

# *Arts and Ideas in the Humanities*

## *A Residential College Major*

### **I. What is *Arts and Ideas in the Humanities*?**

The Arts and Ideas in the Humanities Program offers a broad array of interdisciplinary courses in literature, the visual arts and music. Many courses focus on specific historical moments or contexts ranging from ancient times to the 21st century understood in global terms. Students are encouraged to encounter different cultures through their distinctive artistic production, and to develop the interpretive and analytical skills appropriate to an understanding of these works. Courses in visual studies, dance, studio art and music provide training in comparative analysis as well as in the actual practice of these art forms. By combining studio practice with the academic study of art, the Arts and Ideas curriculum enables students to understand global art production from three important perspectives: thoughtful analytic engagement; historical depth; and in the active space of studio discovery.

Arts and Ideas in the Humanities courses stress interdisciplinary and comparative methodologies. Students investigate how different forms of art speak to one another: how they argue or agree, how they overlap or diverge in form and content. In addition, by combining theory with practice, many Arts and Ideas courses encourage students to reflect on the material origins of art. To understand art at its deepest level, one must have some experience in its production. Through intensive discussion, writing, and studio practice, students become more sophisticated analysts, critical historians, and well-informed producers of culture.

### **II. Major Requirements**

To major in Arts and Ideas in the Humanities, students combine three academic courses in *history and theory* with two courses focusing on *visual studies, studio arts, dance, and music*. To complete the major, students then construct an individualized program of *specialized study* in two areas of focus, a total of seven courses. In the specialized study portion of the Arts and Ideas Major, different area combinations are possible, depending on the interests of the student. Possible combinations include: philosophy and art history; literature and psychology; Southeast Asian studies and musicology; or African-American studies and photography. The full program requires a minimum of 12 courses, or about 37 credit hours of work.

### III. Requirements for the Major are grouped into three categories

- A. History and Theory
- B. Visual Studies, Performance and Studio Arts
- C. Specialized Study

The first two categories, *History and Theory* and *Visual Studies, Performance and Studio Arts*, comprise courses developed and taught in the Residential College. These courses provide, in addition to their specific content, training in the comparative analysis or practice of different art forms: literature, music, history of art, drawing, sculpture, ceramics, dance, photography, film and television. There is no required sequence: students can enter the major through any one of these courses, and then move through others to complete a pattern. Students are encouraged to construct a semester's work around one or two of these courses, as the hub of a wheel, with spokes extending out to related courses taken in the LSA departments. A rhythm is thus established between the interdisciplinary method of the Residential College courses and the work done in the LSA disciplines

Courses in the third category, Specialized Study, must be upper-level, and can be taken either in the RC or the LSA. They provide depth and focus in a specific academic or studio content, emphasizing the disciplinary approach most appropriate for the material.

#### A. History and Theory

This category includes two areas, *Area 1. Historical Perspectives*, and *Area 2. Issues of Modernity*. Although students may take as many of these courses as they wish, they are required to take at least two courses from one area and at least one course from the remaining area, a total of three courses in all. The selection of courses and areas is up to the student, in consultation with the major advisor.

When selecting courses from the *History and Theory* category, a chronological progression from ancient to modern is unnecessary. Many students prefer to work back towards the earlier periods from a foundation in the 21st century, with the interdisciplinary approach serving as the unifying factor. In addition, most of these courses are not introductory surveys. Instead, each course addresses a specific problem through a limited selection or constellation of works. The problem under study in the course is thus viewed from a variety of aesthetic and cultural perspectives, a structure that provides both intellectual focus and interdisciplinary flexibility.

### **Area 1. - Historical Perspectives**

HUMS 309 The Heritage of Greece: Myth, Philosophy, Power  
HUMS 315 Representations of History in the Literature and Visual Arts of Rome  
HUMS 310 Pagans, Christians, and Barbarians in Late Antiquity and the Early Middle Ages  
HUMS 314 The Figure of Rome in Shakespeare and 16th Century Painting  
HUMS 344 Reason and Passion in the 18th Century  
HUMS 354 Race and Identity in Music  
HUMS 373 The Performing Arts in South and Southeast Asia

### **Area 2. - Issues of Modernity**

HUMS 291 Arts and Ideas of the 19th Century  
HUMS 290 Arts and Ideas of the 20th Century  
HUMS 305 Cultural Confrontations in the Arts  
HUMS 308 Arts and Ideas of Modern South and Southeast Asia  
HUMS 318 Critical Approaches to Literature  
HUMS 342 Representations of the Holocaust in Literature, Film and the Visual Arts  
HUMS 356 The Symphonic Century: Music and Revolution in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century  
HUMS 372 The Subject in the Aftermath of Revolution

## **B. Visual Studies, Performance and Studio Arts**

This category includes four areas: *Area 1. Film/Video*; *Area 2. Dance*; *Area 3. Studio Arts*, and *Area 4. Music*. Although students may take as many of these courses as they like, they are required to take at least two courses in all, distributed among the areas according to their individual interests.

### **Area 1. Film/Video**

HUMS 236: Art of the Film  
HUMS 312: Central European Cinema  
HUMS 313: Russian and Ukrainian Cinema

### **Area 2. Dance**

HUMS 235: Topics in World Dance  
HUMS 260: The Art of Dance: An Introduction to American and European Dance History  
HUMS 444: George Balanchine and the Transformation of American Dance

### **Area 3. Studio Arts**

ARTS 268 Introduction to Visual Thinking  
ARTS 269 Elements of Design  
ARTS 285 Photography  
ARTS 286 Sculpture  
ARTS 287 Printmaking  
ARTS 288 Introduction to Drawing  
ARTS 289 Ceramics  
ARTS 389 Advanced Ceramics: Ceramics Studio & Criticism

### **Area 4. Music**

HUMS 249 Foundations of Music  
HUMS 250 Chamber Music  
HUMS 251 Topics in Music  
HUMS 252 Topics in Musical Expression  
HUMS 253 Choral Ensemble  
HUMS 256: Studying and Playing Southeast Asian Music  
HUMS 258 Afro -Cuban Drumming and Styles  
HUMS 259 Musical Improvisation  
CORE 333 Electronic Music  
HUMS 350 Creative Musicianship  
HUMS 351 Creative Musicianship: Theory Lab  
HUMS 352 Found Instruments

## **C. Specialized Study**

Students who major in Arts and Ideas in the Humanities are expected to elect seven courses divided (4+3) among two upper-level specializations. This requirement entails sustained study in relevant disciplinary or interdisciplinary areas. One, and only one, of the areas may be in the advanced practice of a particular art form. Thus, the two areas of specialization may be located in critical, historical, theoretical or studio courses offered by other departments and programs, whether in the Residential College or in the LS&A. RC Language Readings courses may also be used in this area.

## **D. The Senior Honors Thesis or Senior Project (optional)**

Students who meet the criteria for graduating with honors may elect to write an Honors Thesis (RCCORE 490). The Honors Thesis in the Arts and Ideas in the Humanities major may be a formal research paper, or it may be an artistic project, such as a novel, a film, a portfolio of visual material such as drawings or prints, or the performance of an original piece, for example, in music or dance. Mastery of the interdisciplinary approach is necessary.

The student is required to develop and complete the Honors Thesis under the guidance of appropriate faculty advisors.