The World of Rhetoric I: Writing and Speaking. Throughout the course, students will engage in the reciprocal process of reading, responding, and analyzing the rhetorical strategies and arguments presented by a variety of significant authors from different time periods. Major assignments will require increasingly complex writing tasks, from presenting a factual summary of a single essay through preparing a multiple-source research project.

Pre-requisite(s): BIC 1313

Emphasizes those principles essential to the production of clear and effective informative and persuasive/argumentative communication. Assignments will include communication exercises designed to engage students in activities that develop critical thinking, logical reasoning, and effective communication skills. Course work will include the writing of informative, persuasive, and critical essays and the presentation of informative and persuasive speeches. Thematically linked with the other first semester courses in the BIC, the course units are designed to provide students with the written and oral communication skills necessary to function effectively in university courses both within and outside of the Interdisciplinary Core.

Pre-requisite(s): Students must be accepted into the Baylor Interdisciplinary Core Program to enroll

BIC 2334 World Cultures III: The Modern World (3)

This course studies classic works from the ancient and medieval traditions of social and political thought up to the modern rejection of those traditions inaugurated by Machiavelli. Ancient and medieval thinkers typically conceived of civic life as involving an ordering of the soul as well as an arrangement of physical conditions and resources, while early moderns like Machiavelli promote a realism dominated by the concepts of material self-interest and bodily security. With this course, we thus seek to put in place a framework to facilitate our own reconsideration of the famous "quarrel between the ancients and the moderns" on perennial questions of social and political organization. Representative texts include Aristotle’s Politics and Ethics, Cicero’s de Republica, Augustine’s City of God, Aquinas’ On Kingship, and John of Salisbury’s Policraticus, in addition to Machiavelli’s Prince and Discourses on Livy.

Pre-requisite(s): BIC 1313

A study organized around several major themes including the medieval world and its ideals, both in the West and East, and the new technological, scientific, and social forces that emerged to challenge these ideals. The first theme explores the medieval unity and its expressions in selected works of art, music, and literature. The second relates to the rise of mercantilism and urbanism, and especially to key discoveries in science. World geography will provide a key component of the course. The development or refinement of critical thinking, writing, and speaking skills will be fundamental goals.

Pre-requisite(s): BIC 1323

Focuses on the continued development of critical reading, thinking, and writing skills by building on the instruction and content of BIC 1313, The World of Rhetoric I: Writing and Speaking. Throughout the course students will engage in the reciprocal process of reading, responding to, and analyzing the rhetorical strategies and arguments presented by a variety of significant authors from different time periods. Major assignments will require increasingly complex writing tasks, from presenting a factual summary of a single essay through preparing a multiple-source research project.

Pre-requisite(s): BIC 1313
BIC 2344 World Cultures IV: The United States in the World (3)
Co-requisite(s): BIC 2340
Pre-requisite(s): BIC 2334
Concentrates on the United States and on its experience within the broader global framework. The focus will be the historical development of the nation, including its origins, its regional traditions, its spread westward, its movement into global markets in the twentieth century, and its cultural pluralism. Emphasis will also be placed upon the elements that have made for community in the United States and upon the linkages of United States historical and cultural development with the broader global themes portrayed in World Cultures III.

BIC 2437 The Natural World I: Primary Ideas in Science (4)
Pre-requisite(s): BIC 1323 and 1324
The first course of a two-semester sequence encompassing lecture and laboratory experiences that emphasize the foundations of natural science, science as a way of knowing, and the uses of science. Historical influences on the development of science and the interrelationship between science and culture will be explored. Lecture and laboratory material in The Natural World will be integrated. Laboratories will involve hands-on, discovery-based learning which will lead the student to make connections between observation and interpretation of natural phenomena through critical thinking and will seek to provide students with an understanding of the scientific method, hypothesis formulation and testing, collection of data, analysis of data, and interpretation of data in the context of hypotheses.

BIC 2447 The Natural World II: Global Science Issues (4)
Pre-requisite(s): BIC 2437
A continuation of The Natural World I.

BIC 3358 Examined Life II: Biblical Heritage and Contemporary Ethical Issues (3)
Pre-requisite(s): BIC 2340 and 2344
In-depth study of selected texts from the Old and New Testaments and examination of the approaches and resources used today and throughout Christian history in such study. Biblical perspectives on such ethical issues as human rights, environmental concerns and resource allocation will be examined to provide a bridge between the literary/cultural settings of the Bible and contemporary human experience and decision making.

BIC 4374 World Cultures V: Differing Visions and Realities (3)
Pre-requisite(s): BIC 3358
Explores differing visions and realities in a selected sample of non-Western cultures. The initial interdisciplinary study will reveal themes that transcend cultural differences. Students will then investigate the expression of these themes in a culture fundamentally different from their own.

BIC 4389 Examined Life III Capstone: Special Topics (3)
Pre-requisite(s): BIC 3358
Synthesizes learning in two or more disciplines, or in some way connects modes or areas of learning not normally connected. This capstone course represents the culmination both of the Baylor Interdisciplinary Core experience and of the undergraduate experience. By integrating learning, and application, this course will bridge the gap between undergraduate life and life after graduation, leading students to form connections between their lives in the university and their lives in the wider community. The course will include significant written and oral projects. Religion majors and minors must repeat course once under a different topic.