

## **A Mission Statement for the Common Core course, *Literary and Intellectual Traditions***

### **General Characteristics**

Under the General Education curriculum, all IUSB students enrolled in baccalaureate degree programs will be required to complete four courses in the Common Core. These courses should:

- Allow students to explore content in a particular discipline using modes of inquiry common to a wider family of disciplines;
- Be at least modestly interdisciplinary;
- Address one or more ethical issues pertinent to the course content;
- Include a significant level of instruction in at least one of the fundamental literacies (writing, speaking, critical thinking, quantitative reasoning, computer literacy, information, visual literacy).

### **Specific Characteristics of the Literary and Intellectual Traditions [L/IT] Course**

The humanities represent great traditions of inquiry into the human condition. The themes dealt with in literature, philosophy, history, and related disciplines often overlap. This characteristic of the humanities makes them especially amenable to interdisciplinary study. The various versions of this course will typically take advantage of this overlap in content, by focusing on a theme that can be addressed, augmented, and enriched using more than one disciplinary perspective.

The Literary and Intellectual Traditions course must have the following specific characteristics:

1. The course must explore one of the following themes: ideas of self, ideas of truth, ideas of beauty, ideas of community, ideas of nature, or ideas of conflict.
2. The course must develop an analysis of at least one primary text in 100-level courses; and two or more primary texts in 300-level courses.
3. Instruction must include reflection on the benefit of developing interdisciplinary approaches to the course theme.
4. The course must address ethical issues that emerge from the theme as well as from disciplinary approaches to the course topic.
5. Students in 100-level courses must engage course material in a writing-intensive, discussion-focused manner. Students in 300-level courses must demonstrate an explicit understanding of the disciplinary approaches of the course in the work they produce. Courses at the 300-level must include a research component.