

INTERDISCIPLINARY HUMANITIES (HMN)

Interdisciplinary Minor

The minor in Interdisciplinary Humanities explores the enduring centrality of humanity in artistic, literary, and intellectual manifestations from diverse geographical and historical contexts. Courses focus on the intellectual roots of both Western and non-Western civilizations, the emergence of philosophical concepts, and the development of social values and beliefs across time and space.

Contact Information

Interdisciplinary Humanities (<http://college.wfu.edu/humanities>)
Kirby Hall 313, Box 7568
Phone 336-758-4497

Programs Minor

- Minor in Interdisciplinary Humanities

Courses Interdisciplinary Humanities (HMN)

HMN 160. Contemporary Venetian Experience. (1.5 h)

Social, artistic and environmental aspects of life in contemporary Venice. Includes site visits, guest lectures, and interviews with Venetians. Taught only in Venice. Pass/fail.

HMN 180. Contemporary London Experience. (1.5 h)

Social, political, cultural, and environmental factors of life in London today. Taught only in London. Pass/fail.

HMN 183. Contemporary Argentine Experience. (1.5 h)

Social, political, cultural, and environmental factors of life in Argentina today. Taught in Argentina only. Pass/Fail only.

HMN 186. Contemporary Chilean Experience. (1.5 h)

Social, political, cultural, and environmental factors of life in Chile today. Pass/fail. Taught in Chile only.

HMN 190. Contemporary Viennese Experience. (1.5 h)

Social, cultural, and environmental factors of life in contemporary Vienna. Includes site visits, guest lectures and interviews with Viennese. Taught only in Vienna. Pass/Fail only.

HMN 200. Introduction to Humanities: Themes in Literature, Culture, and Film. (3 h)

An introduction through literature and film to the history, principles, and concepts of the Humanities, using as its framework an examination of such topics as dystopia and utopia, the influence of Classical principles on contemporary Western cultures, social justice and human rights in literature and film, and other topics central to the humanities. Literary and film analysis will explore how cultural values and beliefs are expressed in media and writing, as well as how these beliefs are manifested in popular culture. The course will include creative writing exercises that explore various literary tropes and humanistic themes. (D)

HMN 211. Dialogues with Antiquity: The West and Beyond. (3 h)

Introduction to the culture of ancient Greece and Rome and other ancient non-western civilizations, including Ancient China, Ancient India, and pre-Columbian America. Emphasis on classical legacies in the medieval and early modern periods and the historical relationships between Europe, Africa, Asia, and the Americas. (D)

HMN 212. Reading the Modern World. (3 h)

Analyzes pivotal moments in world history since 1789 through artistic, literary, and cultural manifestations. Course topics may include the rise of nationalism and western democracy, the development of European colonialism, and the social, political, and religious causes of international conflicts from world wars to terrorism. (D)

HMN 213. Studies in European Literature. (3 h)

Texts studied are by such authors as Dante, Montaigne, Cervantes, Goethe, Dostoevsky, and Camus. (D)

HMN 214. European Drama. (3 h)

Texts studied are by such authors as Moliere, Garcia Lorca, Pirandello, Schiller, Brecht, Ibsen, and Beckett. (CD, D)

HMN 215. Germanic and Slavic Literature. (3 h)

Texts studied are by such authors as Von Eschenbach, Hoffmann, Turgenev, Dostoevsky, Ibsen, and Kafka. (D)

HMN 217. European Drama. (3 h)

Texts studied are by such authors as Moliere, Garcia Lorca, Pirandello, Schiller, Brecht, Ibsen, and Beckett. (CD)

HMN 218. Eastern European Literature. (3 h)

Texts studied are by such authors as Moricz, Hasek, Bulgakov, Andric, Gombrowicz, Kundera, Ugresic, and Erofeev. (CD, D)

HMN 219. Introduction to Japanese Literature. (3 h)

Explores Japanese literature of the modern, and contemporary periods, with an introduction to Japanese cultural and social values. Course topics include the framing in literature and film of narratives of Japanese cultural development and tropes of modernity in film, art, and culture. (CD, D)

HMN 220. Historical Perspectives on the Humanities. (3 h)

Introduction to the concepts and methodology of the curriculum inspiring the Pro Humanitate motto. Investigation of the historical development of the humanities as an academic field founded in the principles of the liberal arts and of its relationship to theology, natural science, and social science.

HMN 223. African and Caribbean Literature. (3 h)

Examines works by writers from Africa and the Caribbean to investigate the intersection of history and personal history, and the role of race, class, and gender in the construction of cultural identity in the colonial and the post-colonial context. (LAC component available in French.) (CD,D)

HMN 224. Cross-cultural Encounters in Morocco. (3 h)

An interdisciplinary study of Moroccan culture, both past and present, and an introduction to a country whose history and geo-political situation are unique within the Arab region. Group excursions to sites of cultural and historic significance. Offered in Fez, Morocco, during the summer session.

HMN 225. Literature, Travel, and Discovery. (3 h)

Explores various works, primarily in translation, from Homer to the present that focuses on the relationship between travel and discovery, especially as travel establishes the ongoing connection between the sacred and the profane for both guest and host.

HMN 228. Viennese Culture 1860-1914. (3 h)

A study of late nineteenth and early twentieth century Vienna as reflected in the matrix of the city's civic and artistic life. Offered in Vienna.

HMN 232. Italy in Literature. (3 h)

Readings and discussions in fuctions, drama, and poetry that highlight trends and genres in Italian literature from the Middle Ages through contemporary times, and/or literature that features Italy as seen through the eyes of foreigners. Taught only in Vence.

HMN 235. German Film. (3 h)

Survey of German cinema from the silent era to the present. Also listed as GES 335.

HMN 262. Racism, Heterosexism, and Religious Intolerance. (3 h)

A comparative cutlural examination through fiction and non-fiction sources of the initiation, maintenance, and treatment of prejudice, with emphasis on American society from the Jim Crow era to the present. Myths and facts, such as those related to Middle East unrest, will also be discussed.

HMN 272. Literature and Ethics. (3 h)

Consideration of historical and contemporary ethical issues expressed through various epochs and nationalities of literature and an exploration of ethics through prose fiction and nonfiction, poetry, drama, and other writing. Representative authors include: Shakespeare, Hawthorne, Austen, Browning, Dostoevski, Silone, Nabokov, Miller and Ishiguro.

HMN 290. The Humanities through Film, Literature and Media. (3 h)

Using film, literature and media genres as tropes for analysis, an exploration of new and innovative approaches to the humanities in the late 20th and early 21st century including public humanities, digital humanities, and environmental humanities and examining cultural studies, interdisciplinary studies, and gender and sexuality studies as approaches for investigating social justice, environmental justice, and social action. (CD)

HMN 291. The Humanities and History: Intersections of Public History and the Public Humanities. (3 h)

Exporation of approaches to public engagement developed in humanities disciplines and an examination of contributions of disciplines in the humanities and the liberal arts to civic discourse and to public engagment. The course includes design and implementation of a local public humanities project.

HMN 292. Environmentalism, the Humanities, and Gender. (3 h)

Survey of the global spread of Environmentalism, with an emphasis on its evolution as a disciplinary field that includes eco-feminism and feminist perspectives on the environment. Examination of national and international case studies in an investigation of women's roles in environmental history and the construction of global environmental narratives.

HMN 294. Digital Approaches in the Humanities. (3 h)

An introduction to the concepts and tools of the digital humanities. Projects in the digital humanities include exercises that employ the use of these tools to examine data and narratives of the humanities, including disciplinary approaches in literature, history, women's, gender, and sexuality studies, and media studies.

HMN 295. Social Entrepreneurship and the Humanities: Innovation, Public Engagement, and Social Change. (3 h)

Introduction to the role played by the humanities in social entrepreneurship, exploring the premise that norms can be developed for the application of the humanities, and that the knowledge derived in this process can empower and be a tool in community-based engagement and social change. Course includes a social entrepreneurial project in the local community. Also listed as ENT 321.

HMN 320. Fathers and Daughters. (3 h)

Explores father-daughter relationships in contemporary American society through an interdisciplinary lens of film, literature, music, theater, media, and social science research. P - sophomore standing.

HMN 340. German Masterworks in Translation. (3 h)

Examines selected works of German, Austrian, and Swiss fiction in English translation by such writers as Goethe, Schiller, Kafka, Mann, and Schnitzler. Literary periods, genres, and authors vary according to instructor. Offered in Fall. Also listed as GES 340. (D)

HMN 341. Russian Masterworks in Translation. (3 h)

Reading and discussion of selected works from Russian literature in English translation by such writers as Gogol, Dostoevsky, Tolstoy, Bulgakov, and Solzhenitsyn. Also listed as RUS 341. (D)

HMN 350. Arab-Islamic Civilization Through Literature. (3 h)

Introduction to how Arabs and Muslims in classical and medieval times (600-1400 A.D.) approached the pleasures of worldly life, organized their social domain by ethics/law, constructured through theology, philosophy, and mysticism. Also listed as ARB 350. (CD, D)

HMN 351. Modern Arab World through Literature. (3 h)

Study of the global significance of the 330 million Arabs as the fourth largest community in the world and Arabic as the fifth most widely spoken language from a historical and thematic perspective (1400 A.D to the present) through literary selections covering the periods of premodernity, Arab renaissance, colonialism, state-building, and globalization. Also listed as ARB 351. (CD, D)

HMN 365. Humanity and Nature. (3 h)

Examines humanity's relationship with nature from a variety of perspectives: philosophical, scientific, religious, political, legal, and aesthetic with a focus on how various humanistic perspectives articulate a sustainable and viable relationship with nature. The class engages religious, classical, and philosophical texts; visual art; discussions of ecology and human resposibility.

HMN 370. Medicine and the Humanities. (3 h)

Scholars from the Reynolda and Bowman Gray campuses lead a seminar on ideas and questions at the intersection of medical science and the humanities. Topics include medical history; the expression of disease in literature and art; the ethics of genetics research; the interplay of religion and medicine; and the economics of health care.

HMN 374. Humanities and Family Law: Child Custody Research and Issues. (3 h)

Examines the research and explores the controversies regarding child custody in the United States and other Western countries from an interdisciplinary perspective by incorporating texts from law, psychology, sociology, and documentary film. Often includes observations of custody hearings and interactions with lawyers, judges, and other proessionals involved in making custody dicisions. P - sophomore standing.

HMN 380. Literature, Film and Society. (3 h)

A study of major selected works of literature, mainly American; of the films which have been based upon them; and of the social and political context in which they were read and seen. Texts include novels, stories, and plays by such writers as Dreiser, Lewis, Warren, Steinbeck, Hellman, Harper Lee, Wright, and Walker. P -junior standing.

HMN 385. Special Topics. (1.5, 3 h)

Selected themes and approaches to the study of human culture that bridge disciplinary and/or national boundaries.

HMN 386. Special Topics in Literature in Translation. (1.5, 3 h)

Selected themes and approaches to the cross-cultural study of narrative.

HMN 387. Special Topics in International Film. (1.5, 3 h)

Selected themes and approaches to the cross-cultural study of film.

HMN 388. Special Topics in Cultural Studies. (1.5, 3 h)

Selected themes and approaches to the study of human culture that bridge disciplinary and/or national boundaries.

HMN 389. Directed Reading and Research. (1.5 h)

A research project in the humanities that pursues a topic studied in one of the courses of the minor and a synthesis of views from a least two traditional disciplines.

HMN 390. Directed Writing. (1.5 h)

Capstone project in the minor. P - HMN 389.

HMN 391. German Women Writers. (3 h)

Examines selected works by women authors. Literary periods, genres, and authors vary according to instructor. Also listed as GES 390. (D)

HMN 394. German Myths, Legends and Fairy Tales. (3 h)

Study of German myths, legends and fairy tales since the Middle Ages and their role in the formation of German national identity. Also listed as GES 394. (D)

HMN 395. The German Novel. (3 h)

Introduces novels by German, Swiss and Austrian authors. Also listed as GES 396. (D)

HMN 398. Intellectual History of Weimar. (3 h)

Examines the philosophical, political, and literary works that gave rise to the mythical status of Weimar as the intellectual heart of Germany. Students read selected works by Luther, Goethe, Schiller, Fichte, and the Jena Romantics. Includes an optional week-long excursion to Weimar, Germany. Also listed as GES 397. (D)

Faculty

Director Sally Barbour

Professors Sally Barbour, Linda Nielsen

Associate Professor David P. Phillips, José Luis Venegas, Sean Ervin (Affiliate, WFSOM)

Assistant Professor Ron Von Burg

Assistant Teaching Professor Brian Warren

Part-time Associate Teaching Professor Thomas O. Phillips