

# Interdisciplinary Expressive Arts

IDEA  
3100

A New and Innovative Series of Courses Focused on Creativity, the Arts, and Culture

Beginning in Fall 2008, Kwantlen will offer the first in a planned series of interdisciplinary and experiential courses in expressive arts. The first of these courses, IDEA 3100, will explore the history, philosophy and current application of interdisciplinary approaches within the fields of creative writing, music, movement, fine arts, theatre, expressive arts therapies, storytelling, photography, film making, and other creative traditions. A subsequent course, IDEA 4100 (to be offered January 2009), will offer students opportunities to examine careers and further education within the cultural, creative, and social services fields.

Based on innovative, student-led pedagogy, the IDEA courses involve the integration of various disciplines toward a cohesive educational experience. Interdisciplinarity is much more than enrolment in courses from more than a single discipline. Authentic interdisciplinarity emphasizes the linkages between disciplines by focusing on contrasting and complementary aspects of diverse educational domains. IDEA 3100 (and the subsequent course, IDEA 4100) are firmly rooted in the interdisciplinary traditions and are foundational courses in Kwantlen's new Interdisciplinary Expressive Arts stream within Humanities. This stream offers courses in psychology, visual arts, music, creative writing, and interdisciplinary expressive arts.

The instructional strategy for courses in the Interdisciplinary Expressive Arts stream will emphasize three core values of interdisciplinarity: personal development, mentorship, and collaboration. Student-centred learning activities such as group projects, student seminars, presentations and field trips will be utilized extensively. Students will have the freedom to engage with the course material in highly individualized ways, and will be encouraged to integrate their personal, professional, and educational development. Interdisciplinary studies encourage students to develop broader intellectual skills, greater facility for critical thinking, and greater awareness of the social relevance of their education. Interdisciplinary students have the opportunity to develop exemplary skills in problem solving, insight, team-building, and multi-modal learning styles. In essence, Interdisciplinary studies represent the fusion of creativity and intellectual inquiry.

IDEA 3100 and 4100 will be facilitated by Ross A. Laird, PhD, an interdisciplinary scholar, creative artist, and member of the Kwantlen creative writing department. Dr. Laird is a best-selling author, psychotherapist, professor at various educational institutions, addictions and trauma specialist, consultant in the psychology of leadership, poet, craftsman in wood and stone, and nominee for the Governor General's Award, the highest arts award in Canada. Dr. Laird's approach to teaching is integrative and experiential, with a focus on creativity as an instrument of personal development.

To learn more, visit  
[www.rosslaird.info/idea](http://www.rosslaird.info/idea)



**Kwantlen**  
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

**3 Credits**

**Prerequisites:**

**30 credits of 1100-level  
or higher courses.**