Bachelor of Arts
Department of Global Humanities and Religions
(Formerly: Department of Liberal Studies)
2020-2021

**Humanities: History of Culture, B.A.**
63-66 credits

The humanities include the disciplines which study philosophy, religion, history, literature, and the arts. The B.A. in Humanities: History of Culture serves students who want to major in more than one Humanities discipline, using interdisciplinary methods of investigation.

The department supports study of cultural history on a global level, including Europe and the Americas, China, Japan, South Asia, sub-Saharan Africa, and predominantly Islamic areas. Its courses give attention to historical development and cross-cultural interaction, both in the past and in the modern period. Students learn to analyze individual works of the humanities and to relate them to social and cultural developments. The department’s curriculum includes some courses called “Humanities” (HUMA) and others called “Religion” (REL).

The small size of classes and seminars in the Humanities: History of Culture B.A. program encourages close relationships between student and faculty. Working closely with faculty, students learn to formulate problems clearly, to consider and evaluate different methods and concepts, to do efficient and thorough research, and to write clearly, concisely, and effectively, culminating in work in rigorous senior seminars, with the option of writing an individually advised senior thesis.

- Five courses (23-25 credits) under advisement from:
  - HUMA 121, 122, 123, 243, 271, 273, 275, 276, 277, 278, 281, 290; REL 231 (or HRNS 219), 232, 265, 283, 290
  - These may include a maximum of two from the following:
    - HNRS 103, 104, 105, 106
  - The selected 100-level and 200-level courses must cover at least two different regions of the world.
- HUMA 302 – Methods of Interdisciplinary Study (5 credits)
- Four courses (20 credits) under advisement from:
- Choose one of the following options:
  - **Thesis Option** (16 credits):
    - Two courses (10 credits) from: HUMA 421, 422, 423, 425, 490; REL 424, 428, 490
  - HUMA 498 – Readings for Research in Humanities (3 credits)
  - HUMA 499 – Research in Humanities (3 credits)
- **Non-Thesis Option** (15 credits):
  - Three courses (15 credits) from: HUMA 421, 422, 423, 425, 490; REL 424, 428, 490

**Religion and Culture, B.A.**
60-66 credits

The B.A. in Religion and Culture provides scholarly, critical, nonsectarian study of religions. Students study religious beliefs, practices, identities and organizations, and how they have influenced and been influenced by other aspects of society and culture. The degree program includes a broad survey of several world civilizations as a basis for understanding their religious traditions, both as they developed historically and with their modern interactions and changes. Students study the origin, history, and methods of the academic study of religion. They are introduced to methodological issues in the study of religion, and learn to use methods appropriate to different kinds of problems. The department’s curriculum includes some courses called “Humanities” (HUMA) and others called “Religion” (REL).

The small size of classes and seminars in the Religion and Culture B.A. program encourages close relationships between student and faculty. Working closely with faculty, students learn to formulate problems clearly, to consider and evaluate different methods and concepts, to do efficient and thorough research, and to write clearly, concisely, and effectively, culminating in work in rigorous senior seminars, with the option of writing an individually advised senior thesis.

- Four courses (18-20 credits) under advisement from:
  - HUMA 121, 122, 123, 243, 271, 273, 275, 277, 278; REL 232, 265, 283, 290
  - These may include a maximum of two from the following:
    - HIST 232, 233, 289; HRNS 103, 104, 105, 106
  - The selected 100-level and 200-level courses must cover at least two different regions of the world.
- REL 231 – Intro to the Study of Religion or HRNS 219 – Colloquium in Religious Studies (5 credits)
- HUMA 302 – Methods of Interdisciplinary Study (5 credits)
- REL 303 – Methods in the Study of Religion (5 credits)
- Three courses (12-15 credits) under advisement from:
  - These three courses may include one of the following:
    - A/Hi 370; ANTH 330; ENG 336; HIST 321, 335, 360, 361, 486; PHIL 335; PLSC 480; SOC 342
- Choose one of the following options:
  - **Thesis Option** (16 credits):
    - Two courses (10 credits) from: HUMA 421, 422, 423, 425, 490; REL 424, 428, 490
  - REL 498 – Readings for Research in Humanities (3 credits)
  - REL 499 – Research in Humanities (3 credits)
- **Non-Thesis Option** (15 credits):
  - Three courses (15 credits) from: HUMA 421, 422, 423, 425, 490; REL 424, 428, 490

The department also frequently offers experimental new courses with the numbers 297, 397, and 497 – Check with the major advisors about counting these towards the majors!

For more information, please visit our website at [https://chss.wwu.edu/humanities-religions](https://chss.wwu.edu/humanities-religions), email us at [GHR@wwu.edu](mailto:GHR@wwu.edu) or visit our office in Bond Hall 152.