

Humanities

The study of the humanities is indeed a study of our “humanity,” past, present, and future, in all its extraordinary and varied forms. The humanities remain at the core of a liberal education and are key to developing both insight and perception. As such, courses fulfilling the General Education Humanities requirement must:

- Deepen aesthetic judgment, understand critical perspectives, and develop cultural sensitivity and an appreciation for human diversity
- Recognize, evaluate, and make connections between philosophical theories that explain human thought, action, and experience
- Analyze the various forms of human achievement and aesthetic expression
- Identify methods for qualitative analysis of the human condition and require study to produce such analysis
- Illustrate ethical concepts, including virtue and integrity
- Provide opportunities for students to think critically
- Correlate aesthetic, philosophical, and historical periods
- Demonstrate knowledge of the relationship between current issues and those of other times, places, and cultures

To meet these goals, courses in the humanities will require students to complete, at a minimum, the following:

- Study a substantial amount of relevant material (primary and secondary texts and other appropriate media) in order to understand and appreciate the variety and complexity of humanistic thought and invention
- Write at least one extensive critical essay on a theme, work, group of works, significant figure, or any other relevant topic that demonstrates the ability to analyze, synthesize, and evaluate information
- Produce brief response writings on relevant topics to demonstrate competency in reading and responding to texts and other media as well as how significant periods and figures have shaped humanistic thought and defined our value systems
- Take exams that measure retention of course material as well as original analysis and insight into relevant topics
- Participate in lectures and discussions to develop skill in articulating and defending analyses and understandings of course subjects
- Attend or participate in an event at the college or in the community related to the course subject – if appropriate