

HUMANITIES EXTERNAL DEGREE

College of Arts and Humanities

Program Description

The Master of Arts in Humanities offers broad interdisciplinary exposure to all of the areas of the humanities – including both area studies and traditional disciplinary fields such as history, philosophy, and literature – and the establishment of an integrative perspective among them, with emphasis on their interrelating effects and influences. The degree is offered entirely as a distance program. Courses are offered in the fall and spring semesters for 15 weeks each.

Preparation

A B.A. or B.S. degree from a regionally accredited college or university with a grade point average of 3.0 is required for acceptance into the M.A. program. Conditional admission with a grade point average of 2.5 may be considered under exceptional circumstances.

Features

The Humanities External Master's Degree program offers a fully accredited degree with no classroom attendance. The master's degree is earned by completing a curriculum of courses designed by CSU Dominguez Hills humanities professors and planning and writing a capstone thesis or project. Students have the option of designing independent studies to be guided by faculty. Some courses offer the opportunity for online instruction and engagement. The Humanities External degree is offered as a special sessions program. Admitted students pay the same per unit fee regardless of their geographic residence.

The Humanities External Master's Degree program was established in 1974 and has had students residing in all 50 states as well as many foreign countries. For four decades HUX has functioned as a university without walls.

Graduate Programs

Master

- Humanities External, Master of Arts (<https://catalog.csudh.edu/academics/humanities-external-degree/humanities-external-ma/>)

Faculty

Matthew Luckett, Program Coordinator

The following is a partial listing of instructors who work most often with the program. Although most are full-time faculty in on-campus departments, we also utilize the talents of part-time and emeritus faculty whose years of experience and expertise teaching both on campus and through the humanities special sessions degree program make them an invaluable source of knowledge.

R. Iset Anuakan (History), Debra Best (Literature), Kimberly Bohman-Kalaja (Literature), Douglas Borcoman (Philosophy), David Bradfield (Music), Hanson Caldwell (Music), Anita Chang (Music), Patricia Cherin (Humanities and Literature), David Churchman (Behavioral Sciences), Robert Cubillos (Philosophy), William Cumiford (Philosophy), Bill DeLuca (Theatre Arts), Myrna C. Donahoe (Interdisciplinary Studies), Kirstin

Ellsworth (Art), Bryan Feuer (Humanities), Kate Gale (English), Patricia Gamon (Art), Benito Gomez (Modern Languages), Jonathon Grasse (Music), Daniel Greenspan (Philosophy), Brian Gregor (Philosophy), Judson Grenier (History), William Hagan (Philosophy), Arthur Harshman (Art), Gilah Y. Hirsch (Art), Howard Holter (History), James Jeffers (History and Interdisciplinary Studies), Jim Keville (Art), Jane Lee (English), Donald Lewis (Philosophy), Jeb Middlebrook (Sociology), Ben Mijuskovic (Philosophy), Christopher Monty (History), Joanna Nachev (Music), Helen Oesterheld (Literature), Linda Pomerantz (History), Abe C. Ravitz (Literature), Jacqueline Shannon (Music), Lyle E. Smith (Literature), Frank A. Stricker (History), Andrea White (English), Joanne J. Zitelli (Literature)

Nicole Ballard, Program Advisor
Danica Arunson, Program Associate

Program Office: SAC 2-2126, (310) 243-3743 FAX: (310) 516-4399

Courses

HUX 345. The Non-Western World: China and Japan. (3 Units)

Interdisciplinary study of the non-western world by focusing on some of the art, philosophy and music of China and Japan.
Offered Infrequent

HUX 346. Alienation, Estrangement, and Subcultures. (3 Units)

Survey of the elements and historical implications of alienation. Examination of Hispanic and African American cultures.
Offered Fall, Infrequent

HUX 347. Images of Humanity: World Religious Perspectives. (3 Units)

Survey of ancient and modern religious systems focusing upon general characteristics of religious belief.
Offered Spring

HUX 448. Val & Morality 20th Century. (3 Units)

Offered Infrequent

HUX 472. Key Persp: Phil. (3 Units)

Offered Infrequent

HUX 474. Age Of Revolution. (3 Units)

Offered Infrequent

HUX 500. Foundations of the Humanities. (3 Units)

Provides an overview of core ideas, research, and writing in the humanities. Traces the historical origins of humanistic ideals and examines the influence of these cultural ideals on human life across time, place and history.
Offered Fall

HUX 506. Introduction to the Humanities. (3 Units)

Provides a non-comprehensive overview of human culture, particularly literature, history, music and philosophy, with an emphasis on diverse cultural and national traditions as well as social justice and morality.
Offered Fall, Spring

HUX 507. Graduate Writing in the Humanities. (3 Units)

Teaches students how to communicate in the humanities through academic writing that is supported by primary and secondary sources. Students will explore a variety of subjects, including art, gender, labor, music and race, to understand the humanities.
Offered Fall

HUX 512. History and the Human Endeavor. (3 Units)

Explores how historians use a variety of documents to understand human thought and behavior. Students analyze and contextualize documents, find sources for their own projects and draw conclusions about the human experience in relation to cohort theme.

Offered Fall

HUX 513. Literature and the Human Experience. (3 Units)

Examines key literary works across a range of genres. Uses various literary methodologies such as structuralism, Marxism, cultural studies and postcolonial theory to explore the multiple ways literature impacts humanity.

Offered Fall

HUX 514. Music and Hearing Humanity. (3 Units)

Presents music as fundamental to human identity. Engaging key works, students examine composers, popular movements, and music's rich meaning located through focused topics.

Offered Fall, Spring, Summer

HUX 515. Visual Expression and Humanity. (3 Units)

Special Topics course using nonstandard times and/or days to explore issues in the human behavior and attitudes. Repeatable course.

Offered Fall

HUX 516. Philosophy and Human Being. (3 Units)

Offers a philosophical examination of fundamental questions about being human, such as the good life, human nature, the mind/body relation, and the basis of personal identity. Specific attention will be devoted to the current cohort theme.

Offered Fall

HUX 521. Humanities Encounter: The Living Theatre. (3 Units)

How to recognize, appreciate and evaluate a variety of dramatic experiences. Requires extensive notebook of descriptions and analyses of five different types of theatrical performances. Three additional theatrical encounter descriptions and analyses required.

Offered Fall

HUX 522. Humanities Encounter: Concert Music. (3 Units)

Attendance and analysis of several concerts representing the general categories of symphonic, vocal and chamber music. Critical reviews required for each of four musical encounters. Reviews of two additional musical encounters required.

Offered Spring

HUX 523. Humanities Encounter: Historical Sites. (3 Units)

Exploring the historical roots of one's own community. Requires papers (including photographs) involving descriptions and analyses of three different historical sites. Papers on two additional sites required.

Offered Summer

HUX 524. Humanities Encounter: Film. (3 Units)

Watching and analyzing several films with special focus on the techniques and content of the medium. Requires extensive notebook of descriptions and analyses of five different film experiences. Three additional film experience descriptions and analyses required.

Offered Fall, Spring

HUX 525. Philosophy of Punishment. (3 Units)

Explores the theme of incarceration, including its historical roots, within advanced capitalist societies. We will study the writings of Foucault, Bentham, Gramsci, and other prominent commentators who focus critically on incarceration and living in a carceral society.

Offered Fall

HUX 526. Punishment and Popular Culture. (3 Units)

Students will reflect on an array of media sources to more deeply and critically understand popular culture's engagement with criminality and the justice system and to think about popular culture as a possible resource for criminal justice reform.

Offered Fall

HUX 527. History of American Punishment. (3 Units)

Covers the history of punishment in the United States from the 17th century through the present. Emphasizes historiography and the interconnection of different historical narratives and variables in creating the modern penal system.

Offered Fall

HUX 528. Modern Discipline. (3 Units)

Explores the contemporary manifestations of discipline through an interrogation of the diffuse nature of power. The interdisciplinary humanities texts here offer a reflection on the origins of disciplinary relationality (between the state, sovereign, and subject) and how their evolving relations are revealed in technologies of surveillance and security.

Offered Fall, Spring, Summer

HUX 533. Prisoner Movement and Theory. (3 Units)

An in-depth study of transnational social justice oriented prisoner movements. All assigned texts are written by incarcerated or formerly incarcerated peoples. Students will consider systemic roots of carceral violence while studying how incarcerated peoples have resisted and strategized for abolition.

Offered Fall, Spring, Summer

HUX 534. Race, Class and Gender. (3 Units)

Modeled after the traditional Ethnic Studies and Women's Studies course, this course offers an intersectional analysis of the law, policing, incarceration, and their function in stifling marginalized people from building together.

Offered Fall, Spring, Summer

HUX 535. Criminalization, Colonization, and Counterinsurgency. (0 Units)

Offers a historical perspective on the fluidity of criminalization and how it coalesces around specific bodies at different times to justify oppressive systems from colonization to gentrification.

Offered Fall, Spring, Summer

HUX 536. Abolitionist Futures. (3 Units)

Teases out the differences between liberal reform and abolition of prisons while exploring transformative justice, mutual aid, and how people are already working to eliminate the prison industrial complex.

Offered Fall, Spring, Summer

HUX 537. Building and Reforming the Industrial City in the United States. (3 Units)

An interdisciplinary study of cities in the United States from 1880-1920s, with a focus on the history, literature, art, and social movements of the time period. Topics include poverty, housing, labor, and legal reform, and the start of urban planning.

Offered Fall

HUX 538. Whose House Is It Anyway?: Settler Colonialism, Racial Capitalism, and the U.S. Housing Market. (3 Units)

Explores the settler colonial and racial capitalist roots of the U.S. housing market. Students will explore historical and contemporary housing policies and practices, examine empirical data on communities, and imagine how we can build an equitable housing market.

Offered Fall

HUX 539. Creating Communities: Contemporary Urban Planning and Community Development. (3 Units)

Critically assesses the role of urban planning in shaping communities. Students will examine how the regulation of the use of space impacts community formation and inequality, and how it can be used to create more equitable cities.

Offered Fall

HUX 541. The Rational Perspective. (3 Units)

The meaning of rationality from the perspectives of philosophy, history, literature, music, and art. Special emphasis on the possible differences between scientific and humanistic rationality.

Offered Summer

HUX 542. The Para-rational Perspective. (3 Units)

Interdisciplinary exploration of non-rational alternatives in modern culture, focusing on the nonlogical, the visionary, and the religious/mystical.

Offered Fall

HUX 543. The Autonomous Individual. (3 Units)

Interdisciplinary study of the nature of the creative act, including the following: the artist's vision of self; the defenses of personalism; notions of aesthetics and of symbolic thought.

Offered Infrequent

HUX 544. The Individual and Society. (3 Units)

Exploration of the position of the individual in the classic and modern models of social and political organization; conservatism, liberalism, socialism, anarchism; study of the Utopian tradition; and study of aesthetic theories that connect the artist with society.

Offered Infrequent

HUX 545. The Non-Western World. (3 Units)

Interdisciplinary examination of the non-western world by focusing on cultural characteristics of China and Japan.

Offered Infrequent

HUX 547. World Religious Perspectives. (3 Units)

A survey of ancient and modern religious systems, focusing upon an exploration of the general characteristics of religious beliefs.

Offered Summer

HUX 548. Values and Morality in Twentieth Century Thought. (3 Units)

An examination of values and morality in modern culture against a backdrop of seemingly amoral scientific and technological progress.

Offered Fall

HUX 556. Nobel Laureates: Studies in Modern World Literature. (3 Units)

Examination of representative major works by recent Nobel Laureates whose art epitomizes diverse cultural, literary, and social viewpoints. Authors include Mann, Pirandello, Camus, Kawabata, Solzhenitsyn, Neruda and Bellow.

Offered Spring, All terms

HUX 570. Key Periods and Movements, Art: Contemporary. (3 Units)

Exploration of the complex cultural development known as modern art by investigation of six major artistic movements: Cubism, Expressionism, Dada/Surrealism, Pop Art, Conceptual Art and Technological Art.

Offered Spring

HUX 572. Key Periods and Movements, Philosophy: The Biblical Movement. (3 Units)

Examination of modern scholarship on the Bible and its impact on Christianity; analysis of 3 types of Bible interpretation: Fundamentalism, liberalism and humanism.

Offered Spring

HUX 579. The Arab World: 600 AD to Present. (3 Units)

Prerequisite: HUX 501 is recommended. Political and cultural history of the Arab World from the 7th century to the present. Consideration of historiographic problems such as the "Great Man," cycles, and the influence of ideas on events.

Offered Spring

HUX 582. Seminar in History. (3 Units)

Students will learn and use historical practicum skills, including the proper use of primary sources and secondary source texts, to improve their understanding, to create sound argument, and to communicate thoughtfully about the past.

Offered Fall

HUX 586. Seminar in Philosophy. (3 Units)

Examines and evaluates a range of philosophical arguments on the current HUX cohort theme, giving students an opportunity to develop coherent positions on such philosophical issues as the nature of human existence, knowledge, ethical responsibility and human flourishing.

Offered Fall

HUX 590. Humanities Capstone. (3 Units)

This course is designed to enable students to demonstrate the integration of knowledge from various fields in the Humanities. In addition, the course launches students into their larger communities and offers them a deeper knowledge about the connection between systems of oppression, incarceration, and societal re-entry. This course is taken in the student's final semester.

Offered Fall, Spring

HUX 594A. Independent Study: Literature. (1-3 Units)

Prerequisites: Consent of instructor and program coordinator, via signed contract. Individually designed faculty-guided study of a topic in Literature, History, Philosophy, Music, Art, and Interdisciplinary topics. Repeatable for credit. A maximum of 9 units may be taken as Independent Study. No more than 6 units of Independent Study may be taken in one term.

Offered Fall, Spring

HUX 594B. Independent Study: History. (1-3 Units)

Prerequisites: Consent of instructor and program coordinator, via signed contract. Individually designed faculty-guided study of a topic in Literature, History, Philosophy, Music, Art, and Interdisciplinary topics. Repeatable for credit. A maximum of 9 units may be taken as Independent Study. No more than 6 units of Independent Study may be taken in one term.

Offered Spring

HUX 594C. Independent Study: Philosophy. (1-3 Units)

Prerequisites: Consent of instructor and program coordinator, via signed contract. Individually designed faculty-guided study of a topic in Literature, History, Philosophy, Music, Art, and Interdisciplinary topics. Repeatable for credit. A maximum of 9 units may be taken as Independent Study. No more than 6 units of Independent Study may be taken in one term.

Offered Spring, Summer

HUX 594D. Independent Study: Music. (1-3 Units)

Prerequisites: Consent of instructor and program coordinator, via signed contract. Individually designed faculty-guided study of a topic in Literature, History, Philosophy, Music, Art, and Interdisciplinary topics. Repeatable for credit. A maximum of 9 units may be taken as Independent Study. No more than 6 units of Independent Study may be taken in one term.

Offered Summer

HUX 594E. Independent Study: Art. (1-3 Units)

Prerequisites: Consent of instructor and program coordinator, via signed contract. Individually designed faculty-guided study of a topic in Literature, History, Philosophy, Music, Art, and Interdisciplinary topics. Repeatable for credit. A maximum of 9 units may be taken as Independent Study. No more than 6 units of Independent Study may be taken in one term.

Offered Spring, Summer

HUX 594F. Independent Study: Interdisc Topic. (1-3 Units)

Prerequisites: Consent of instructor and program coordinator, via signed contract. Individually designed faculty-guided study of a topic in Literature, History, Philosophy, Music, Art, and Interdisciplinary topics. Repeatable for credit. A maximum of 9 units may be taken as Independent Study. No more than 6 units of Independent Study may be taken in one term.

Offered Fall

HUX 595. Special Topics in the Humanities. (3 Units)

Prerequisite: Consent of program coordinator. Concentrated study of a specialized area in the Humanities on a selected topic of particular interest to faculty and students.

Offered As needed

HUX 598S. Final Project Proposal. (1 Units)

Prerequisites: Completion of Phases I and II; consent of instructor and program coordinator via signed contract. Required of all HUX M.A. students. Must be passed with grade of A-B before registering for Final Project (HUX 599).

Offered Fall, Spring, Summer

HUX 599A. Final Project: Thesis. (4-6 Units)

Prerequisites: Completion of Phases I and II; consent of instructor and program coordinator via signed contract. An individually planned project based on course work taken in the program and involving basic research in a single discipline or an interdisciplinary topic. Supervised Thesis (599A) or Creative Project (599B).

Offered Fall, Spring, Summer

HUX 599B. Final Proj: Creative Project. (4-6 Units)

Prerequisites: Completion of Phases I and II; consent of instructor and program coordinator via signed contract. An individually planned project based on course work taken in the program and involving basic research in a single discipline or an interdisciplinary topic. Supervised Thesis (599A) or Creative Project (599B).

Offered Fall, Spring, Summer

HUX 600. Graduate Continuation Course. (1 Units)

Graduate students who have completed their course work but not their thesis or project, or who have other requirements remaining for the completion of their degree, must maintain continuous attendance by enrolling in this course.Â May be taken only after Advancement to Candidacy and for a maximum of 3 times.

Offered Fall, Spring, Summer