

Degree offered:
Bachelor of Arts.

Director:
McNair, Ph.D.

Career Possibilities:
There are many possible careers for humanities graduates, depending on how students plan their course work. Some recent graduates are enrolled in graduate programs. Others are employed in a diverse range of occupations, including teaching, finance, and graphic design.

Program Overview

Humanities is a broadly interdisciplinary program focusing on the expression of values and ideals in human culture. It concerns itself with literature and the arts, religion and philosophy, and political and social institutions. Its emphasis is not so much on acquiring a body of accepted knowledge or skills. Rather, it encourages students to ask critical questions and make informed assessments.

Humanities is a flexible degree program. After the completion of foundational course work, students define their own plans of study in consultation with their advisers. Transfer and returning students often find the humanities major a suitable degree-completion option.

Program Competency Areas

The flexible humanities curriculum is guided by six areas in which students are expected to demonstrate competency. These areas should guide students' selection of course electives as well as guide their focus within particular courses. Understanding of the competencies is demonstrated by the successful completion of a senior portfolio. The competency areas are as follows:

Aesthetics

The more we "read" or interpret verbal and non-verbal texts and imagery, the more we refine our abilities to make, articulate, and explicate informed judgments. Aesthetics in general refers to the ability to reflect on the importance of artistic and humanistic pursuits to human existence.

Communication

We must be able to communicate effectively, in a variety of communication situations, using the media of the 21st century, which means being aware of how choices of

language, rhetoric, and action affect the ways messages are understood. Effective communication also entails understanding the traditions and purposes of many different modes of expression.

Ethics

Ethics is about the practice of moral judgment, which involves the ability to reflect on what it means to be human, the ability to reflect critically on notions of validity and truth, as well as willingness to explore issues and events from a variety of perspectives.

History

History is about recognizing patterns in past events and seeing their relevance to present-day life, demonstrating how contemporary social issues are rooted in past events and political choices. It's also about being able to speculate in informed ways about how present-day trends might affect the future.

Critical Thinking

Critical thinking deals with how value systems shape human knowledge. Critical thinking includes epistemology, the ability and willingness to question the nature of human knowledge.

Interdisciplinarity

Interdisciplinarity refers to the ability to make deliberate connections among various academic disciplines, to comprehend and participate in more than one discipline. It's also the ability to reflect on the nature of interdisciplinarity itself and to articulate the value of an interdisciplinary perspective.

Preparation for Graduate School

No special preparation beyond completion of the major is necessary to enter graduate programs in the humanities. In many cases a student may wish to enter a program in some specific field within the humanities, and in such cases specific preparation with the chosen field is desirable.

Requirements for the Major in Humanities (35 credits)

Thirty-five credits in courses selected in consultation with the student's major adviser, including the following:

1. Two courses from HUMA 101, 102, or 103 (6 credits).
2. HUMA 200 (3 credits).
3. Skills or research methods courses selected from appropriate departments (6 credits).

4. A combination of 300- and 400-level courses, selected in consultation with adviser, that address the competency areas* (18 credits).

* In consultation with their advisers, students may count the following self-paced humanities courses toward their upper-level electives:
HUMA 302, 311, 312, 321, 322, 331, 332, 403, 413, 423, 433, 441, 442

5. Capstone course (HUMA 498) in which students compile portfolios demonstrating facility with the six competency areas. This course is to be taken in the final semester before graduation (2 credits).

Courses in Humanities (HUMA)

101 Introduction to Humanities-World Cultures to 1500 3 cr

Prereq: None. Freq: Yearly.

A thematic and comparative approach to the history of world cultures, focusing on the West, but including significant material from a variety of non-Western cultures, with particular emphasis on political movements, literature, fine arts, religion, and philosophy from prehistory to 1500.

102 Introduction to Humanities-World Cultures 1500 to Present..... 3 cr

Prereq: None. Freq: Yearly.

A thematic and comparative approach to the history of world cultures, focusing on the West, but including significant material from a variety of non-Western cultures, with particular emphasis on political movements, literature, fine arts, religion, and philosophy from 1500 to present.

103 Diversity in the United States 3 cr

Prereq: None. Freq: Yearly.

A thematic and comparative approach to the history and culture of the United States, focusing on one or more of the diverse groups that comprise that culture.

200 Humanistic Studies..... 3 cr

Prereq: ENGL 101 with a grade of C- or better or consent of instructor. Freq: Yearly.

Introduction to philosophies, methods, and issues in the humanities.

252 Introduction to Film 3 cr

Prereq: None. Freq: Occasionally.

An examination of the distinctive elements and techniques of film as art and the relationship of film to society. Cross-listed with ENGL 252.

302 Development of a Global Culture 3 cr (self-paced course)

Prereq: HUMA 200 and consent of instructor. Freq: Yearly.

A study of the evolution of those conditions which have encouraged the development of an international and industrial culture while also increasing global political fragmentation.

311 History of Industrialization in Europe and the United States..... 3 cr (self-paced course)

Prereq: HUMA 200 and consent of instructor. Freq: Yearly.

A survey of important historical events, technological innovations, economic changes, and social alterations during the period of the Industrial Revolution in Western Europe and America.

312 History of the 20th Century Industrial Revolution 3 cr (self-paced course)

Prereq: HUMA 200 and consent of instructor. Freq: Yearly.

An examination of the emerging post-industrial society of the 20th century, focusing upon the interaction of social, political, and economic movements with industrialism and technology.

321 Intellectual History of the Industrial Revolution..... 3 cr (self-paced course)

Prereq: HUMA 200 and consent of instructor. Freq: Yearly.

A survey of the major ideas that heralded, accompanied, and advanced the technological, social, and cultural upheavals of the Industrial Revolution.

322 Intellectual History of the 20th Century Industrial Revolution 3 cr (self-paced course)

Prereq: HUMA 200 and consent of instructor. Freq: Yearly.

An examination of the impact of technology and industrialism on the philosophy and ideology of the 20th-century western world.

331 Post-Industrial Revolution Arts 3 cr (self-paced course)

Prereq: HUMA 200 and consent of instructor. Freq: Yearly.

A survey of significant movements and major figures in art and literature during the period of the Industrial Revolution in Western Europe and America.

332 Modernism in Literature and Art of the 20th Century Industrial Revolution 3 cr (self-paced course)

Prereq: HUMA 200 and consent of instructor. Freq: Yearly.

An examination of the impact of industrialization, the world wars, and related political and social changes upon the art and literature of the 20th century.

341 Aesthetic Values 3 cr

Prereq: HUMA 200 or consent of instructor. Freq: Occasionally.

Exploration of the nature of aesthetic judgments and their justification in aesthetic discourse, and the nature and role of art in human life, focusing in particular on the visual arts and music.

342 Ethical Values..... 3 cr

Prereq: HUMA 200 or consent of instructor. Freq: Occasionally.

Exploration of the nature of ethical judgments and their justification in ethical discourse, and the role of ethical values in the human pursuit of the good.

343 Knowledge and Understanding 3 cr

Prereq: HUMA 200 or consent of instructor. Freq: Occasionally.

Exploration of the place of knowledge in human life, the ways in which knowledge is hindered and acquired, and the way in which cultural norms and knowledge interact.

370 Psychology of Evil..... 3 cr

Prereq: Consent of instructor. Freq: Fall.

Cruelty and violence directed by one person or group to another is a major concern for all people. This course relies on the findings of learning theory, social psychology, and other areas of psychological research to explore the issue of human violence. The specific goal is to look beyond the perspective of the victim or observer to examine how the perpetrator of cruelty and violence views those acts. Cross-listed with CRMJ 370/PSYC 370.

390 Special Topics 1-3 cr

Prereq: Humanities major, junior standing; or consent of instructor.

Freq: Occasionally.

Selected topics in the humanities. May be repeated for credit with different topic.

396 Humanities Colloquium 1 cr

Prereq: None. Freq: Occasionally.

In-depth approach to a single experience such as attending a play, visiting a museum, or reading a novel. Significant course project will be required. May be repeated for credit with different topic. May require a course fee.

- 403 Crucial Choices 6 cr
(self-paced course)**
Prereq: HUMA 200 and consent of instructor. Freq: Yearly
An investigation of crucial political and social issues such as energy and resources, international law, health, work, and leisure and how they impinge on national and international policies and actions.
- 413 Culture and Civilization 6 cr
(self-paced course)**
Prereq: HUMA 200 and consent of instructor. Freq: Yearly.
An investigation of the nature of culture and the interplay between culture and society in pre-modern and modern societies.
- 423 The Divided World 6 cr
(self-paced course)**
Prereq: HUMA 200 and consent of instructor. Freq: Yearly.
An examination of the distinctions which have divided the modern world – religious and political ideologies, sex, class, race, ethnicity – and their relationships to world order.
- 433 The Changing Arts 6 cr
(self-paced course)**
Prereq: HUMA 200 and consent of instructor. Freq: Yearly.
A study of modern western art forms – music, design, and film – with respect to their interaction with and influences on a technological society.
- 441 Problems in Industrial Society I 3 cr
(self-paced course)**
Prereq: HUMA 200, 413 and 423; or consent of instructor. Freq: Yearly.
An opportunity for the student to explore in greater depth a topic from HUMA 413 or HUMA 423, using local research and primary archival and/or community resources.
- 442 Problems in Industrial Society II 3 cr
(self-paced course)**
Prereq: HUMA 200, 403 and 433; or consent of instructor. Freq: Yearly.
An opportunity for the student to explore in greater depth a topic from HUMA 403 or HUMA 433, using local research and primary archival and/or community resources.
- 468 Holocaust Studies 3 cr**
Prereq: Junior standing or consent of instructor. Freq: Occasionally.
Intensive study of various aspects of the Holocaust, such as literature of the Holocaust, film and the Holocaust, and literature of the Second Generation, etc. Cross-listed with ENGL 468/HIST 468.
- 490 Special Topics 1-3 cr**
Prereq: Humanities major, junior standing; or consent of instructor. Freq: Occasionally.
Selected topics in the humanities at the senior level. May be repeated for credit with different topic.
- 494 Internship 1-4 cr**
Prereq: Humanities major, junior standing, and consent of instructor and program director. Freq: Fall, Spring.
Directed field experience, focusing on application of scholarly concepts to the workplace. Specific arrangements to be made in consultation with adviser. Maximum of 4 credits may be applied to the major.
- 498 Humanities Capstone 2 cr**
Prereq: HUMA 200 and consent of instructor, graduating senior. Freq: Fall, Spring.
Portfolio-based course in which graduating seniors demonstrate mastery of the six humanities competency areas.
- 499 Independent Study 1-6 cr**
Prereq: Junior standing and consent of instructor and program director. Freq: Fall, Spring.
Individual study of selected topics in humanities.