

# Humanities (MA) Course Descriptions

## ***HUM 5000 Professional Seminar: Humanities in the Contemporary World (3 units)***

A study of key issues raised in contemporary culture about the humanities. Also provides an introduction to research methods, including use of Internet, CD-ROMs, and other library resources available for advanced study of the humanities.

## ***HUM 5001 Core Integrative Seminar (3 units)***

Inquiry into a philosophy of culture that considers the various symbol systems of humankind—language, myth, religion, art, music, and science—as related strands in an evolving web of meaning.

## ***HUM 5002 Culminating Project Workshop I (0 units)***

Course meeting several times during the semester to assist students in the preparation of a proposal for the culminating project, as well as assisting with research issues associated with the culminating project.

## ***HUM 5003 Culminating Project Workshop II (1 unit)***

Part 2 of workshop sequence providing students the opportunity to discuss issues related to research and completion of culminating project. Also provides a supportive atmosphere in which students can assist each other in dealing with issues related to completion of the culminating project. Prerequisite: HUM 5002.

## ***HUM 5004 Culminating Project (2 units)***

Projects are individually designed and developed in consultation with the Director and appropriate faculty members. The project may involve a traditional master's thesis; a research project expanding on a research paper/project from a particular seminar or class; an interesting, enlightening, persuasively argued essay; or a multimedia presentation on an issue related to the humanities.

## ***HUM 5101 The Illustrated Word (3 units)***

An introduction to the signs, symbol systems, and alphabets developed by different cultures to convey information through texts, pictures, and messages. The forms, styles, and purposes of written and illustrated materials from antiquity to the Renaissance. Comparisons of systems used in written and visual communication.

## ***HUM 5102 Structures of Faith (3 units)***

Focuses on the concept of "sacred space" as embodied in architectural forms developed to meet the needs of different religions; how and why these buildings look as they do. Explores external forms, interior spatial requirements, arrangements of spaces for participants, and liturgical accoutrements, such as statues, paintings, and stained glass.

## ***HUM 5105 History of Gardens & Landscape Design (3 units)***

A chronological and thematic survey of garden history and landscape design from the ancient/classical period to the present, including Western and non-Western examples. Literary, philosophical/aesthetic, political, scientific, social architectural, and artistic themes are addressed in this interdisciplinary seminar.

## ***HUM 5106 Byzantium to Istanbul: City Across Time (3 units)***

Graduate team-taught seminar (Art History/History) exploring the rich history of this city which has long been a crossroads for West and East. Concentration on the political, religious, and artistic context of the city as it developed over time. Focus on people and events which have influenced or been influenced by this second Rome.

## ***HUM 5107 Language in the Visual Arts (3 units)***

An exploration of the use of written language in the visual arts from ancient to modern times. The relation of text and image in medieval manuscripts, the function of inscriptions and captions in ancient to modern art, the art of fine calligraphy, modern experimental typography, and the works of various artists will be showcased.

## ***HUM 5108 Civic Imagery & Instant Messaging in Western Art (3 units)***

An examination of visual structures and/or monuments from the point of view of their civic content. Some of these are overly civic in nature, and others, such as the Sistine Chapel, seem to be religious, but upon closer examination, reveal deeply civic and political content. Students will engage reading in the history, popular culture and philosophy of each period targeted.

### ***HUM 5110 City as Text: Florence (3 units)***

This course will study Florence during its Golden Age between the 14th and 16th centuries when Florence contributed much to Western Civilization. Interdisciplinary in nature, the course will investigate the period thematically, drawing on literature, politics, religion, and art to reveal different sides of the city's unique character. Note: not a travel course.

### ***HUM 5111 City as Text: Venice (3 units)***

Venice, Queen of the Adriatic and Most Serene Republic, a city of magic and charm is the subject of this seminar. Primary focus is the visual arts but it will also explore literary images of the city, music associated with San Marco and statecraft of the republic from its founding through the late 19th Century. Note: not a travel course.

### ***HUM 5211 Chaucer (3 units)***

"Except for Shakespeare," writes Harold Bloom, "Chaucer is foremost among writers in the English language." In this seminar we journey with Chaucer, as he explores the most significant human concerns, by focusing on three primary texts: The Consolation of Philosophy, Troilus and Criseyde, and The Canterbury Tales.

### ***HUM 5212 Archetypes of American Literature (3 units)***

Harry Potter a modern day King Arthur? Grendel a tragically wronged outcast? Penelope the true hero of the Odyssey? Through re-imagining familiar myths and tales, writers continue to discover new meanings in archetypes—meanings that rejuvenate our cultural images and simultaneously redefine who we are as individuals and how we live within a community. In this course, the study of such inter-related works, within their historical, social, and geographic contexts, allows exploration of the diversity and universality of human ideas and endeavors. Specific literatures studied (e.g., American, English, literature in translation) will vary from semester to semester.

### ***HUM 5215 Major Authors (3 units)***

Study of the works of individual major authors, such as Dante, Chaucer, Shakespeare, as art and in their literary, historical, and cultural contexts, as well as in relationship to other disciplines of study - for instance, art history, philosophy, politics, and religion. Specific authors and works will vary from semester to semester.

### ***HUM 5217 The Active Voice (3 units)***

An exploration of how sociological and political crises transform the literature of their time, forcing an intersection of public and private voices. Students will examine the work of poets who push the devastations of their culture into their most personal voice and writers who bear witness in their literary narratives. The course will combine lecture, discussion, and assignments designed to find the "heat" of the writer's experience.

### ***HUM 5218 British Literature in Context (3 units)***

This course explores cultural and social issues in nineteenth and twentieth century British Literature. We will read key literary texts by authors such as Charles Dickens, T.S. Eliot, and Virginia Woolf in tandem with scholarship from other disciplines.

### ***HUM 5261 Creative Writing Workshop I (3 units)***

An advanced writing workshop that invites students to explore their own capacity to surprise, inform, entertain, and provoke readers in one or more genres of creative writing, such as poetry, prose, drama, or screenwriting. Special emphasis on using themes and/or researched material to develop well-crafted work that is both artistic and authentic. Through readings, exercises, peer workshops, and conferences with the instructor, a portfolio of revised pieces will be developed.

### ***HUM 5262 Creative Writing Workshop II (3 units)***

An advanced writing workshop that invites students to explore their own capacity to surprise, inform, entertain, and provoke readers in one or more genres of creative writing, such as poetry, prose, drama, or screenwriting. Special emphasis on using themes and/or researched material to develop well-crafted work that is both artistic and authentic. Through readings, exercises, peer workshops, and conferences with the instructor, a portfolio of revised pieces will be developed. Prerequisite: HUM 5261.

### ***HUM 5263 Creative Writing Workshop III (3 units)***

An advanced writing workshop that invites students to explore their own capacity to surprise, inform, entertain, and provoke readers in one or more genres of creative writing, such as poetry, prose, drama, or screenwriting. Special emphasis on using themes and/or researched material to develop well-crafted work that is both artistic and authentic. Through readings, exercises, peer workshops, and conferences with the instructor, a portfolio of revised pieces will be developed. Prerequisites: HUM 5261, HUM 5262.

***HUM 5302 Women: Work, Politics and Education, 1800-Present (3 units)***

This course looks at women's roles in society and their claims to freedom by reading and discussing the words of the participants themselves. Reformers and defenders of the status quo in both the United States and Europe debated such issues as women's legal status, education, political participation (e.g. the vote), war and peace, and economic opportunity.

***HUM 5303 19th Century Paris, City of Light (3 units)***

Focuses on Paris, on the women and men (both notable and notorious) who lived, worked, wrote, painted, and died there; also on the monumental architecture which changed the look of the French capital (e.g., Arc de Triomphe, Sacre Coeur, and Eiffel Tower) during the 19th century.

***HUM 5306 Women, Gender and Empire (3 units)***

During the late 19th and early 20th centuries, European women played a major role in defining and maintaining the European empires. At the same time empires gave non-European women an opportunity to change their lives from those outlined for them. This course examines the contributions of and influences upon these European and non-European women.

***HUM 5307 Pleasures of the Imagination (3 units)***

Examines selected historical novels in reference to their historical context and the context of the times of their authors. Students evaluate the contributions of representative authors such as Stendhal, Tolstoy, Joseph Conrad, Kaye, and Samkange. Themes include history and popular culture; imagined history as a consumer industry; novels as historical evidence, gender, and class.

***HUM 5309 Biography as History (3 units)***

Examines biography as a historical genre. Biographies will be selected from different humanities' fields and from different historical eras. Students will study various forms of biography to evaluate biography's usefulness as an historical research technique and for learning history. Students will also study the role of individuals in history.

***HUM 5310 Women and Christianity (3 units)***

This course explores women's experience in Christianity over the past 2000 years and the importance and consequence of gender in the Christian experience. Is Christianity different for men and women? A respect for the variety within both the Christian tradition and the choices made by different women within it, are also important parts of this course. This course looks at both individuals and movements that fostered women's religious experience and at how different eras described women's religious role.

***HUM 5313 Rake's Progress (3 units)***

18th Century England. Examines issues in English history from 1688 to 1815 through primary sources and work by current historians. Topics include the Glorious Revolution, the Jacobites, the slave trade, the British Empire, economics, women, the Enlightenment, and the struggle with France.

***HUM 5504 Virtuosity: Cultivating Moral & Political Character (3 units)***

What does it mean to be virtuous? This seminar will explore a range of moral and political responses to the question of virtue, paying particular attention to the notion that moral and political virtue ought to be understood as a kind of intellectual and practical expertise, or virtuosity.

***HUM 5507 Political Philosophy & Isms of Modernity (3 units)***

We "late moderns" are confronted by a wide array of competing ideological perspectives, or what can be called the "Isms of Modernity". What is the nature of ideology? What are the reigning ideologies of modernity, and what are the moral and political visions inherent in those that capture the bulk of our attention and commitment? What is at stake in the competition amongst the "Isms" of modernity? This course will take a philosophical look at the moral and political implications of liberalism, communitarianism, feminism, postmodernism, pragmatism, and various other isms.

***HUM 5508 Gender, Ethics, & Politics (3 units)***

This course is a survey and critical analysis of contemporary scholarship on the ethical and political implications of gender. We will consider the nature of ethics and politics as it has been reinterpreted from the perspective of various forms of feminist theory and explore the implications of gender from the perspective of studies on masculinity.

***HUM 5509 Social Justice, Privilege and Oppression (3 units)***

This course will examine how the philosophical constructions of difference are created to justify both privilege and oppression. In particular it will focus on current manifestations of racism, sexism, classism and how they are experienced by different groups of people. It will also explore various theories of social justice.

***HUM 5601 The Buddhist Tradition (3 units)***

A rigorous engagement with Buddhism's central ideas and their major permutations against the background of its long pilgrimage across Asia and into the West.

***HUM 5603 Science, Religion and the Human Future (3 units)***

This course is a meticulous inquiry into the nature of science and the nature of religion as human quests for truth. It examines the history of their interaction, their conflict and cooperation in order to envision the nature and extent of their future coexistence.

***HUM 5605 Psychology of Religion (3 units)***

This seminar explores the work of the great early theorists in the psychology of religion, including James, Freud, Jung, and Adler, and then considers developments over the last sixty years. Students will investigate the works of Allport, Maslow, Erikson, and Becker, as well as Buddhist psychology, transpersonal psychology, psychology of religious violence, and recent theorizing in neuro-theology.

***HUM 5606 Philosophy of Religious Pluralism (3 units)***

"Religious pluralism" is the argument that humankind's religions are, in principle, equally effective, culturally variant responses to a single spiritual reality (John Hick). Some Christian critics argue vociferously against this pluralism. This course is a sustained engagement with this vital debate, a debate that will play a role in shaping the future of religious co-existence on this planet for a long time to come.

***HUM 5992 Thesis Continuation (0 units)***

If after taking HUM 5004 a student has not completed the culminating project, s/he enrolls in this course in order to complete. The reader must be consulted prior to enrolling to make sure s/he will be available during the semester in which the student wishes to complete. Please note that most readers are unavailable during the summer. If the project is not completed in the semester they were enrolled in HUM 5004, students have two years to complete their thesis and must register for HUM 4992, "Thesis Continuation," in the semester completed. Students who do not complete their thesis/project in two years, or who wish to abandon their thesis/project, must complete a 33 unit track program to receive their degree.

***HUM 5994 Teaching Assistantship (1-3 units)***

The privilege of serving as a teaching assistant is available to students who are interested with the approval of the Department Chair, the instructor concerned, and the Dean of the School. A contract between the student and the instructor to determine goals, specifics on project contents/materials, and evaluation process will be required at time of request. Course may be taken for 1-3 units.

***HUM 5996 Internship: Graduate Humanities (1-3 units)***

Students gain practical, hands-on training in their particular area of career or volunteer interest by working with an organization of their choosing, in consultation with their academic advisor and the Career and Internship office. After meeting with the academic advisor, students meet with the Career and Internship office to fill out the necessary paperwork and, then, after securing all necessary signatures, submit an add/drop form along with the internship paperwork to the Registrar. This course cannot be accessed via the self-service registration cart. 1-3 units.

***HUM 5999 Independent Study (1-3 units)***

The privilege of independent study is possible for students who are prepared to undertake it based on student need or interest with approval of the Chair of the department, the instructor concerned, and the Dean of the School. The study must be in an area not covered by a regularly scheduled course. Course may be taken for 1-3 units. The maximum number of units that can be earned in one semester by independent study is 3; a total of up to six units of independent study may be applied to the degree.