

Humanities (HUMN)

HUMN500 Humanities: Research, Study and Use (3 semester hours)

This is the first course in the graduate humanities program. It is designed to introduce the student to the theory, concept, and general approach to a program of study centered on civilization's great works, authors, and ideas. Course topics include how to approach study of the great works, authors, and ideas; a philosophy grounded in the classical/liberal tradition; and the university and curricular concepts centered on the great ideas. Students are expected to use this course to orient themselves for the remainder of the graduate humanities curriculum, prepare for a life of focused and purposeful study based on fundamental concepts and a particular modus of thought and reflection, and apply themselves within a general framework of knowledge acquisition and application. Readings for this course include Adler and Van Doren's *How to Read a Book: The Classic Guide to Intelligent Reading*.

HUMN510 The Ancient World (3 semester hours)

This course acquaints students with the Hebrew Scriptures and the world of the ancient Greeks. The Egyptians, Babylonians, Assyrians, and other peoples to whom the Hebrews and Greeks are indebted are also considered. Among the topics to which the course attends are the human experience of the divine, man's struggle with human and natural forces, warfare and the meaning of justice, the development of logos as human reason or cognition, and the emergence of science, technology, and artistic experience. Readings for this course include *The Epic of Gilgamesh*; *The Bible*; *Homer's Odyssey*; *Thucydides' The Peloponnesian War*; *Aeschylus' The Oresteia*; and *Plato's The Republic*.

HUMN520 Antiquity and Medieval World (3 semester hours)

This course addresses the possibility of the existence of a proper way or path through life. The course topics address works from history's most esteemed authors. Included among the topics are Aristotle, seminal works of art and literature from the Far and Middle East, the Hellenistic world, and the Roman Empire. Religious issues of Hinduism, Buddhism, and Christianity are covered in depth. Readings for this course include: *Aristotle's Nicomachean Ethics*; *Confucius' Analects*; *Lao Tzu's Tao Te Ching*; *The Bhagavad Gita*; *Epictetus' The Encheridion*; *Virgil's Aeneid*; *The Bible*; and *Dante's Inferno, Purgatorio and Paradiso*.

HUMN530 The Renaissance (3 semester hours)

This course provides an overview of works of the Renaissance, and offers a detailed study of its major thinkers. Issues include the birth of rationalism, individualism, skepticism, and secularism. Questions address the problem of what the knower knows, the war between intellectual tradition and change, and the dominance of the sphere of science. Readings for this course include: *Petrarch's Selections from the Canzoniere and Other Works*; *Machiavelli's The Prince*; *Francois Rabelais' Gargantua and Pantagruel*; *Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra's Don Quixote*; *Shakespeare's King Lear*; *Michael de Montaigne's Selections from the Essays*; *John Donne's Selected Poems*; *Rene Descartes' Discourse on Method, and his Meditations*; and *John Milton's Paradise Lost*.

HUMN541 Enlightenment and the Modern World (3 semester hours)

This course provides philosophical and literary views of the human condition as it is explored during the Age of Enlightenment in Europe and in America. Loosely organized around Locke's assertion that the freedom to pursue truth is a key tenet of the Enlightenment, we will explore how various authors balance tradition with new ideas on government, religion, human rights, reason, education, and social hierarchies. Readings for this course include: *Jane Austen's Pride and Prejudice*; *Ekaterina Dashkova's Memoirs*; *Meriwether Lewis and William Clark's Journals of the Lewis and Clark Expedition*; *Thomas Paine's Common Sense and other Political Writings*; *Rousseau's Confessions*; and *Mary Wollstonecraft's A Vindication of the Rights of Women*.

HUMN550 Evolution of Earth and Universe (3 semester hours)

This course provides study of the logic and methods of science in relation to the development of the universe. It addresses the path by which scientific description of the universe has been made possible. It covers the origin of the universe, the nature of reality, and the relationship between observer and nature. Course topics include cosmology and the future of the human race. Readings for this course include *Stephen Hawking's A Brief History of Time* and other emerging relevant contemporary documents.

HUMN551 Evolution of Life and Intelligence (3 semester hours)

This course is a study of issues related to genetics, the human nervous system, and artificial intelligence. Course topics include computers, computation, and its limitations; natural and machine intelligence; and the ethical responsibility of the scientist, the politician, the philosopher, and the artist as they relate to emerging issues. Philosophical, ethical, and scientific points of view will be discussed. Readings for this course include selected works of *Mary Shelley*, *Charles Darwin*, *Richard Dawkins*, *Paul Churchland*, and *Edwin O. Wilson*, among others.

HUMN555 The 19th Century: Romantic and Industrial Revolutions (3 semester hours)

In this course, students will explore diverse representations of nineteenth century literature. Students will seek to critically identify and analyze literary meanings from interdisciplinary perspectives. They will question how the works discussed reflect and impact a range of cultural issues in the nineteenth century—a time of radical social change. Through the lens of literature students will look at social upheaval in terms of national identities, urbanization, science, music, class, popular culture, gender, industry and, in the U.S, slavery.

HUMN561 Society, Class and Wealth (3 semester hours)

This course builds upon the study of distinctive perspectives of the social sciences. Course topics include the development of modern political and social understanding as it relates to the impact of economic issues on societies. Readings for this course include: Jean-Jacques Rousseau, Discourse on the Origin of Inequality; Max Weber, The Protestant Work Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism; Adam Smith, Wealth of Nations; Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, Selected Works.

HUMN571 Individuals, Societies, and the Spirit (3 semester hours)

This course continues the study of the development of the individual in modern society. Readings for this course include: William James, Varieties of Religious Experience; Emile Durkheim, Elementary Forms of Religious Life; Ernest Gellner, Nations and Nationalism; Sigmund Freud, Civilization and Its Discontents; Erik Erikson, Childhood and Society; Thomas Kuhn, The Structure of Scientific Revolutions.

HUMN697 Humanities Capstone Portfolio Seminar (3 semester hours)

This course provides the framework for students to assemble a culminating portfolio including representative work developed throughout the Humanities MA degree program and will guide students to develop additional assets that demonstrate mastery of institutional and program objectives through degree completion. NOTE: This course may not be taken until all other courses are COMPLETED and student has a 3.0 GPA.

HUMN698 Comprehensive Examination in Humanities (0 semester hours)

This will be a comprehensive final examination for students in the Master of Arts in Humanities program. IMPORTANT: You must have COMPLETED all other courses in the program and have a GPA of 3.0 in order to register for this course. As a Humanities student, you must pass this comprehensive exam in order to have your degree conferred. The comprehensive exam must be taken by the course end date or a failing grade will be posted. If you fail your first course attempt to pass the comprehensive exam, you will need to get approval to register for a second attempt of the course and BOTH final course grades will show in your transcript.

HUMN699 Humanities Capstone (3 semester hours)

This course provides the framework for students to write a thesis, a major research paper, or develop a creative project. NOTE: This course may not be taken until all other courses are COMPLETED and student has a 3.0 GPA. THIS COURSE IS 16 WEEKS.