



**Academic Learning Compacts – ALCs
Interdisciplinary Social Sciences
CIP: 24.0101**

Academic Program Mission

USF St. Petersburg Interdisciplinary Social Science (ISS) program is intended to provide students a broad grounding in the social sciences while creating opportunities to explore selected disciplines in more depth. The program emphasizes critical analysis of social issues, introduces students to a variety of paradigms and perspectives with which to frame social problems, gives students the opportunity to explore the research process, exposes students to a variety of methodologies, and emphasizes effective writing. The program provides a measure of flexibility and allows students to design a rigorous course of study built around at least two disciplinary interests.

Career/Employment Options for Graduates

Social work, Behavioral health therapist, Social and human services assistant, Nursing, Mental health aide, Life skill counselor, Community outreach worker, Careers in: law, teaching, MAs in Counseling, Gerontology, Physical Therapy, Teaching.

Specific Information on this Academic Program

<http://www1.usfsp.edu/coas/scl/iss.htm>

Details Relating to Student Learning Outcomes

1.Content/ Discipline skills		
Goals/Objectives	Means of Assessment	Criteria for Success
1a. Identify an important social issue, and analyze the macro and micro level causes at the root of the problem as well as the social economic and cultural structures that help perpetuate the problem	Final paper for ISS 4925 (capstone seminar)	Students will write a 13-15 page research paper that should include at least 8 bibliographical sources on the topic of their choosing (see attached rubric) 70% of students will earn a score of 70% (C) or better)
1b. Demonstrate proficiency and ability to apply either basic qualitative or basic quantitative methods of social analysis	All ISS majors take at least one course emphasizing qualitative or quantitative research methods	Students earn a grade of at least 60% on final exam/project Students are given weekly homework assignments. Students will take three exams.

2. Communication Skills		
Goals/objectives	Means of Assesment	Criteria for success
2a. Write clearly and effectively, producing well organized, logical, well-supported written arguments that reflect appropriate use of language and meet assignment objectives.	ISS 4935 is the ISS capstone seminar requires a major paper offering students an opportunity to identity a social problem analyze it, and demonstrate an understanding of how different social sciences approach the issue. A 13-15 page paper that includes at least 8 bibliographical sources on the chosen topic is required.	70% of students earn a score of 70% or better on the final draft of the paper.
2b. Exhibit functional oral communication with minimal apprehension, and exhibit a willingness and readiness to communicate and share research results with others	ISS 4935 requires students to present the results of their research orally in class.	70% of students will earn a score of “C” (70%) or better in the formal presentation. Students’ performance will be judged based on organization, clarity and persuasion

3.Critical thinking skills		
Goals/objectives	Means of Assesment	Criteria for success
3a.Demonstrate an understanding of how knowledge (in Social Science) is generated	ISS 4935 requires students to prepare an annotated bibliography	70% of students will score a “C” (70%) or better on the annotated bibliography. Students will submit an annotated bibliography of 5 of the 8 sources required for the paper. I twill include (at a minimum): bibliographical information, main points of argument, issues included; evaluation of source; how the information will be used in research paper and a reaction to the material presented in sources.
3b.Demosntrate sound critical thinking by applying the university intellectual standards	ISS 4935 requires a major paper in which the intellectual standards are displayed.	70% of students will score a 70% or better on the final paper

4.Civic engagement		
Goals/objectives	Means of Assesment	Criteria for success
4a. Demonstrate an ability to apply basic social science research methods in the preparation of reports based on the analysis of social issues that impact the local/regional community	ISS 4940 requires students to write a term paper analyzing the internship experience in the context of relevant theory and literature. Students not enrolling in the internship will fulfill this objective through the writing of the term paper in ISS 4935.	70% of students will score 70% or higher on the term paper.
4b. Be mindful of cultural and social differences, tolerant and appreciative of different points of view that are the product of historical processes that include class, gender, ethnic, and international differences.	Students fulfill this objective through their various cognate courses. Students are required to take three special electives among the following categories: Ethnic/ Cultural Diversity; international perspectives; Gender Issues and Environmental and Society.	We are unable to track this assessment at this time.