

Idaho Interdisciplinary Humanities Standards White Paper

Definition:

The Interdisciplinary Humanities course is a pathway for learners to discover and understand the human experience through a balanced and integrated combination of the arts and/or humanities with inclusion of **two or more** of the following content areas: architecture, philosophy, literature, world religions, visual and media arts, music, dance, theater, history and world languages.

Purpose:

In order to prepare students both to appreciate and apply the role of the arts and humanities in critical thinking and creative problem solving, an interdisciplinary humanities course will explore the human experience through the analysis and interpretation of themes, issues, and/or movements. The Interdisciplinary Humanities course will encourage students to become lifelong explorers who discover their connectedness to the records of lived experiences outside of their own individual social and cultural context. Through the creation/interpretation/communication of an original work and through the performance/presentation/production of that work, students are able to gain new perspectives.

Design:

The Interdisciplinary Humanities course should provide a well-rounded, thematic hands-on experience. The course is intended to integrate content from **two or more** arts and humanities disciplines. This course must be built upon the following five anchor standards: connect and compare, respond, create, present, and reflect. The standards for the Interdisciplinary Humanities course do not provide discipline content; the content should be derived from the selected disciplines.

Pedagogy:

In the Interdisciplinary Humanities classroom, the teacher(s) will have extensive expertise in two or more disciplines and will enable students to identify and apply authentic connections. Instruction will integrate essential concepts that transcend individual disciplines. The integration must be balanced in content, practices, and assessments. Structured around themes, issues, and/or movements, instruction will maintain a balance of academic study, performance, and project-based learning. The instructor will foster a collaborative environment that encourages academic risk-taking and inquiry.

Interdisciplinary Humanities Committee Members:

Chair: Heather Ohrtman Rogers, Lewiston: English, Spanish, Graphic Design Instructor

Steve Besel, Midvale, Music: Theatre, Interdisciplinary Humanities Instructor

Melissa Hegg, Boise: Sage International Charter School, English and Interdisciplinary Humanities Instructor

Kate Hunter, West Ada School District: Arts and Humanities Coordinator

Peggy Fiske, Lapwai Schools: Art Instructor

Maura Goodard, Boise School District: History Instructor

Jamie Keller-Mann, West Ada District: History, Interdisciplinary Humanities Instructor

Ted McManus, McCall/Donnelly School District: History, Interdisciplinary Humanities Instructor

Dave Marotz, Rexburg: Principal

Lisa Nelson, Troy: Art Instructor

Dr. Dan Prinzing, Boise: Wassmuth Center for Human Rights

Carrie Seymour, Boise State University: Interdisciplinary Studies Associate Professor