

2009-2010

B.A. in Humanities

College of Humanities and Social Sciences

What Is the Study of Humanities?

The humanities include the disciplines which study philosophy, religion, history, literature, and the arts. The B.A. in Humanities programs attract students who want to major in more than one Humanities discipline, and who want to investigate problems which are interdisciplinary by their nature. The department supports study of religions, and of cultural history in Europe and the Americas, China, Japan, South Asia, sub-Saharan Africa, and in predominantly Islamic areas. Its courses give attention to historical development and cross-cultural interaction, both in the past and in the modern period.

The small size of classes and seminars in the Humanities B.A. programs encourage close relationships between students and faculty. Students conduct independent research on topics of their own choosing. Working closely with faculty, students learn to formulate problems clearly, to consider and evaluate different methods and concepts, to do efficient and thorough research, and to write clearly, concisely and effectively.

Graduates have gone on to a variety of professional graduate schools and careers, including teaching, law, library science, archive administration, and research and administrative positions with business and non-profit organizations. Students who have done excellent work in the department have succeeded in graduate academic programs in literature, history and the study of religion.

Why Should I Consider a Major in Religion and Culture?

The Religion and Culture Concentration provides scholarly, non-sectarian study of religions. Students study religious beliefs, practices, arts, identities, and institutions; they study how religions have influenced and been influenced by historical changes in other aspects of society and culture. The concentration includes a broad survey of Western culture as a context for understanding its religious traditions. Students become familiar with religious traditions in at least one non-Western culture. Students study the origin, history, and methods of the academic study of religion as it has developed in modern Europe and North America. Learning how to understand people of different religions helps students exercise leadership in settings of religious diversity and conflict.

Students acquire skills which are broadly applicable to professional careers. These skills include problem solving, critical thinking, research skills, integrative skills, and written and oral communications skills. The Religion and Culture concentration is particularly helpful for students who plan careers in education, and the ministry or graduate study in religion.

Why Should I Consider a Major in History and Culture?

The History of Culture Concentration focuses on how cultures change. Students acquire a substantial knowledge of religious, philosophical, literary and aesthetic movements in the history of Western culture. Students also study works of the humanities in at least one other culture, and that culture's history. Using methods from different humanities disciplines, students learn to analyze individual works of the humanities and to relate them to social and cultural developments. Learning how to understand cultural differences and cultural change helps students exercise leadership in a more closely knit, global world.

Students acquire skills which are broadly applicable to professional careers. These skills include problem solving, critical thinking, research skills, integrative skills, and written and oral communications skills. The History of Culture Concentration has proved to be excellent preparation for professional careers in teaching, law, library science, archive administration, and for research and administrative positions with businesses and non-profit organizations.

Students who plan a career in secondary education should contact the department for advising as soon as possible.

How to Declare:

Students interested in the Humanities degree should contact the Liberal Studies Department as soon as possible.

Mid-Program Checkpoint:

Students intending to complete a Bachelor of Arts degree in Humanities within four years should complete the following courses by the start of their junior year. Students are expected to follow all prerequisite requirements for courses and seek early departmental advisement.

Coursework:

Complete LBRL 121, 122, LBRL 123 if possible

All LBRL courses must be passed with a B average for entry into LBRL 302 spring quarter of Junior Year.

LBRL 123 is a pre or co-requisite for LBRL 302.

Contact Information:

Liberal Studies Dept. Website:
<http://www.wvu.edu/depts/liberalstudies>

Department Chair:

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Sample Careers:

Attorney
Teacher
Professor
Librarian
Writer
Business Administrator
Historian
Non-Profit Organization Administrator
Congressional Aid
Research Assistant
Editor
Lobbyist



Humanities Major Requirements: 63-68 Credits

Religion and Culture Concentration (63 credits)

Core Requirements: 25 credits

LBRL 121 The Western Tradition I: The Ancient World (5)
LBRL 122 The Western Tradition II: Medieval & Early Modern Europe (5)
LBRL 123 The Western Tradition III: Modern World (5)
LBRL 302 Methods of Interdisciplinary Study (5)
LBRL 400 Directed Readings (2)
LBRL 499 Research in Humanities (3)

Concentration Requirements: 38 credits

LBRL 417e Various Topics (5)

8 credits from the following:

LBRL 231 Introduction to the Study of Religion (4)
LBRL 271 Humanities of India (4)
LBRL 272 Religion and Society in China and Japan (4)
LBRL 278 Humanities of Islamic Civilization (5)
PHIL 112 Introduction to Moral Issues (3)
PHIL 113 Introduction to the Philosophy of Religion (3)
PHIL 114 Introduction to Knowledge and Reality (3)

20 credits from the following courses:

LBRL 301 Historical Methods in the Humanities (5)
LBRL 321 Between Renaissance and Inquisition: Censorship and Religious Conflict in Spain's Golden Age (5)
LBRL 332 Universal Religions: Founders and Disciples (4)
LBRL 333 Religion in America (5)
LBRL 334 Hebrew Bible and the Religion of Ancient Israel (4)
LBRL 336 New Testament and Early Christianity (4)
LBRL 338 Mysticism (5)
LBRL 375 Buddhism (5)
LBRL 378 Religion and Society in India (4)
LBRL 430 The Humanities and the Contemporary Workplace (3)
LBRL 475 Buddhist Art (4)
LBRL 478 Renewal and Reform in the Islamic World Since the 18th Century (5)

Other appropriate 300 and 400-level courses

One course from:

LBRL 417 a-d

History of Culture Concentration (63-68 credits)

Core Requirements: 25 credits

LBRL 121 Western Tradition I: The Ancient World (5)
LBRL 122 Western Tradition II: Concepts of Man Medieval & Modern Europe (5)
LBRL 123 Western Tradition III: Man in Modern Times (5)
LBRL 302 Methods of Interdisciplinary Study (5)
LBRL 400 Directed Readings (2)
LBRL 499 Research in Humanities (3)

Concentration Requirements: 38-43 credits

One course from: 3-4 credits

PHIL 114 Introduction to Philosophy: Knowledge and Reality (3)
LBRL 231 Introduction to the Study of Religion (4)
LBRL 243 Art and Ideas (4)

Two courses from: 8-9 credits

LBRL 271 Humanities of India (4)
LBRL 272 Religion and Society in China and Japan (4)
LBRL 275 Humanities of Japan (4)
LBRL 276 Humanities of Africa (4)
LBRL 277 Humanities of China (4)
LBRL 278 Humanities of Islamic Civilization (5)
LBRL 281 Representations of Otherness (4)

One course from: 5 credits

LBRL 301 Historical Methods in the Humanities (5)
ENG 304 Critical Introduction to Poetry (5)
HIST 314 The Enlightenment Tradition (5)
HIST 348 European Intellectual History (5)

Two courses from: 10 credits

LBRL 417a-e various topics (5 each)

May take same letter course but must be under a different title

Electives: 12-15 credits selected from upper division courses under advisement:

LBRL 321 Between Renaissance and Inquisition: Censorship and Religious Conflict in Spain's Golden Age (5)
LBRL 323 The Romantic Paradox: Love, Life & Death (4)
LBRL 325 Surveillance, Voyeurism and the Culture of Suspicion (4)
LBRL 332 Universal Religions: Founder and Disciples (4)
LBRL 333 Religion in America (5)
LBRL 334 Hebrew Bible and the Religion of Ancient Israel (4)
LBRL 336 New Testament and Early Christianity (4)
LBRL 338 Mysticism (5)
LBRL 360 China and the Emerging World Economy: From Antiquity to the Early Modern (5)
LBRL 371 Major Asian & African Tradition: Their Modern Fate (4)
LBRL 372 Postcolonial Novels: Art Rhetoric and Social Context (4)
LBRL 375 Buddhism (5)
LBRL 378 Religion and Society in India (4)
LBRL 430 The Humanities and the Contemporary Workplace (3)
LBRL 475 Buddhist Art (4)
LBRL 478 Renewal & Reform in Islamic World since 18th Century (5)
PHIL 320 Ethical Theory I (3)
PHIL 340 Philosophy of Science (3)
PHIL 350 Political Philosophy (3)
PHIL 355 Aesthetics & the Philosophy of Art (3)
PHIL 360 Society, Law and Morality (3)
PHIL 364 History of Philosophy: Ancient Philosophy (3)
PHIL 366 History of Philosophy: The Rationalists (3)
PHIL 367 History of Philosophy: The Empiricists (3)
PHIL 368 History of Philosophy: Kant & Post-Kantian Philosophy (3)
PHIL 420 Ethical Theory II (3)

Upper division History course listed above but not taken

HIST 315 Europe in the Early Middle Ages (300-1050) (5)
HIST 316 Europe in the High Middle Ages (1050-1450) (5)
HIST 420 The Renaissance and the Reformation (5)
HIST 440 Britain: 1688 to the Present (5)
HIST 441 France: 1453-1815 (5)
HIST 442 France since 1815 (5)

Other appropriate upper-division courses on Europe, Latin America, China, Japan, or the Middle East

Other Humanities Options:

B.A. Ed. Humanities—Elementary Education (44-46 credits)

Minor in Humanities (31-32 credits)

Minor in The Study of Religion (24-27 credits)

These courses are offered within this major and may be used to satisfy GUR or Writing Proficiency requirements.

HUM: LBRL 121, 122, 123, 231, 243, 321, 323, 332, 333, 334, 336; PHIL 114, HIST 314

ACGM: LBRL 271, 272, 275, 276, 277, 278, 281, 338, 360, 371, 372, 378

WP: Three Writing Proficiency points are required for graduation (they are noted as WP1, WP2, and WP3). Check [Classfinder](#) or [Online Timetable](#) for departmental offerings each quarter.