

Ithaca College Integrative Core Curriculum (ICC)

For additional information refer to Degree Works or visit the Academic Advising Center.

Ithaca Seminar	4 credits
An interdisciplinary liberal arts course that supports the academic and social transition to Ithaca College.	

Themes and Perspectives¹ 12 credits	Complementary Liberal Arts (CLA)³ 12 Credits	
Complete four 3-credit perspectives within one theme and integrate how each perspective addresses your theme.	Specific CLA requirements are determined by degree program or school.	
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Competencies ²	Credits
Academic Writing I	3
Diversity (DV)	3
Quantitative Literacy (QL)	3
Writing Intensive (WI)	3
ICC Capstone (CP)	1-4

Electronic Learning Portfolio
Introduced in the Ithaca Seminar and required to complete before graduation.

ICC Program	28-44 credits
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¹Themes and Perspectives courses may not apply toward a student’s primary major program. Students who change themes still need to complete one course from each perspective for the new theme.

²Academic Writing (WRTG10600 or equivalent) is a prerequisite for writing intensive courses; you may also receive credit for completing this requirement by scoring a 4 or 5 on the AP examination in English Literature & Composition or English Language & Composition. The attributes, DV, QL, WI, and CP may be completed through any designated major, minor, themes and perspectives, complementary liberal arts, or elective course.

³CLA requirements for degree program or school are tabulated at Ithaca.edu/icc/cla

For more information, visit Ithaca.edu/ICC or email icc@ithaca.edu

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Identities

Who are we and how do we distinguish ourselves from others?

The question “who am I?” is complex. Identity can refer to an individual, a small group, or a social collective—and encompass issues such as race, ethnicity, class, gender, sexuality, religion, and the body. In the identities theme, you will explore where values, beliefs, and behaviors come from. You’ll examine the effects of nature versus nurture—and how the two can work together to determine different characteristics of identity across cultures and throughout history. And you will delve into questions about how identity is formed, changed, and perceived.

Inquiry, Imagination, and Innovation

How do we know what we know?

Every breakthrough discovery begins with a question. In the inquiry, imagination, and innovation theme, you will examine what you don’t know, challenge what you think you know, and learn how to transform these new insights into innovative ideas. You’ll also explore how the quest for answers has long driven art, science, imagination, and the creative process.

Mind, Body, Spirit

What does it mean to be a balanced person?

How do the mind, body, and spirit work together to create a whole person and a healthy self? Understanding their differences is important as well: when you think of the spirit, do you include the soul, and is the soul separate from the mind? In the mind, body, spirit theme, you will explore the role the aspects of self play individually and collectively in human growth throughout a lifetime.

Power and Justice

How are they related and how can they be balanced?

Power plays a pivotal role in the attainment of justice. What is fair or just is very often decided by those who hold the power in the world. In some cases of perceived injustice, the powerful are challenged and possession of power can shift. In the power and justice theme, you will examine power structures, conflict and resolution, and issues of social and political justice. You will be asked to examine the world as you know it and imagine alternative scenarios where the balance of power has shifted to those who were without it.

The Quest for a Sustainable Future

How do we sustain a growing population with limited resources?

To be sustainable, we must meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs. Sustainability proponents advocate for a better balance of social needs, resource consumption, and economic growth. In the quest for a sustainable future theme, you will examine sustainability from biological, political, physical, and spiritual perspectives—and consider sustainability’s effects on everything from social communities to ecosystems. You will look at sustainability in terms of lifestyle, storytelling, history, and science and even question the premise of sustainability itself.

A World of Systems

How do people make sense of and navigate complexity?

A system is a set of connected things that work together to form a network. A system can be physical, like a computer, but there are many other kinds of systems—political, economic, technological, social, creative, and more—that have an impact on daily life. Understanding these interconnected systems and how they define human existence is critically important to navigating today’s world. In the world of systems theme, you will explore different systems and learn to recognize which ones most influence your personal and professional aspirations. You will also consider how systems affect you personally, how they work across the world, and how they both contribute to and benefit from technological advancement.