Liberal Studies

Leonard Keller, Professor, Chemistry and Biochemistry and Director, Liberal Studies
Grenville Draper, Professor, Earth and Environment and Associate Director, Liberal Studies
Kenneth Rogerson, Professor, Philosophy and Associate Director, Liberal Studies
Kiriakhe Xerohemona, Lecturer, Philosophy and Graduate Program Director, Master of Arts in Liberal Studies

The Liberal Studies Program exposes the student to a wide range of courses offered by the College, while affording the opportunity to pursue an individualized program of studies under the Liberal Studies guidelines. These guidelines include six categories of courses: (1) Foundations of Liberal Studies, two broad-based courses chosen by the directors from the Social Sciences, Natural Sciences, and the Humanities; (2) Interdisciplinary Colloquia, two courses involving faculty from several departments of the College, and dealing with interdisciplinary topics; (3) Natural Sciences, two courses to expose the student to the scientific method and its application to problems in the sciences; (4) Humanities, two courses dealing with the analysis of literary, philosophical, religious and historical topics or appreciation of works of art, music, and theatre; (5) Social Sciences, two courses to expose the student to the basic theories and methods of social scientists in the fields of economics, international relations, political science, psychology, sociology/anthropology, and environmental studies; (6) Artistic Creation, one course in studio art or studio music, creative writing, or theatre to allow the student to experiment with his or her own creativity, and to experience the work of the artist.

Students are free to choose any combination of courses within these guidelines. With advice from the Director or Associate Director of Liberal Studies, the student will be encouraged to pursue a minor, a certificate, or a double major.

Bachelor of Arts

Degree Program Hours: 120

Lower Division Program

Common Prerequisite Preparation

FIU Course(s) Equivalent Course(s)
None None

Courses which form part of the statewide articulation between the State University System and the Community College System will fulfill the Lower Division Common Prerequisites.

For generic course substitusions/ equivalencies for Common Program Prerequisites offered at community colleges, state colleges, or state universities, visit: http://www.flvc.org. See Common Prerequisite Manual.

Common Prerequisites

No specific courses required; all students transferring from Florida community colleges are encouraged to complete the Associate in Arts degree.

Recommended Courses: Arts and Sciences concentration recommended. To qualify for admission to the program, FIU undergraduates must have met all the lower division requirements, completed 60 semester hours, and must be otherwise acceptable into the program.

Upper Division Program

Required Courses: (33 credits)

Courses offered by any of the units of the College of Arts and Sciences, chosen in accordance with academic guidelines of the Liberal Studies Program, to meet requirements in the six following areas:

- Natural Sciences 6
- Humanities 6
- Social Sciences 6
- Artistic Creation 3
- Interdisciplinary Colloquia offered by the Liberal Studies Program 6
- Foundations of Liberal Studies 6

All courses must be completed with a grade of “C” or better.

Electives: (27 credits)

The remaining hours will be taken as electives.

Combined BA/MA in Liberal Studies

The combined (4+1) Bachelor/Master of Arts in Liberal Studies offers outstanding undergraduate FIU students in Liberal Studies as well as in majors such as Philosophy the opportunity to earn a Masters degree in only one additional year beyond the BA degree.

The (4+1) program represents two distinct options:

1. Liberal Studies to MALS. This option allows students to complement the undergraduate major with graduate study in the same discipline as the undergraduate study.
2. Other majors such as Philosophy to MALS. This option allows students to complement the undergraduate major with graduate study in another area.

The goal is to attract outstanding students into the combined program so that they formally apply to the program in the first semester of their senior year (i.e., when they have completed 90 credit hours.) Interested students should speak with the undergraduate advisor as early as possible because careful selection of undergraduate courses in the sophomore and junior years will be essential for admission to the program.

To be considered for admission to the combined bachelor’s/master’s degree program, students must have completed at least 75-90 credits in the bachelor’s degree program at FIU and meet the admissions criteria for the graduate degree program to which they are applying. Students need only apply once to the combined degree program, but the application must be submitted to Graduate Admissions before the student starts the last 30 credits of the bachelor’s degree program. A student admitted to the combined degree program will be considered to have undergraduate status until the student applies for graduation from their bachelor’s degree.
program. Upon conferral of the bachelor’s degree, the student will be granted graduate status and be eligible for graduate assistantships. Only 5000-level or higher courses, and no more than the number of credits specified by the program catalog, may be applied toward both degrees.

Applicants to the accelerated program need a GPA of 3.20. Formal admission to the accelerated program will usually be in the first semester of the senior year. Students would be also required to maintain a GPA of at least 3.20 to remain in the program. Participation in this program allows the students to fulfill some graduate program requirements during their senior year. More specifically, students at the senior level may be allowed to earn up to 9 graduate credits that will count towards their MALS degree. Up to 3 graduate courses (9 credits) may be used to satisfy both the Bachelor and Masters degree requirements. All double counted courses must be at the 5000 level or higher. Courses to be allowed to be double counted must be approved by MALS. Before starting the graduate program students must have satisfied all general education and core requirements.

The curriculum for the (4+1) MALS will meet criteria identical to those of the MALS program. A student will not be eligible for assistantship funding before completing all requirements for the Bachelor’s degree. For double-counted courses, students must confirm with their graduate program advisor that he or she is taking the course for graduate credit. Graduates and undergraduates may have different workloads and grading criteria. The student must earn a grade of “B” or better for these courses to count towards the Masters requirements.

Admission Requirements
1. Current enrollment in a bachelors degree in Philosophy or Liberal Studies.
2. Completion of at least 90 credits hours of coursework.
3. A current GPA of 3.20 or higher.
4. Application to the Department to enroll in the (4+1) MALS program that will include:
   • Three letters of recommendation
   • Personal statement [2-3 pages] describing goals and objectives in seeking a combined accelerated degree
   • A 8-25 page writing sample of satisfactory quality
5. On-line application to the University Graduate School for admission to the MALS program.
6. Positive evaluation by the undergraduate program director.
7. Approval of the graduate admissions committee.
8. In addition to the admission requirements of the (4+1) MALS program, students must meet all the admission requirements of the University Graduate School.

Completion Requirements
1. Completion of both the required courses for the BA (33 credits) and the required courses for the MALS (33 credits).
   • For the Liberal Studies-to-MALS option, either 3 Great Ideas Seminars or 3 – 5000 or 6000 level courses in Natural Sciences, Humanities or Social Sciences may be used to satisfy both the Bachelors and Masters degree.
   • For other majors such as the Philosophy-to-MALS option, either 3 Great Ideas Seminars or 3 – 5000 or 6000 level courses in Natural Sciences, Humanities or Social Sciences may be used to satisfy both the Bachelors and Masters degree.
2. The Bachelor’s degree must be awarded when the student completes the requirements for the degree. In other words, the Bachelor’s degree must be awarded before the Master’s degree.
3. Students in the (4+1) MALS program have up to one year to complete the Master’s degree after receipt of the Bachelor’s degree.
4. Students who fail to meet the one year post BA requirement or who elect to leave the (4+1) MALS program at any time and earn only the BA degree will have the same access requirements to a regular graduate program as any other student, but will not be able to use the 9 credits in both the Bachelor’s and the Master’s degrees.

Summary of Degree Requirements
Great Ideas Seminars: 9 hours (minimum*)
Interdisciplinary Concentration: 18 hours (minimum*)
Master’s Essay or Master’s Thesis: 3 hours or 6 hours
Total Hours: 33 hours (minimum*)
*33 hours of coursework are required of all (4+1) MALS students. However, a maximum of 3 hours are awarded for the “Master’s Essay” course as opposed to 6 hours for “Master’s Thesis” course. Students who choose the Essay option must complete either 4 Great Ideas Seminars or 21 hour Interdisciplinary Concentration.

Course Descriptions
Definition of Prefixes
IDS-Interdisciplinary Studies

IDS 2930 Faculty Scholars Seminar (1). Provides freshman Faculty Scholars the opportunity to participate in the interdisciplinary study of significant themes. May only be taken twice.

IDS 3930 Foundations of Liberal Studies (3). This will be a broad synthesis of knowledge and methods in the Arts and Sciences taught from the perspective of different disciplines. Specific topics will be announced in advance.

IDS 3949 Cooperative Education in Liberal Studies (3). A student majoring in Liberal Studies may spend one semester fully employed in industry in a capacity relating to the major. This course must be taken as an elective.

IDS 4905 Independent Study (VAR). Cross-disciplinary topics for individual study and research to be chosen by students in consultation with their faculty advisors. This course must be taken as an elective.

IDS 4920 Liberal Studies Colloquia (3). Individual sections will study, from an interdisciplinary perspective, issues selected and presented jointly by College faculty. Specific topics will be announced in advance.

IDS 4930 Foundations of Liberal Studies (3). This will be a broad synthesis of knowledge and methods in the Arts and Sciences, taught from the perspective of different disciplines. Specific topics will be announced in advance.
IDS 4949 Cooperative Education in Liberal Studies (3). A student majoring in Liberal Studies may spend one semester fully employed in industry in a capacity relating to the major. This course must be taken as an elective.

Minor in Humanities (15 hours)

Bruce A. Harvey, Associate Professor, English, Director, Minor in Humanities
Marian Demos, Associate Professor, Modern Languages (Classics)
Rebecca Friedman, Associate Professor, History
Daniel R. Guernsey, Associate Professor, Art History
Joyce Peterson, Associate Professor, History
Kenneth Rogerson, Professor, Philosophy
Richard P. Sugg, Professor, English
Barbara Watts, Associate Professor, Art History

Students majoring in any other discipline may minor in Humanities.

The Humanities Minor course curriculum emphasizes the study of Classical culture and its continuities with our modern, global world. Whether learning about the ancient world, or building a foundational language base in Greek or Latin, or examining art and culture through a rich array of interdisciplinary courses, students who earn the Humanities Minor find it a fine complement to College of Arts and Sciences and professional-school majors.

Requirements

A. One of the following courses (3 hours):
   HUM 3214 Ancient Classical Culture and Civilization
   or
   HUM 4431 The Greek World
   or
   HUM 3432 The Roman World

B. Four additional HUM courses (including classical languages) (12 hours)

Course Descriptions

Definition of Prefixes

GRE-Classical Greek; GRW-Classical Greek Literature; HUM-Humanities; LAT-Latin

GRE 1130 Classical Greek I (5). Emphasis on grammar, and on basic reading and writing skills. GRE 1131 Classical Greek II (5). Emphasis on grammar, and on basic reading and writing skills. Prerequisite: GRE 1130.

GRE 2200 Intermediate Classical Greek (3). Emphasis on grammar, and on acquiring intermediate reading and writing skills. Prerequisite: GRE 1130.

GRW 3210 Greek Prose Writers (3). Translation into English and grammatical analysis of selected texts of Classical prose writers, such as Plato, Aristotle, Xenophon, Thucydides and Plutarch. Prerequisites: Reading knowledge of Classical Greek or GRE 2200.

GRW 3390 Readings in Greek Literature (3). Translation into English and grammatical analysis of selected texts of ancient Greek authors, prose and verse, such as Plato, Plutarch and Homer. The topics will change from semester and with a change in content, the course may be repeated. Prerequisites: GRE 1131 or reading knowledge of Classical Greek.

HUM 2512 Art and Society (3). A study of the relationship between art and culture in different periods, including patronage, the role of the artist, and the relationship between art and economic, political, religious, and ideological forces.

HUM 2701 Study Abroad in the Humanities (1-9). Integrated study of painting, architecture, music, drama, dance, and philosophy. Attitudes and beliefs of societies as they are reflected in the arts.

HUM 3214 Ancient Classical Culture and Civilization (3). Explores the culture of the ancient Greek and Latin worlds from an interdisciplinary perspective and studies the varied conceptions of the individual, society, and nature. Written work meets the state composition requirement.

HUM 3231 Renaissance and Baroque Cultures (3). An in-depth examination of the cultural monuments of the Renaissance, Reformation, Counter-Reformation, and Baroque periods and of the forces that helped shape them.

HUM 3246 The Enlightenment and the Modern World (3). Explores the culture of the Enlightenment and the modern world from an interdisciplinary perspective and studies the varying conceptions of the individual, society, and nature.

HUM 3252 20th Century Culture and Civilization (3). The 20th century through the Vietnam war, as represented by the period's creative and intellectual works in literature, art, history and philosophy - discussed from an interdisciplinary perspective.

HUM 3254 The Contemporary World (3). Significant creative and intellectual works, ideas and movements of the last twenty years surveyed and discussed from an interdisciplinary perspective.

HUM 3304 Values in Conflict (3). Philosophical, ethical, and religious foundations of Western civilization and significant challenges its value system has received from critical and revolutionary thought.

HUM 3306 History of Ideas (3). The historical development of fundamental concepts through an interdisciplinary cultural approach. Nature, freedom, beauty, virtue, alienation, and relativism are traced in literature, art, and philosophy including the social context of developing ideas. Written work meets the state composition requirement.

HUM 3325 Women, Culture and History (3). Examines women’s lives within various world cultures and historical periods. Examines the cultural meaning attributed to women, women’s lived experiences and historical contributions.

HUM 3432 The Roman World (3). An in-depth examination of selected cultural monuments and events of the Roman Republic and Empire and of the forces that helped shape them.
HUM 3435 The Medieval World (3). An in-depth examination of cultural monuments of the European Middle Ages and of the forces that helped shape them.

HUM 3514 Art in Context (3). Examines topics concerning art in the context of the history and culture of a particular society (May be repeated with a change in content.) Prerequisite: Junior standing.

HUM 3545 Art and Literature (3). A study of a period in the history of visual art as it relates to literature. Topics may include art and mythology, sacred and profane love in art and literature, painting and poetry, and the novel and art.

HUM 3562 Politics and the Arts (3). Explores arts and patronage in relation to the politics and ideologies of a given place and time. Topics vary. (May be repeated with a change in content.)

HUM 3591 Art and Technology (3). Explores the relationship between innovations in technology and artistic expression. Course theme is media based, and varies from semester to semester. (May be repeated with a change in content.)

HUM 3930 Female/Male: Women’s Studies Seminar (3). This course interprets and contrasts the status of women and men in context with women’s inequality. Diverse topics include the workplace, family, education, image, violence and ethnicity.

HUM 3939 Special Topics (3). An examination of specific topics in the humanities. The topics may vary from semester to semester. (May be repeated with a change in content.)

HUM 3949 Cooperative Education in Humanities (3). A student majoring in Humanities may spend one or two semesters fully employed in industry in a capacity relating to the major.

HUM 4248 The World of Dante and Giotto (3). Examines the culture of medieval Italy, with emphasis on the writings of Dante Alighieri and the paintings of Giotto di Bondone. Prerequisites: HUM 2512 or ARH 2050 or ARH 2051, or permission of the instructor.

HUM 4392 Human Concerns (3). Examines concerns important to the human condition, including varying conceptions of human nature, the relation of the individual to society, the quest for identity, the search for meaning through literature, art and social institutions. (May be repeated with a change in content.)

HUM 4431 The Greek World (3). An in-depth examination of selected cultural monuments and events of the Greek World in the Classical and Hellenistic periods and of the forces that helped shape them. (May be repeated with change in content.)

HUM 4491 Cultural Heritages and Cultural Changes (3). Focuses upon various cultures and their development, including such topics as: cultural evolution and revolution, ethnicity and pluralism, and subcultures and countercultures. (May be repeated with a change in content.)

HUM 4543 Literature and Philosophy (3). The interpretation of literature and philosophy from an interdisciplinary perspective. In addition to philosophical novels, poetry, and drama, the course may examine the philosophical scrutiny of literature.

HUM 4544 Literature and the Humanities (3). Literature from an interdisciplinary perspective. Literary texts are related to the cultural context of their production and the ideas surrounding them.

HUM 4555 Symbols and Myths (3). An in-depth examination of mythology and symbolic language within the cultural and psychodynamic forces that inform them. This course gives special emphasis to Classical myths.

HUM 4561 Ethics and the Humanities (3). Human values studied from an interdisciplinary perspective. Selected ethical issues are examined using philosophical, historical, or literary texts. The relationship between ethical values and cultural achievements is explored.

HUM 4580 Film Humanities (3). Studies the significance of film in Western culture: the language, semiotics and technique of films with the aid of appropriate cinematographical material.

HUM 4906 Independent Study (1-3). Directed independent research. Requires prior approval by instructor. (May be repeated with a change in content.)

HUM 4920 Humanities Seminar (3). Addresses a specific topic in-depth from a variety of perspectives. Topics will be announced in advance. (May be repeated with a change in content.)

HUM 5935 Graduate Seminar in Humanities (3). A specialized thematic topic offered at the Graduate level. Topics will vary and will be announced in advance. (May be repeated with a change in content.)

LAT 1130 Latin I (5). Emphasis on grammar and on acquiring basic reading and writing skills.

LAT 1131 Latin II (5). Emphasis on grammar and on acquiring reading and writing skills. Prerequisite: LAT 1130.

LAT 2200 Intermediate Latin (3). Emphasis on grammar and on acquiring basic reading and writing skills. Prerequisite: LAT 1131.

LAT 3202 Latin Prose Writers (3). Translation into English and grammatical analysis of selected texts of classical prose writers such as Cicero, Caesar and Livy. Prerequisites: Reading knowledge of Latin or LAT 2200.

LAT 3203 Readings in Latin Literature (3). Translation into English and grammatical analysis of selected texts of Latin authors, prose and verse, such as Cicero, Livy, Virgil and Horace. (May be repeated with a change in content.) Prerequisites: LAT 1131 or reading knowledge of Latin.