

Graduate Institute of the Liberal Arts



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Emory's Graduate Institute of the Liberal Arts (ILA), one of the first interdisciplinary Ph.D. programs in the United States, provides a unique, interdisciplinary environment for the pursuit of intellectual projects that cross conventional disciplinary and methodological boundaries, particularly those between the social sciences and humanities.

Founded in 1952, Emory's Graduate Institute of the Liberal Arts (ILA) was one of the first interdisciplinary Ph.D. programs in the United States. Today, the ILA provides a unique, intellectual environment for the pursuit of research projects that cut across conventional academic boundaries. The Institute has a tradition of fostering emergent fields of study and has encouraged the practice of new modes of inquiry at Emory and beyond. It provides a challenging space for both faculty and students to pursue theoretically sophisticated and methodologically innovative studies of culture and society.

The ILA is devoted to exploratory, problem-based interdisciplinary graduate education. Students work with a faculty committee on specific research questions, theories of interpretation, and/or areas of cultural study. The methods, materials, and objects with which a student works are defined by both the demands of the particular research project and the interests and expertise of the ILA faculty. Given the commitment to an expansive interdisciplinary perspective, students usually find themselves working with affiliated faculty in other departments and schools of the university with which the ILA maintains close relations.

The graduate training offered in the ILA equips students to define and execute a viable, original research project, master the methods appropriate to this project, work collaboratively, generate undergraduate courses based on their research, present their scholarship to a general, non-technical public through a wide range of media, and define their knowledge and expertise within an ever-changing world.

The faculty of the ILA includes scholars whose work encompasses many areas - including the study of health, disease and medicine in society; embodiment, gender, sexuality and queer theory; psychoanalysis; race and migration; American Studies, with a particular emphasis on African American, Asian American, Native American and southern regional cultures; memory studies; intellectual history (ancient and modern); visual culture and digital media, popular culture, public scholarship.

Since its inception, the ILA has served as an incubator for emerging new fields of scholarship. Departments at Emory that began or found early homes within the ILA include African-American Studies, Comparative Literature, Film Studies, and Women's Studies. ILA faculty members and

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the unexpected

graduate students retain strong connections to these programs. In addition, ILA faculty members are active in scholarly initiatives associated with American Studies; African Studies; European Studies; Health, Science, and Humanities; Medieval Studies; Southern Studies; and LGBTQ Studies.

The ILA has a long and distinguished tradition of public scholarship and many alumni have put their interdisciplinary degrees to work in museums, foundations, and other public institutions.

The ILA is also home to the nationally recognized Psychoanalytic Studies Program, dedicated to studying the theory, application, and history of psychoanalytic thought and practice. The program draws faculty from Emory College, the Law School, the Business School, the Department of Psychiatry in the School of Medicine, and the Candler School of Theology. Faculty affiliated with the Emory University Psychoanalytic Institute, the Atlanta Foundation for Psychoanalysis, and the Atlanta Psychoanalytic Society participate in the program, linking the academy with the psychiatric and psychoanalytic communities.

Curriculum

Coursework

Students take three required courses, including ILA Foundations, Research Design and Pedagogy. In addition, students take seven or eight elective courses, chosen in consultation with their advisor. Students usually complete their coursework requirements by the end of their second year.

Qualifying examination and dissertation

In the fall of their third year, students complete a qualifying examination in three areas, followed by the submission and defense of a dissertation prospectus and bibliography. In their fourth year and beyond, students are expected to work full time on the research and writing of their dissertation.

Students

We typically have approximately 45 students in residence and admit 3 – 5 new full-time students each year. We also welcome applications from students wishing to pursue a doctoral degree on a part-time basis. Our website has information about both



current and past students, including information about research interests, publications, presentations, and professional placement. Visit www.ila.emory.edu/students.

Faculty

ILA has 20 core faculty members with a wide range of backgrounds and interests. Our website has a list of faculty members with links to their individual pages containing information about research interests, publications, and more. Visit www.ila.emory.edu/faculty.

Contact Information

For more information, please contact one of these people:

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Requests for Additional Information:

RECRUITMENT AND ADMISSIONS

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<http://www.graduateschool.emory.edu>
<http://www.ila.emory.edu>