

## Interdisciplinary Studies Liberal Arts Non-Teaching Option Essay

A major educational goal that I have set for myself is to complete a degree at Radford University in the College of Humanities and Behavioral Sciences with a major in Interdisciplinary Studies Liberal Arts Non-Teaching Option. Completing this degree will allow me to have my education more aligned with my career goals. Ever since I was a young child, I have enjoyed traveling both here and abroad, as well as attending all kinds of events including historical reenactments, fairs, festivals, and sporting events. I have enjoyed traveling with my family to faraway places like Alaska, Canada, Germany, Italy, Switzerland, Austria and Liechtenstein. Traveling with my family and attending many types of events has helped me to understand what it means to provide a good experience for people, not just an activity. It is because of these activities that I am interested in the History and Parks Recreation and Tourism concentrations as well as a career that is related to Sports Tourism and History.

My goals cannot be met with my existing major because it does not provide me with a well-rounded background in history, which would be useful for understanding cultures when it comes to international travel. Since I will be involved in Sports Tourism and International Sports Destination Travel, I would like to become more knowledgeable in world history. I am also very adept with social media and computers. People follow sporting events daily from all around the world thus making communications an important aspect of the sports industry, as well as other industries, whether via social media, radio, television, printed publications, online or in person, as spectators or participants. My computer and social media skills could be combined with history to

provide me with a second career path as well. I could get a job as a historian doing website management of historical content or analytical work. According to the American Historical Association, historians can also be employed to do research, writing and analytical work for businesses as well.

My focused course of study is to take classes in World History to better understand how the different cultures from around the world came to exist, and how they might impact the Tourism industry today. Since world tourism is one of the fastest growing industries today, a concentration in History provides me with some of cultural education required to run sports destination vacations around the world. A lot of money is spent to lure sports teams as well as host sporting events both here and abroad, and there are more places for people to travel to around the world so they may see a sport or be involved in a sporting activity as part of a vacation package. It is for those reasons that I chose to enroll in World History classes instead of US History classes, so that I could get general knowledge about world cultures and the trends and developments that have occurred throughout the years up until present day. Completion of the Tourism and Special Events requirements needed to meet my career goals has taught me many things. Important things that stand out are about serving others so that they may enjoy their experience, learning how to run a Parks and Recreation Facility while providing a safe environment and the importance of sustainable tourism and the impact it has on the environment. A second concentration in history would give me a unique qualification for my resume. Upon completion of my degree, in May 2014, I would like to graduate with an education that provides me with an understanding of Tourism, Event Planning and

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knowledge in world history so that I can better relate to people from all different countries.

The skills and knowledge that will come from combining courses from different disciplines and creating my own program of study is the best option for me to meet my career goals. Upon graduation, I hope to be working for an employer in the field of sporting events and tourism where my education in Recreation, Parks and Tourism in combination with History will be utilized in a job relating to International Sports Tourism and Sports Organization/Event Planning. My internet research shows employers in hospitality, sports tourism and marketing firms, advertising agencies, teams, leagues and athletic venues are looking for professionals with education in the areas of tourism and event planning as it relates to the sports industry and international tourism. A second concentration in history provides me with one more qualification to get my foot in the door to the vastly growing tourism industry. I will be required to take 15 more credits this semester in order to complete the requirements necessary to graduate with a B.S. Degree in Interdisciplinary Studies, in May 2014. A degree in IDSL with concentrations in both RCPT and History would require me to complete the following 3 credit classes: ENGL 306; PHIL 112; HIST 392, HIST 101, and HIST 325.

Table of IDSL Courses

<b>Liberal Arts Core Requirements</b>	
Humanities RELN 206	After learning about different religious experiences from around the world, I have a good understanding of the supernatural experiences encountered in different religions.
<b>REQUIRED</b> Humanities PHIL 112 - Introduction: Ethics and Society	I would like to take this class to learn more about the nature of ethical reasoning and moral obligation. I think it is important to have a good understanding ethics and its applications in the work force and problems in our society.
<b>REQUIRED</b> English ENGL 306- Professional Writing	I would like to gain the skill of professional writing and believe it will prepare me for my future career by teaching strategies for writing of a wide range of informative and persuasive letters and reports.
Social & Behavioral Science PSYC 121 Introduction to Psychology	Through this psychology class I gained an understanding of the study of human behavior. I learned about brain function, emotion, cognition, learning, personality, social behavior, abnormal psychology, the methods used to generate psychological knowledge and its applications in different settings.
Visual & Performing Arts THEA180 Introduction to World Cinema	I gained an understanding of the history of cinematic arts and about the aesthetic, technological, economic and geopolitical historical progression of this type of art.

<b>History Concentration</b>	
HIST 102 World History Since 1500	I gained general knowledge about the period in history from the 16 <sup>th</sup> through the 20 <sup>th</sup> century and I gained an understanding of how different cultures interacted with each other.
<b>REQUIRED</b> HIST 101 World History to 1500	I would like to gain knowledge about the period in history prior to the 16 <sup>th</sup> century and

	learn how different cultures interacted with each other during that time.
<b>REQUIRED</b> HIST 325 African Civilizations	I would like to gain an understanding about different cultures around the world. I find that the more you know about other cultures, the better you can understand people. The topics examined will broaden my knowledge about human evolution, state formation, slave trade and early history in Africa and how the evolution impacted the social, cultural and economic institutions.
<b>REQUIRED</b> HIST 392 Special Topic: Mod North Africa	I would like to gain a better understanding of the trends and developments during this time period in Modern North Africa.

<b>Parks, Recreation and Tourism Concentration</b>	
RCPT 112 Activity Leadership/ Analysis	The most important thing I learned was about situational leadership and being a team player. I have an understanding of how important it is to know how to be flexible in a variety of situations while utilizing different styles to problem solve and gain participation within the group.
RCPT 210 Intro to RCPT	The impact of recreation, parks and tourism from an historical standpoint helped me understand how the industry started and where it is headed now, especially as it relates to play, recreation, and leisure in our contemporary society. I am knowledgeable about the different professional roles in the industry.
RCPT 230 Intro to Outdoor Recreation	I learned there are a range of recreation opportunities that can be provided to all age groups and interests from the city to the wilderness. I have a good understanding of the many ways to experience relaxation in a natural environment.
RCPT 313 Program Planning in RCPT	I learned about serving others so that they can enjoy their recreational experience. This was accomplished through a shared

	<p>decision making process, which created a sense of community. I have a good understanding of how important it is to let people know what your organization is really about; it is the experience (the mission) that is important. I know that people want you to provide a good experience, not just an activity.</p>
RCPT 314 Recreation Workshop	<p>This was an opportunity to create and simulate a parks and recreation department for a variety of groups in the community while utilizing leadership and communication skills. I have a good understanding about running a parks and recreation department that can also be applied to any business.</p>
RCPT 319 Intro to Recreation Therapy	<p>I learned that Recreation Specialists work as part of an interdisciplinary team and provide therapy services as a continuum of care including treatment to remediate or rehabilitate function and provide healthy attitudes and independence.</p>
RCPT 328 Designs and Maintenance of RCPT	<p>In this class, I learned that the mission of a recreational facility is to provide safe public use by children, teens, adults, and senior citizens so they may have the opportunity to increase their physical, mental and emotional health all in a positive environment. I have a good understanding of what a safe environment is and I know that what I learned can be applied to any facility or tourist location.</p>
RCPT 336 Research & Tech Applications RCPT	<p>This was a research class in which surveys were used to collect data from students to answer questions. My research focused on paid versus unpaid internships. Findings were that students don't mind working for free, if the experience leads to a job. I have a good understanding on how to do research and use survey techniques in a variety of settings.</p>
RCPT 350 Commercial Recreation	<p>In this class I learned how to problem solve. I learned about different businesses, which provide commercial recreation and leisure services for profit, and the legal</p>

	<p>liability of these organizations. I learned about the many resources that are available to help these types of business. I have a good understanding on how to use resources to problem solve.</p>
RCPT 363 Special Events	<p>I learned how to develop and coordinate a special event and that the theme is related to the site selection. I also learned that the décor, lighting, and entertainment are just as important as the food served. Much of what I learned in this class will be useful in my desired career in the sports tourism field, especially as it relates to the design and promotion of sports destination packages.</p>
RCPT 365 Legal Liability and Risk Management	<p>I learned how to evaluate facility operations for risk management issues and how to implement safe practices. Much of what I learned about safe practices can be applied to other businesses in commercial tourism.</p>
RCPT 423 Recreation Administration	<p>In this class I learned about managing facilities that provide services to people to create fun and enjoyable leisure experiences. The knowledge, skill and experience needed to facilitate such experiences could be applied to my future job in the sports tourism field.</p>
RCPT 431 Sustainable Tourism	<p>I learned there is a need for responsible planning of the tourism industry. As more states and local counties develop their tourism industry they need to consider their consumption patterns and its impact on natural resources. This information will be useful and can be applied to any job involving growth of an industry.</p>
RCPT 435 Tourism and Event Marketing	<p>I learned about marketing and sales, market research strategies, and marketing strategies for the tourism industry. When I begin working I will already have some knowledge that I can utilize in destination marketing.</p>