**Multidisciplinary Studies Curriculum and Course Outline**

**Degree:** BA **Major:** MultidisciplinaryStudies  **Concentration:** Design for Social Innovation (Art & Design/ Social Work) **Major Requirements:** 39 credit hours (plus 9 credit hours of related coursework)

Core 2 (18 credit hours)

Social Justice

Core 1 (18 credit hours)

Graphic Design

SOWK 102 Modern Social Welfare Dilemma

SOWK 201 Social Welfare Policy and Economics

SOWK 203 Human Behavior and the Social Environment

SOWK 303 Social Welfare Behavior and the Law

SOWK 323 Human Behavior and the Social Environment II

SOWK 350 Encounters in Human Diversity

ART 133 Drawing I

ART 142 2D Design

DESN 240 Typography

DESN 307 Visual Communication and Design History

DESN 344 Visual Communication and Graphic Design I

DESN 345 Introduction to Computer Art

Capstone (3 credit hours)

Relative Elective Courses 9 credit hours)

SOCY 210 Sociology of the Family

CSCI 375 Computer Graphics

COMM 227 Social Movements & Digital Activism

DESN 493 Portfolio

**Course Descriptions**

**Core One Descriptions:**

**ART 133 Drawing I:** Introduces drawing as artistic expression as well as a form of nonverbal communication. Traditional and contemporary perspectives. Emphasis on original creative solutions to visual problems. Students explore artistic composition employing various drawing media and techniques. Includes criticism, analysis, and evaluation. For both the non-art major and the art major. Offered in fall, spring and periodically in summer.

**ART 142 2D Design**: Introduces two-dimensional design and composition, applicable to all art forms, in which students seek original, creative solutions to problems. Design principles and methods are employed as students learn language and visual communication techniques. Artistic production, criticism, analysis and evaluation are central to this course.

**DESN 240 Typography:** A study of the fundamental characteristics of type and communication for the electronic screen and its contrast with type for print media. The course explores typographic terminology, creation of a typeface, structure and the historical context of letterforms and their application in motion, visual and information hierarchies within the electronic screen environment.

**DESN 307 Visual Communication Design History:** History of visual elements and technological processes involved in an informed view of design from the beginning of pictographic language to the present. Covers four main areas of investigation: an analysis of the evolution of formal or visual attributes; the relationship between design and its audience; the study of the social and economic activity of design as it is circulated in communities and across continents; and the effect of technology on the aesthetics of design.

**DESN 344 Visual Communications and Graphic Design I:** An exploration of contemporary design practice and theory.

**DESN 345 Introduction to Computer Art:** Explores and develops design capabilities to aesthetic expression through the use of contemporary digital media.

**Core Two Descriptions:**

**SOWK 102 Modern Social Welfare Dilemmas (G3):** Introduction to social work’s approach to social problems, including how public-policy decisions affect individuals and families; overview of competing public-policy agendas in social welfare and alternative strategies for problem resolution; societal values and trends affecting service delivery; understanding social work in action; examining core concepts, values, and ethics.

**SOWK 201 Social Welfare Policy and Economics**: This course offers a general understanding of economic theory as it applies to both microeconomic and macroeconomic decision making. The course comprises two major foci: 1) practical applications of decision-making paradigms for practice with individuals and families in the social work context; and 2) understanding the effects of economic conditions on social welfare policy, those who make policy and those who advocate for changes in the policy arena.

**SOWK 203 Human Behavior and the Social Environment I:** Examines the life span approach to human development, with focus on interaction between the individual’s biopsychosocial functioning and the social environment. Analyzes the impact of human diversity on behavior in social situations, with particular emphasis on populations at risk. Studies how factors of human diversity affect social policy.

**SOWK 303 Social Welfare and the Law:** Significant legislation, court decisions and regulatory language shape public social policy and affect the legal base for social work practice. Among substantive areas discussed are family law and policy, mental health and substance abuse law and policy, constitutional and civil rights, poverty law and policy, social welfare law and policy, and professional licensing.

**SOWK 323 Human Behavior and the Social Environment II:** The second of two courses in human behavior and the social environment, emphasizing 1) the interaction of social and economic forces with individuals and social systems; 2) traditional and alternative theories about systems as they interact with people, promoting and impeding health, welfare and well-being in the context of human culture and diversity; and 3) knowledge about opportunity structures and how they promote and deter human development and meeting needs.

**SOWK 350 Encounters in Human Diversity:** An upper-level, multicultural, interdisciplinary, interactive course designed to enhance students’ knowledge, skills, and values relative to working with people in professional situations within a diversityembracing atmosphere. Focuses on the various differences in communication styles brought about by gender and culture. Designed for students whose anticipated careers are primarily oriented to direct work with people.

**Related Elective Courses:**

**SOCY 210 Sociology of the Family:** The family as a social institution. Topics include the family in mass society, diverse family forms, human sexuality, typologies of love, mate selection, husband-wife interaction, parent-child interaction, family disorganization and American ethnic families. Specific topics may vary.

**CSCI 375 Computer Graphics:** Theory and implementation of computer graphics and virtual reality including mathematical basis for computer representation of three-dimensional objects. Graphical programming assignments use latest graphics standards and hardware and software. Topics include: basic vector and matrix algebra, primitives and attributes, fill algorithms, curve fitting, clipping algorithms, three dimensional transformations, surface normals, rendering and lighting concepts, graphical I/O devices, 3D modeling, computer animation, sensory tracking, virtual world modeling, virtual reality software tools, 3D applications and graphics workstations.

**COMM 227 Social Movements & Digital Activism:** Focuses on the role of communication in understanding the questions of commitment and participation, place and identity, conflict and cohesiveness. Explores issues of race, class, gender, and ethnicity across various dimensions of contemporary life, especially through study of and/or participation in community service organizations.

**Capstone Course:**

**DESN 493 Portfolio:** Capstone class for B.D.E.S or B.A. or B.F.A. student, with a concentration in graphic and interactive design. The course is designed to prepare the student for entry into the graphic design field or graduate school. The student will create a professional-quality portfolio of work for entry into the graphic design field or graduate school.