



Humanistic Studies

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FACULTY

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DEPARTMENT DESCRIPTION

We often divide the liberal arts into different disciplines (for example, history, literature, philosophy) in order to make teaching and studying them easier. In truth, they interconnect, which means that it is impossible to obtain a thorough knowledge of one without at least some knowledge of the others.

Founded in 1956, the interdisciplinary program in Humanistic Studies presents the liberal arts as a unified, interrelated body of knowledge. It explores the various elements that have molded and expressed Western culture by interweaving the study of history, literature, philosophy, theology, and art so that the student perceives the shape of Western culture as a whole.

The program consistently stresses Christianity's dynamic role in forming Western thought, society, and art. To broaden the student's cultural perspective, the program also recognizes the vital contributions of non-Western and non-Christian societies. Works by and about women receive special notice as well.

To develop skills in critical and creative thinking, reading, writing, and speaking, students meet in small classes that stress reading and discussion. They write often and in a variety of styles. Over the years, our graduates have successfully used their education as a preparation for a broad range of careers, including law, education, business, data analysis, communications, the creative arts, and health care.

ADVANCED WRITING PROFICIENCY

The Senior Comprehensive exam is used to assess the College's Advanced Writing Proficiency requirement. A student may fulfill her advanced writing requirement in Humanistic Studies, even when she fulfills her comprehensive requirement in another department, by submitting a portfolio of her written work early in her last semester in the program.

SENIOR COMPREHENSIVE

The Senior Comprehensive exam in Humanistic Studies is a long essay, written in a senior's spring semester, exploring the interrelation between the history and literature of selected eras of Western culture.

HUMANISTIC STUDIES STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES FOR THE MAJOR

- The student can identify the plot, characters, and major themes of selected landmarks in European literature since Greco-Roman antiquity and compare these works to one another.

- The student can identify the major themes in European intellectual, political, artistic, and religious history since Greco-Roman antiquity, based on primary and secondary sources.
- The student can employ aspects of critical thinking, namely, asking searching questions of course materials, evaluating the relevance of individual facts and texts to larger themes, distinguishing between analysis and summary, and showing originality and insight in her interpretations.
- The student can solve intellectual problems posed by the subject matter in the major by designing and implementing research projects that investigate those problems.
- The student can speak with clarity, organization, and supporting evidence, and listen with attentiveness and sympathy.
- The student can write with precision and style in a variety of academic genres and can organize her thoughts around a central thesis supported by evidence.
- The student can synthesize examples, facts, issues, or theories from literature, history, and art into a coherent whole.

HUMANISTIC STUDIES STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES FOR THE MINOR

- The student can identify the plot, characters, and major themes of selected landmarks in at least one epoch of European literature since Greco-Roman antiquity.
- The student can identify the major themes in at least one epoch of European intellectual, political, artistic, and religious history since Greco-Roman antiquity, based on primary and secondary sources.
- The student can employ aspects of critical thinking, namely, asking searching questions of course materials, evaluating the relevance of individual facts and texts to larger themes, distinguishing between analysis and summary, and showing originality and insight in her interpretations.
- The student can speak with clarity, organization, and supporting evidence, and listen with attentiveness and sympathy.
- The student can write with precision and style in a variety of academic genres and can organize her thoughts around a central thesis supported by evidence.
- The student can synthesize examples, facts, issues, or theories from literature, history, and art into a coherent whole.

PROGRAM IN HUMANISTIC STUDIES

Bachelor of Arts, Major in Humanistic Studies—HUST (24 hours)

All of the following taken in sophomore or junior year:

HUST 321	Cultural History I: Ancient and Medieval Culture	3 hours
HUST 322	Cultural History II: Medieval and Renaissance Culture	3 hours
HUST 323	Colloquium I: Ancient and Medieval Literature	3 hours
HUST 324	Colloquium II: Medieval and Renaissance Literature	3 hours

All of the following taken in junior or senior year:

HUST 461	Cultural History III: Early-Modern Culture	3 hours
HUST 462	Cultural History IV: Modern Culture	3 hours
HUST 463	Colloquium III: Early-Modern Literature	3 hours
HUST 464	Colloquium IV: Modern Literature	3 hours

Minor in Humanistic Studies—HUST (15 hours)

Three of the following (nine hours):

HUST 103	Lives and Times	3 hours
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HUST 197	Myth, Legend, and History	3 hours
HUST 203	Asian Influence	3 hours
HUST 205	History of Famous Women	3 hours
HUST 212	High Society	3 hours
HUST 292	Greek and Roman Culture	3 hours
HUST 321	Cultural History I: Ancient and Medieval Culture	3 hours
HUST 322	Cultural History II: Medieval and Renaissance Culture	3 hours
HUST 323	Colloquium I: Ancient and Medieval Literature	3 hours
HUST 324	Colloquium II: Medieval and Renaissance Literature	3 hours
HUST 390/490	Special Topics	1–3 hours
HUST 461	Cultural History III: Early-Modern Culture	3 hours
HUST 462	Cultural History IV: Modern Culture	3 hours
HUST 463	Colloquium III: Early-Modern Literature	3 hours
HUST 464	Colloquium IV: Modern Literature	3 hours

Two of the following (if not taken above):

HUST 321	Cultural History I: Ancient and Medieval Culture	3 hours
HUST 322	Cultural History II: Medieval and Renaissance Culture	3 hours
HUST 323	Colloquium I: Ancient and Medieval Literature	3 hours
HUST 324	Colloquium II: Medieval and Renaissance Literature	3 hours
HUST 461	Cultural History III: Early-Modern Culture	3 hours
HUST 462	Cultural History IV: Modern Culture	3 hours
HUST 463	Colloquium III: Early-Modern Literature	3 hours
HUST 464	Colloquium IV: Modern Literature	3 hours

DOUBLE MAJORS/MINORS

Many students combine a major in Humanistic Studies with a major or minor in another discipline such as economics, English, political science, history, philosophy, psychology or religious studies. With careful planning, students have double-majored in the fine arts, science, or business.

HUMANISTIC STUDIES COURSES (HUST)

103 Lives and Times (3)

This introductory course explores the interaction of people from the past with their cultural milieu through a study of works that have cultural or historical importance.

197 Myth, Legend, and History (3)

This course studies the ways people talk about their past through myths, legends, and history by focusing on subjects such as the Trojan War, King Arthur, Joan of Arc, and the sinking of the Titanic, among others.

203 Asian Influence on Western Literature (3)

An introduction to the cultures of India, China and Japan through their influence on Western writers, thinkers and artists. Texts include books about the East written by Westerners and also translations of Asian literature.

205 History of Famous Women (3)

This course looks at the lives of women such as Joan of Arc, Elizabeth I, and Abigail Adams, and places them in the tradition of exceptional women. It examines that tradition as a form of both women's history and feminist argument, from Roman antiquity to the present.

212 High Society (3)

A social and cultural history of European aristocracy and monarchy from medieval times to the present.

292 Greek and Roman Culture (3)

This course looks at the main elements of Greek and Roman culture through a variety of works: historical, philosophical, and literary. Special attention is paid to the role of women in Greek and Roman society.

321 Cultural History I: Ancient and Medieval Culture (3)

A political, intellectual, and artistic history, from Greco-Roman antiquity to the High Middle Ages, focused on Europe with special attention paid to the role of Christianity. Topics include the “golden age” of Athens, the cultural influence of the Roman Empire, the rise of Christianity, monasticism, the world of the warrior aristocracy, the medieval world view, the rise of royal government, the twelfth-century cultural revolution, and Gothic architecture. Corequisite: HUST 323.

322 Cultural History II: Medieval and Renaissance Culture (3)

A political, intellectual, and artistic history, from the Late Middle Ages to the Italian Renaissance, focused on Europe with special attention paid to the role of Christianity. Topics include the Black Death and its impact, the power of Italian city-states, Renaissance humanism, the cult of the individual, the discovery of the New World, and the evolution of Renaissance art. Corequisite: HUST 324.

323 Colloquium I: Ancient and Medieval Literature (3)

Major literary works from Greco-Roman antiquity to the High Middle Ages. Readings may include Homer’s *Odyssey*, Sophocles’s *Antigone*, Virgil’s *Aeneid*, Augustine’s *Confessions*, the Koran, *The Song of Roland*, and *The Romance of Tristan*. Corequisite: HUST 321.

324 Colloquium II: Medieval and Renaissance Literature (3)

Major literary works from the Late Middle Ages to the Renaissance. Readings may include *The Travels of Marco Polo*, Dante’s *Divine Comedy*, Petrarch’s *My Secret*, *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*, Chaucer’s *Canterbury Tales*, Boccaccio’s *Decameron*, and Castiglione’s *Book of the Courtier*. Corequisite: HUST 322.

390/490 Special Topics (1–3)

Topics in Humanistic Studies not covered in regular department offerings. May be repeated for credit with a different topic.

461 Cultural History III: Early-Modern Culture (3)

A political, intellectual, and artistic history, from the Northern Renaissance to the Age of Napoleon, focused on Europe with special attention paid to the role of Christianity. Topics include the Reformation, English constitutional history, baroque culture, the Enlightenment, and the French Revolution. Corequisite: HUST 463.

462 Cultural History IV: Modern Culture (3)

A political, intellectual, and artistic history, from the nineteenth century to the present, focused on Europe with special attention paid to the role of Christianity. Topics include ideology in the age of industry, the modernist movement, the world wars, the Cold War, and the post-modern outlook. Corequisite: HUST 464.

463 Colloquium III: Early-Modern Literature (3)

Major literary works, from the Northern Renaissance to the Age of Napoleon. Readings may include Erasmus’s *Praise of Folly*, More’s *Utopia*, Montaigne’s *Essays*, Shakespeare’s *Othello*, de Lafayette’s *Princess de Clèves*, Voltaire’s *Candide*, and Wollstonecraft’s *Vindication of the Rights of Woman*. Corequisite: HUST 461.

464 Colloquium IV: Modern Literature (3)

Major literary works, from the nineteenth century to the present. Readings may include Romantic poetry, Turgenev’s *Fathers and Sons*, Freud’s *Civilization and Its Discontents*, Woolf’s *To the Lighthouse*, Camus’s *The Plague*, and Allende’s *The House of the Spirits*. Corequisite: HUST 462.

497 Independent Study (1–3)

Independent study for outstanding students. May be repeated.

499 Internship (1–3)

Practical experience in a field related to Humanistic Studies. Graded S/U. May be repeated.