

UPPER-LEVEL COURSES IN HUMANITIES

The following is a list of classes that will regularly be offered by Humanities as possible alternatives to the Basic Texts sequence to satisfy the HSH Gen Ed requirement. The five classes all adopt a broad approach serving a general education function, though at a higher level and with more in depth reading and writing assignments than both Intro to Humanities or Intro to Philosophy.

1 PHIL 4134: The Great Philosophers I

Survey of the ideas of the great philosophers of the western tradition from ancient Greece through the middle ages.

Authors may include Parmenides, Heraclitus, Gorgias and other sophists, Plato, Aristotle, Augustine, Aquinas, Maimonides.

Can also be counted toward the following minor: Philosophy

2. PHIL 4135: The Great Philosophers II

Survey of the ideas of the great philosophers of the modern western world.

Authors may include Bacon, Descartes, Hobbes, Hume, Kant, Hegel, Kierkegaard, Marx, Nietzsche.

Can also be counted toward the following minor: Philosophy

3. HUMN 3375: Ideas in Transition:

[new UMBRELLA COURSE WITH VARIOUS TOPICS- see next page for details]

This class traces an idea's shifting significance throughout history. Themes will be studied using philosophic, literary, and artistic works. Themes may include: Exile, Propaganda and Persuasion, Image and Text, Mind, Brain, and Meaning, Conservatism vs. Liberalism, Values, Love, Freedom, Power, Utopias, War, Rise of World Economies.

4. HUMN 3374: Critical Inquiry [new course]

The primary objective of this course is to make students fluent in the craft of inquiring into and critically assessing the stability of grand narratives. What are the social, cultural and philosophical assumptions that underlie and enable the construction of theories and narratives that claim to be universal, all-encompassing and "human"? Students will receive instruction in reading and analyzing critical research in contemporary humanities that cut across traditional disciplinary barriers. Students will also learn how to articulate interpretations of foundational concepts like identity and community. Comparative modes of thought engaged herein will attend to diverse scholarship on race, class, gender, and ethnicity, leaving the student equipped with current knowledge on theorizing selfhood, otherness and culture.

Can also be counted toward the following minors: Philosophy, LLAS, WGST

5. PHIL 3331: Ethics

This class surveys foundational ideas in the history of ethics.

Can also be counted toward the following minor: Philosophy

HUMN 3375: IDEAS IN TRANSITION

EACH SEMESTER MIGHT OFFER A SELECTION OF THE FOLLOWING TOPICS:

HUMANITIES UNDERGRADUATE CURRICULUM FOR UPPER-LEVEL STUDENTS ACROSS HSH

EXILE (Dr. Merfish): This course will explore forced travel and encounter through both theory and a series of historical, cultural, and literary case studies. Through close readings of letters, objects, and texts created by exiles and emigres from the 17th century through today, students will explore the complexities of the dual experiences of exile and encounter.

Can also be counted toward the following minor: Art History

PROPAGANDA AND PERSUASION (Dr. Merfish): This course considers modes of communication crafted to convince and persuade audiences through case studies which are varied both geographically and chronologically, allowing students to consider common characteristics of persuasion in Asia, Europe, and the Americas.

Can also be counted toward the following minor: Art History

WOMEN ARTISTS AND THEIR CRITICS (Dr. Merfish): This course utilizes individual case studies to examine the critical reception of women artists from the Renaissance to the present.

Can also be counted toward the following minors: Art History, WGST

IMAGE AND TEXT (Dr. Costello): This course looks at technologies of communication over time, from Paleolithic image-making to the invention of writing, the use of letters, the printing press, the telegraph, and modern social media. We will explore the interaction among images and text as means to communicate and relay narrative, and consider how these tools have shaped human thought and social interaction.

Can also be counted toward the following minor: Art History

MIND, BRAIN, AND MEANING (Dr. Parsons): The question would be whether science, especially neuroscience, fundamentally changes what it means to be human and to achieve meaning and happiness. Readings include: Paul Thagard's *The Brain and the Meaning of Life*; Owen Flanagan's *The Problem of the Soul*, Alex Rosenberg's *The Atheist's Guide to Reality*, and Sissela Bok's *Exploring Happiness*.

Can also be counted toward the following minor: Philosophy

CONSERVATISM VS. LIBERALISM (Dr. Parsons): The purpose of the course is to trace back the currently polarized debates between conservatives and liberals to the 18th century founders of the modern liberal and conservative traditions, Edmund Burke and Thomas Paine. By reading Burke's *Reflections on the Revolution in France* and Paine's *Rights of Man* and *The Age of Reason*, we can see that conservatism and liberalism each have a rational foundation that constitutes a basis for reasonable debate rather than current invective.

Can also be counted toward the following minor: Philosophy

VALUES (Dr. Subramanian) – Value eludes definition. Whose values become central and whose are peripheral? What is meant by universal values? Texts include contemporary literary and philosophical voices from Africa, Asia, and the Americas.

Can also be counted toward the following minor: Philosophy

LOVE (Dr. Subramanian) – Ruminations on love as an emotion, ethic, and politic that binds and severs people, communities, nations. Texts might include novels such as Gabriel Garcia Marquez’s *Love in the Time of Cholera*, theories and philosophies on radical empathy, and films such as Wong Kar-Wai’s “In the Mood for Love.”

Can also be counted toward the following minor: Philosophy

LOVE (Dr. Silvermintz) - This course investigates the shifting understanding of love throughout history. Course readings include classic literary, philosophic, religious, and psychological works about love and sexuality.

Can also be counted toward the following minor: Philosophy

LOVE (Dr. Marcoline) - This course examines representations of love, desire, obsession, and empathy in literature, philosophy, film, and music from the eighteenth to the twentieth century. Texts may include novels by Prévost, Goethe, Constant, and George Sand; poetry by Horace, Heine, P.B. Shelley, Christina Rossetti, Whitman, and Eliot; philosophical texts by bell hooks, Derrida, Irigaray, and Badiou; films may include Duras and Renais’s *Hiroshima mon amour*, Henke’s *Love*, and *Paris, I Love You*.

Can also be counted toward the following minor: WGST

FREEDOM (Dr. Romero) – This class traces freedom’s shifting significance throughout history through the lens of philosophic, literary, and artistic works. Is an end of tyranny a guarantee of freedom? What exactly are its aspirations and limits? Students will hone their applied critical thinking skills by meditating on texts that developed the way that we have come to think about freedom including: the philosophy of John Locke and Charles W. Mills; multicultural literature of Fredrick Douglass, Gloria Anzaldúa, and Leslie Marmon Silko; and political treatises like The Declaration of Independence, “The Declaration of Sentiments,” and the 1848 Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo.

Can also be counted toward the following minors: Philosophy, LLAS, WGST

POWER (Dr. Subramanian) – Power can be interpreted as the practice of monumentalizing canons. Power rewards and punishes its human subjects. Students will read selections from a broad swathe of time and space in order to articulate how texts are crucial to formations of power.

Can also be counted toward the following minors: Philosophy, WGST

UTOPIAS (Dr. Gessler) - This course provides cross-cultural and historical perspectives on utopianism and its larger social context. We will use historical, sociological, feminist, cultural, and religious studies approaches to analyze the development of utopianism over time and its implications for improving societies. We will examine literature, films, art, music, and other texts to discuss utopian thought from different eras in North America and around the world, including current visions of the good life.

Can also be counted toward the following minor: WGST

UTOPIAS (Dr. Klett) - This course provides a survey of major Western literary, philosophical, and political thought by authors such as More, Kant, Marx, Gilman, and Atwood. Over the course of the semester, we will analyze how the concept of “Utopia” has changed since the sixteenth century.

WAR (Dr. Hales) - This course will explore depictions of war through film and fiction. Our analysis will draw on historical documents, secondary criticism, memoir, photography, and film as a way of understanding perceptions of World War I, World War II, the Cold War, the Vietnam War and the Iraq War. Themes include torture and genocide.

Can also be counted toward the following minor: Art and Design

ECONOMIES (POWERS) - The Rise of World Economies is an examination and analysis of the human experience as it relates to the historical struggle to organize commercial life in the face of geographical, religious and cultural, and other internal and external influences. From the very roots of economic activity to the development of “money,” civilizations and societies throughout history have and will continue to struggle with economic reality.

In addition to fulfilling a humanities requirement in general, each of these courses might also function as fulfilling credits towards a minor. For “Humanities” majors, the following minors are acceptable towards our degrees: Art and Design, Art History, LLAS, Middle Eastern Studies, Museum Studies, Philosophy, Professional Writing, WGST