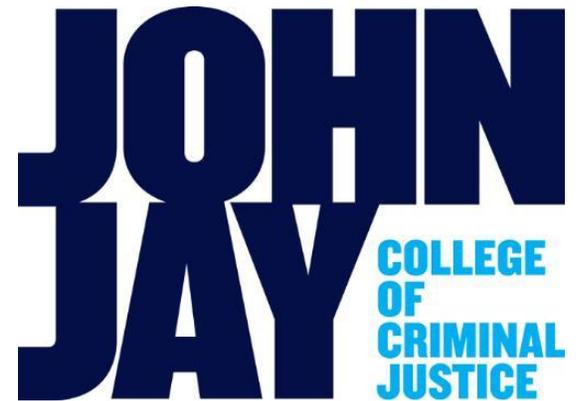


Interdisciplinary Studies Program (ISP): a unique academic adventure

Field Trips, Guest Speakers, Creative Projects
Challenging Readings, In-Depth Writing
No Tests, No Textbooks, No Lectures
Debate and Discuss



Interactive Classrooms
Friendly Community and Supportive Faculty
Multiple Perspectives on Big Issues
Skills for Academic Success

To see what ISP students and faculty
have been up to recently, see
www.facebook.com/JohnJayISP

ISP: inspiring students since 1973!

What students and alumni are saying about ISP:

“ISP was an amazing experience. It let me explore my interests in innovative ways with professors and students that made me feel as if I was part of a community. ISP was a place where I could express my opinions, feel a sense of belonging, but most importantly, be challenged to be my best self.”

Nicolas Montano, Thurgood Marshall Scholar, 2013

“ISP’s unique classes are a refreshing change from standard college courses; the active classroom environment means there is never a dull moment and the faculty are nothing short of amazing. All the professors truly care about the students and are exceedingly passionate about teaching. Overall, being a part of the ISP community has been one of my favorite experiences at John Jay, and one of the most memorable.”

Elvira Kirilko, John Jay Valedictorian, Class of 2015



“The Interdisciplinary Studies Program made me a better student. From the weekly papers to the open discussions, it required me to always be prepared and eager to participate. The program’s professors are always ready to throw a curveball; they challenge you to rethink your position even after you thought you had all the answers. I thought I had all the answers, my ISP experience taught me to think fast and outside the box. The skills I obtained from the program prepared me for law school and allowed me to excel.”

Michael Rosenberger, Litigation/Appellate Attorney, Rapuzzi, Palumbo & Rosenberger, P.C., Wantagh, NY

Welcome to ISP!

We're an enthusiastic and friendly community of faculty, staff, and students who are dedicated to getting the most from the college experience. We believe that the best learning comes from immersing ourselves in great texts and sharing what we discover. We value student opinion and challenge each of our students to be their best and to think outside the box. In ISP, the challenge is part of the fun!

How is ISP different?

- Our classes meet **once a week**, for a double period. Many classes are offered twice a day, giving students the option to attend either section.
- Most ISP classes are taught by **two or more faculty members**. It may seem strange at first, but you'll soon be used to a classroom where multiple points of view—especially yours—are encouraged, valued and debated. In ISP we believe the world is complex and that there is rarely one “right answer.”
- The ISP classroom is **active**. If you want to hang back and sleep, this is not the program for you. Our faculty don't lecture – instead, our classes discuss, debate, role-play, and create.
- **We write a lot**. Informal in-class writing, formal papers, creative essays – you'll be writing almost every week. Our focus on improved student writing is perfect for those students interested in law or graduate school. It will also help you excel in your other classes.
- **No midterms or final exams**. We don't give tests in ISP, nor ask you to memorize a lot of material, but don't mistake that for easy courses or an easy “A”. ISP students are evaluated on the quality of their critical thinking and communication skills as reflected in class participation, writing, performances, creative projects, and presentations. We encourage you to take risks, develop informed opinions, and speak out.
- Our students **win awards**: ISP students regularly receive prestigious awards and fellowships.
- ISP students receive **in-house advising** every semester. Unsure of how to fulfill requirements? Need a little guidance? ISP faculty and staff meet with each ISP student twice a year, before registration.
- Want to earn better grades or take your writing to the next level? Work with our in-house **Writing Tutor**. To make an appointment, call (212.237.8569) or stop by the Writing Center (1.68NB) and ask for the ISP Tutor.

Internships:

- ISP offers a special internship in community problem solving. Students gain work and life experience while exploring topics in community justice. For further information contact Sondra Leftoff (sleftoff@jjay.cuny.edu).
- ISP houses the **Vera Fellows Program**, a competitive, paid, full-year internship and academic experience for outstanding undergraduates who have a demonstrated commitment to social justice and public service. For further information contact Caroline Reitz (creitz@jjay.cuny.edu).

How should I prepare for my ISP classes?

- Consult your syllabus ahead of time to find out the **assigned reading** for the week. ISP students must read, watch, or listen to the assigned works BEFORE the start of class, and come prepared to discuss.
- **Slow reading** is effective reading – take your time and eliminate distractions. **Take notes** as you go – write down points that seem interesting or confusing. Prepare some questions. Notes not only help you organize your thoughts, but also make a great resource when you have a paper or project assigned!
- We encourage our students to **reach out to faculty** whenever you need help or advice, or simply want to talk. Not only is it part of our job, it's something we really like to do!

Contact us: 6.65 New Building

ispinfo@jjay.cuny.edu

212.237.8460

Questions? Talk to our chair, Professor Katie Gentile (kgentile@jjay.cuny.edu) or one of her amazing sidekicks: Professor Adriana Pérez (aperez@jjay.cuny.edu) or Professor Richard Haw (rhaw@jjay.cuny.edu).