

Interdisciplinary Studies' (I.S.)

Conferences



One of the most unique and rewarding elements of a King's education is the opportunity to take two days out of each term when the entire campus community gathers to explore key questions about our world. For these two days, regularly scheduled classes are canceled so that students can participate in the conference. By doing so, we come together and view the big issues of life in ways that nurture the whole student, beyond their interests in particular subjects.

During these conferences, students hear from respected academics, professionals, and community leaders on various topics chosen through what is of interest to the faculty, staff, and student bodies.

The conferences are a place to make connections between what you are studying and "the real world," to step back and look at the big picture and explore practical examples of what it looks like to engage the King's vision to "pursue a more humane, just, and sustainable world."

I.S. requirements

Students taking 9 credits or more each term should register for INST (Interdisciplinary Perspectives), worth 0.5 credits. Since these are important all-campus conversations, every student is required to participate, even if planning to transfer to another institution. While you are on campus, we want YOU to be part of the conversation! A total of 3.0 credits (6 conferences) are required to graduate from King's. Students who need to make up I.S. credits can enroll in INST499 which is a Directed Study.



Student learning at the conference is assessed through a mixture of attendance and online interaction. While all parts of the conference can be accessed and participated in online, attendance is strongly encouraged. Each student can expect faculty and fellow student interaction, and the pass or fail grade is based on meeting the requirements of each conference, which are set in advance.

Recent Conferences

Our conference topics are generally selected by their timeliness, and their applicability to be appreciated and contributed to across and between academic disciplines. Conference topics are surveyed, and a decision on the topic is made by the I.S. committee, comprised of representatives from the student body and each of the separate faculties at King's. Some of the recent I.S. conferences have focused on topics such as:

- Post-Truth? Facts and Faithfulness
- Does the church matter?
- Getting to the Heart of What You Want
- For Love or Money?
- Why Play?
- Fear and Anxiety

Interdisciplinary Studies' (I.S.)

Conferences

Course list

INST 200/210 – Interdisciplinary Perspectives (fall/winter term of first year) 0.5 credits each
INST 300/310 – Interdisciplinary Perspectives (fall/winter term of second year) 0.5 credits each
INST 400/410 – Interdisciplinary Perspectives (fall/winter term of third year) 0.5 credits each
INST 499 – Directed Studies in Interdisciplinary Studies (requires prior approval) ranges from 0.5 to 3.0 credits

Opportunities for Participation

We welcome participation from students in the following ways:

- Suggesting a topic or a speaker
- Partnering with a faculty supervisor to co-lead a breakout session
- Serving on the IS Committee
- Participating in the tasks of executing the conference including cooperating with Conference Services, or Hosting a Guest Speaker
- Contributing to our audio-visual support through I.T., such as recording session



Students participating in a poverty simulation exercise with guest speaker Jeremiah Basuric



King's I.S. Committee 2022-23

Mr. Raymond Klassen, Director of Interdisciplinary Studies

Ms. Divine-Honour Ohanwe, Student Representative

Mr. Andrew Kirk, Assistant Professor of Education

Dr. Caitlynd Myburgh, Assistant Professor of Kinesiology

Dr. David Long, Professor of Sociology

Dr. Stephen Martin, Professor, and Chair of Theology

What is Interdisciplinary Studies at King's?

The function of Interdisciplinary Studies is to direct learning at the “undifferentiated whole” of reality and experience. Reality is not really disciplinary, and the disciplines are in some sense abstracted from reality and life. We encourage independent engagement with a more holistic engagement with reality.

If you have further questions, please contact:

Mr. Raymond Klassen,

Director of Interdisciplinary Studies

Email: Raymond.Klassen@kingsu.ca

Phone: 780-465-3500 ext. 8139

Office: A217