

Humanities

The major in humanities provides students with an opportunity to explore the myriad ways in which humans have made meaning of their lives through literary, philosophical and religious expression. Great texts of the Western literary tradition provide the backdrop as studies range across cultures and academic methodologies. This curriculum affords students a broad and historical understanding of the humanities while assuring that students have adequate depth in a particular humanistic discipline to obtain appropriate undergraduate mastery of a field of study.

Learning Outcomes: Humanities

1. Students will exhibit the critical and analytical skills necessary to appreciate and interpret intelligently literary, philosophical and religious texts from a variety of cultural contexts.
2. Students will demonstrate knowledge of the diversity and scope of the Western literary heritage that records, shapes and reflects human experience and values.
3. Students will be able to reference predecessor thinkers, artists and traditions in order to show points of agreement and disagreement between their own ideas and those of others with regard to fundamental ethical, aesthetic, epistemological, metaphysical and religious questions.
4. Students will demonstrate the ability to write essays that demonstrate clear expository prose, effective reasoning and appropriate undergraduate research skills.

Honors in Humanities

A major may receive the designation of “Honors in Humanities” upon meeting the following criteria:

1. Achieving a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or better in all course work and of 3.3 or better in courses in the major.
2. Presenting an honors thesis or project on a topic acceptable to the program faculty.
3. Defending the honors thesis or project in a comprehensive oral examination before an examining committee comprising at least two faculty members in the program, and one faculty from outside the program.

Requirements for the Major in Humanities

40 Credits

A minimum of 40 credits, including LIT 210, HUM 110, HUM 220, HUM 330 and HUM 440. 18 of these credits should be completed at the 300 or 400 level. 18 of these credits should also be accumulated in one of the constituent academic disciplines (English / Literature, Philosophy, or Religious Studies). These 18 credits form the student’s ‘concentration’ (Literature, Philosophy or Religious Studies). The remaining 9 credits are derived from electives within the humanistic disciplines.