

# HUMANITIES

SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND LANGUAGES

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## CURRICULUM

The humanities curriculum integrates the study of history, literature, philosophy, and the arts in an effort to address the fundamental questions of cultural meaning and value common to humanistic fields and methods. Courses are offered in selected major themes or issues that frequently cut across traditional cultural or historical boundaries. The curriculum emphasizes the close study of a variety of cultural texts, artifacts, and events in order to explore not only traditional assertions regarding the values of culture but also the criticism of those assertions, in a historical as well as contemporary light. Courses offered in the curriculum meet general education and transfer requirements in humanities and may be applied to a major in humanities for an Associate in Arts degree.

## MAJOR

The humanities major allows students generally interested in literature, history, philosophy, film studies, and art history and criticism to elect a general rather than specific emphasis to their degree. The major offers much diversity in terms of choices, and thus provides the opportunity for students to tailor the degree to meet their own interests and concerns. Humanities majors learn in particular how to read and write critically and how to synthesize complex ideas from a variety of sources, often diverse in kind and in time. The major is appropriate for students interested in a "general studies" degree at the lower-division level; its focus on the close study and criticism of culture makes the major applicable for students seeking careers in law, education, government, public affairs, journalism, and writing. The humanities major is also an excellent choice for students whose educational intentions are uncertain or undecided, or for students intending to pursue an upper-division education in literature, history, philosophy, or study of the arts.

Students majoring in the humanities should complete both Writing 1 and Writing 2 in fulfillment of the language and rationality requirements within the general education package. The department recommends that humanities majors do not select a humanities course to meet the humanities requirement for general education, but explore related subjects in the humanities that may be of interest to them.

## DEGREE OPTION

### • Associate in Arts Degree in Humanities

Students must complete a minimum of 60 units of credit, including the courses in the major ("Major Requirements") and general education requirements (pages 56-61), with an overall GPA of 2.0 or better. A minimum of 12 units must be completed at Irvine Valley College. See pages 52-54 for further information.

## TRANSFER PREPARATION

Courses that fulfill major requirements for an associate degree at Irvine Valley College may not be the same as those required for completing the major at a transfer institution offering a baccalaureate degree. Students who plan to transfer to a four-year college or university should (1) refer to the University Studies major (page 185) and "Transfer Planning" (page 64); (2) consult the catalog of their prospective transfer institution (see the IVC Transfer Center for assistance); and (3) schedule an appointment with an IVC counselor to develop a plan of study before beginning their program. It may be helpful to meet with the department faculty at IVC.

## MAJOR REQUIREMENTS: HUMANITIES

### ASSOCIATE IN ARTS DEGREE

<b>Complete the following courses:</b>		<b>Units</b>
<b>WR 2</b>	College Writing 2: Critical Thinking/Writing	4
<b>HUM 1</b>	Introduction to Humanities	3
<b>HUM 2</b>	Origins of Western Culture in Literature	3
<b>HUM 3</b>	The Culture of Medieval and Renaissance Europe	3
<b>HUM 4</b>	The Culture of the Modern World: 1700 to the Present	3
<b>HUM 50</b>	Mythology	3
<b>TOTAL UNITS:</b>		<b>19</b>

**Recommended Electives:** Any course in literature, philosophy, history, or history and criticism of the arts.

## COURSES

### FILM STUDIES

#### **HUM 70: History of Film**

3 Units

3 hours lecture

History of Film examines the development of film as one of the dominant art forms of the 21st century. Important technical achievements and practices will be discussed chronologically, as well as film as an industry, social ideologies, and historical epochs. Emphasis will be placed on the analysis of films which are important examples of the history of this art form. NR

#### **HUM 71: Introduction to Film**

3 Units

3 hours lecture

This course is primarily concerned with the narrative, thematic, and aesthetic aspects of cinema. A wide variety of films will be examined, with an emphasis on styles of directors, and aspects of characterization and themes. Emphasis will be placed on the artistic quality of film and the development of technical methods used by filmmakers to present their ideas. NR

**HUM 73: Film Genre Studies**

3 Units

*3 hours lecture*

This course examines the emergence of a category, or genre, of film within the context of film history. Each time the course is offered, it focuses on a particular genre (e.g., the western, gangster film, musical, film noir) and the societal and economic context in which it emerged. Students view representative films in order to identify and analyze techniques and conventions unique to the genre under consideration. R-E-3

**HUMANITIES****HUM 1: Introduction to Humanities**

3 Units

*3 hours lecture*

This course introduces students to themes central to humanistic inquiry and to the methodologies employed by humanists to analyze artistic and written expressions that incorporate these themes. Students examine works of literature, art, architecture and philosophy chosen from a variety of historical periods and representative of distinctive approaches to the themes under discussion. NR

**HUM 2: Origins of Western Culture  
in Literature**

3 Units

*3 hours lecture*

This course introduces students to representative examples of Greek and Roman art, literature and architecture that were instrumental in the development of what is known as the "Classical Tradition." Students examine works that defined and reflected Greek and Roman cultural values and subsequently influenced later artistic and literary developments in the West. NR

**HUM 3: The Culture of Medieval and  
Renaissance Europe**

3 Units

*3 hours lecture*

This course provides a general introduction to the study of European medieval and Renaissance culture from the 12th through the 17th centuries by considering selected primary texts and other objects of cultural production. Students rehearse and question the "standard narrative" that defines the modern age as a repudiation of medievalism initiated by the wholesale transformation of Western culture in the European Renaissance. Typical topics and concerns include questions of secular and sacred authority; religious orthodoxy and heresy; medieval cosmology and natural philosophy; the heroic ethos and its transformations; gender and social identity; European encounters in and with the "New World"; speculations on the ideal state; and the emergence of skepticism, individualism, and personality. NR

**HUM 4: The Culture of the Modern World:  
1700 to the Present**

3 Units

*3 hours lecture*

The course provides a general introduction to the emergence and development of modernism, modernity, and modern culture from the 17th century to the present, with an emphasis on Western civilizations. Students query the distinctive qualities and transformations of the "modern" world by considering selected primary works in philosophy, history, literature, criticism, and the arts. Typical topics include the rise of rationalist, materialist, and empirical methods of knowing; the clash of traditional ideas and the new science; the quest for social, political, and economic liberty and justice; the conflict between individualism and collectivism; the tension between romantic and classical visions of humanity; the emergence and consequences of subjectivity; and the challenges of postmodern theory and practice. NR

**HUM 50: Mythology**

3 Units

*3 hours lecture*

This course examines from a variety of critical perspectives the mythologies that have played a crucial role in the formation of the themes, motifs, and concerns central to the development of the Western humanities. Critical approaches typically considered include those of Walter Burkert, Joseph Campbell, Sir James Frazier, Robert Graves, Jane Harrison, C.G. Jung, Lord Raglan, Bronislaw Malinowski, Jessie Weston and selected feminist and postmodern theorists. NR