketing, and fundraising/development plan that can be used to create an annual festival that celebrates this area of the city in a partnership between Otis College and local government agencies and businesses. Partner: LAX Coastal and Westchester BID

### **Homeboy Histories and Culture**

This course explores personal experience narratives and how they are expressed in the visual arts by their narrators. In addition, this course focuses on identity and the way in which it is expressed: political, ethnic, and social identities serving as markers for social mobility and control. Partner: Homeboy Industries Inc.

### **LA Past Lives: A Virtual Architecture**

This course will challenge students to reconstruct past physical and social nexuses of neighborhoods/communities in LA combining both architectural and design components with art, cinema and private histories of present and past community members. Students will generate an online archival display of LA’s past communities as part of this course. Partner: Richard Riordan Central Library

### **Modern Mysticism and the Afterlife**

This class explores the concept of the soul/spirit as viewed through modern mysticism, mystic individuals and social movements. Students will look into cross-cultural perspectives, rites of intensification, attend field trips for first-hand experience, attempt to use or perform some of these practices and concepts in class. Partner: Hollywood Forever Cemetery

### **Movies That Matter**

As artists and designers, students need to understand that movies can inspire and educate as well as entertain. In this class students will gain a historical perspective to understand the past and present in order to visualize the future. Through compelling and entertaining stories, the selected films depict social, political, cultural and gender, racial and ethnic issues. Partner: FilmAid International

### **Museums: Public Engagement**

The question of visitor engagement in the work of museums is especially heightened in Los Angeles, one of the world’s epicenters for the arts. How can the rich content of museums function as a useful resource for the way we live our lives? Can museums ignite the muse or inspiration in all of us? How do popcorn machine of cultural activity and be a place for solitude and contemplation? Can museums be a resource for the complex concerns of our time? Partner: Getty Museum

# Integrated Learning

---

## **Course Descriptions**

### **Nurturing Identity and Community**

Proyecto Jardin depends on community collaboration. The presence of multiple constituents reveals ways in which people address emerging issues associated with the globalized food economy. Students will learn and employ ethnographic theories and methods of interviewing garden patrons. Partner: Proyecto Jardin Community Garden

### **LA Legacy PST**

Site Partner: PST. | The LA Legacy Project focuses on the Getty-sponsored initiative, Pacific Standard Time: Art in LA 1945-1980, which includes more than fifty exhibitions that tell the story of the birth of the LA art scene. Students develop a web based publication.

### **Public Policy in The Arts**

The LAX airport is developing art installations as an expression of the “public face” of LA. This course will focus on the management, implementation, selection process, and on going commitment to art exhibitions at LAX. Students will discover how the public sector builds relationships with community partners, serves as a catalyst for the delivery of art, culture and heritage, while offering entertainment at an internationally public site. Site Partner: LA Cult. Affairs Dept. and LAX Airport

### **Palau Freedom Memorial: An International Experience**

Students will work with Palauan artist and students in Palau to design a Freedom Memorial / public art project for the Palauan people. Students who choose to enroll in this class need to be committed to stretching their goals, diving deep and promising to make a difference. Site Partner: Republic of Palau

### **Examining the Civil Rights**

Site Partner: African Amer. Museum. | The Civil Rights movement made far reaching strides during 1956–1968. Students will discuss how this era re-shaped American history, society, and culture from a multi-disciplinary perspective. This course will also examine the events, figures, and issues central to the Civil Rights movement.

### **Comic Books & Social Issues**

Students will be introduced to the comic book plot structure and will learn how comic book creators use the comic book story to focus on socially relevant issues. Students will develop their own social conscientiousness by creating their own original comic book story and script.

### **Life Stages**

Students will work with the Culver City Senior center. Students are then guided through a process in which they work individually and collectively to create an original script that explores personal identity, family history and various compelling intergenerational issues.

### **Human Ecology**

The course provides an introduction to the relationship between cultural, social and ecological systems. A course goal is to advance awareness of how artists and designers can problem solve the issues collaboratively, beyond the confines of any one discipline. Sustainability Minor Only

### **Urban Farming**

In this class we will learn ethnographic theories and methods to apply to deepening our understanding of the ways urban farming and community gardens affect people’s lives, connecting to concerns in society and how the work of the artist can and does contribute.

### **Beasts of Myth and Fancy**

Arabic, Chinese and Medieval bestiaries populated the world and the imagination with creatures composed from parts and ideas in the natural world. Some of these creatures still populate our imagination and their influence can be felt in all aspects of culture. This course will further explore the theme of creativity.

### **Chinese American Museum**

Students will explore the history of LA old and new Chinatown, and will generate projects that will encompass the collective and private experiences of the community through an open design concept.

# Integrated Learning

---

## **Course Descriptions**

### **Reel Docs**

This course presents nonfiction cinema about real people and critical issues that shape our lives and the world in which we live. Nonfiction films will be viewed as agents of change, critically and aesthetically and we will examine the power of the medium to educate, enrich and even change lives.