

Internationalizing the Curriculum in the Master of Liberal Studies Program on the Duluth Campus

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Context

MLS is an interdisciplinary graduate program primarily for part time students. MLS is located outside any academic department, with faculty released (for example) from Criminology, Journalism, Communication, and English to teach three required courses.

- MLS 8001 Introduction to Interdisciplinary Graduate Study
- MLS 8051 Seminar in Community Engagement
- MLS 8052 Seminar in International Perspectives

Students assemble the remainder of their coursework from existing options in other units.

Project

To internationalize this graduate curriculum!!

Constraints

- The course must be internationalized without defining “international” within any one discipline’s methods or objects of study. A criminologist and a literary critic must both be able to teach the class.
- The university curriculum committee and the university graduate council must see the class as well-defined and rigorous.
- Students, meanwhile, with hyperlocal and hyperpractical interests must see the course as an organic part of their curriculum, not a hoop to pass through. Part time graduate students will simply reject a curriculum with hoops.

Solutions

The DGS integrated the literature on international education learned in the Internationalizing Teaching & Learning workshops (organized through GPSA) with the literature on interdisciplinarity (especially Julie Thompson Klein) to develop a course proposal sharp enough to pass administration and yet be taught by a rhetorician as well as a specialist in Korean film.

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