

HUMANITIES

Humanities majors engage in interdisciplinary study of the circumstances and lives of humans in the past, of literature, the English language and the arts, and of ethical problems and systems of thought in order to understand and interpret the world today. Students also acquire essential intellectual skills through close analysis of texts, critical thinking, and expository writing. The study of humanities offers preparation for any profession that requires knowledge and understanding of humanity and society, or that involves proficiency with communication and the organization of information.

Degrees Offered

- Humanities, BPhil (<https://catalogs.northwestern.edu/sps/undergraduate/humanities/humanities-bphil/>)
- Humanities, BSGS (<https://catalogs.northwestern.edu/sps/undergraduate/humanities/humanities-bsgs/>)

Humanities Courses

AF_AM_ST 210-CN Survey of African American Literature (1 Unit)

Literature of blacks in the United States from slavery to freedom. Works of major writers and significant but unsung bards of the past.

AF_AM_ST 225-CN African American Culture (1 Unit)

Survey of African American culture from slavery to the present. Relation of African American culture to African and Euro-American cultures, the Black Atlantic as a unit of analysis, representations of blackness in the public imagination. Carries humanities credit.

AF_AM_ST 236-CN Introduction to African American Studies (1 Unit)

NPEP course.

AF_AM_ST 250-CN Race, Class, and Gender (1 Unit)

Introduction to scholarship and key theories that treat race, class, and gender as intersecting social constructs. Race, class, and gender in work, family and reproduction, education, poverty, sexuality, and consumer culture. How race, class, and gender inform identity, ideology, and politics to incite social change.

AF_AM_ST 331-CN The African American Novel (1 Unit)

Readings in classic black American fiction. The author as creator and participant. Works of Wright, Ellison, Baldwin, and others.

Prerequisite: sophomore standing.

AF_AM_ST 360-CN Major Authors: (1 Unit)

In-depth examination of a selected author's body of work. Choice of author varies. May be repeated for credit with change of author.

AF_AM_ST 378-CN The Harlem Renaissance (1 Unit)

African American political and social movements and cultural production in theater, music, visual arts, and literature from 1915 to 1930.

AF_AM_ST 380-CN Topics in African American Studies (1 Unit)

Topics vary. May be repeated for credit with different topic.

ART_HIST 220-CN Introduction to African Art (1 Unit)

Thematic and historical survey of the major periods of art making in Africa; analysis of a few exemplary works.

ART_HIST 224-CN Introduction to Ancient Art (1 Unit)

Introduction to the art and architecture of the ancient Near Eastern, Egyptian, Aegean, Greek, and Roman worlds.

ART_HIST 230-CN Introduction to American Art (1 Unit)

Survey of art and architecture in cultural context, from the art of conquest to contemporary production.

ART_HIST 240-CN Introduction to Asian Art (1 Unit)

Introduction to the art and architecture of Asia from ancient cultures to contemporary developments, including religious, court, and popular genres.

ART_HIST 250-CN Introduction to European Art (1 Unit)

Leading centers and artists of Europe from the later Middle Ages to the 19th century. Architecture, sculpture, painting, and graphic arts in relation to their social and cultural settings.

ART_HIST 260-CN Introduction to Contemporary Art (1 Unit)

Conceptual and thematic introduction to art since the 1960s, with attention to the impact of new technologies, social and political change, globalization, and the ongoing transformation of artistic production and distribution.

ART_HIST 319-CN Special Topics in Ancient Art (1 Unit)

Content varies—for example, picturing the gods; monument and commemoration in antiquity; narrative in ancient art; and the Roman provinces.

ART_HIST 329-CN Special Topics in Medieval Art (1 Unit)

Content varies; for example, the early Christian church; history of illuminated manuscripts; pilgrimage and saints' cults; the cathedral; Spain; art and crusade.

ART_HIST 339-CN Special Topics in Renaissance Art: (1 Unit)

Content varies; for example, the art of Bosch and Brueghel; the history of collecting; art at court; portraiture; gender and representation.

ART_HIST 349-CN Special Topics in Baroque Art (1 Unit)

Content varies; for example, French art of the 16th and 17th centuries; art and the New World; early modern prints and drawings; art and science.

ART_HIST 359-CN Special Topics in 19th-Century Art (1 Unit)

Content varies; for example, the art of Edouard Manet; orientalism; the spaces of 19th-century art; painting in the south of France.

ART_HIST 361-A 20th Century Art (1 Unit)

NPEP curriculum course.

ART_HIST 367-CN Special Topics in American Art (1 Unit)

Content varies; for example, nationalism and internationalism in American art; the myth of America; the artist in American society; elite and popular visual traditions.

ART_HIST 368-CN Special Topics in Modern Art and Performance (1 Unit)

Content varies; for example, art of the Russian Revolution; the avant-garde; totalitarian art; art during war; modernism and its discontents; art and decolonization; medium specificity.

ART_HIST 369-CN Special Topics in 20th-Century Art (1 Unit)

Content varies and may coincide with local exhibitions; for example, art and activism; utopia and dystopia in recent practice; participatory art; video art; art criticism; globalization; visual cultural studies; photography in/as art; installation art; truth and fiction in recent practice.

ART_HIST 371-CN Special Topics in Modern Art (1 Unit)

NPEP curriculum course.

ART_HIST 379-CN Special Topics in Modern Architecture (1 Unit)

Content varies; for example, Chicago architecture, including the work of Sullivan and Wright; Beaux Arts architecture in Europe and America; modernism in architecture; American architecture from Thomas Jefferson to Frank Lloyd Wright.

ART_HIST 389-CN Special Topics in Asian Art: (1 Unit)

Content varies; for example, aspects of painting in the Indian subcontinent: Mughal and Rajput; issues of gender and sexuality in

Japan and China from the 18th through 20th century; art in/about the Middle East.

ENGLISH 105-CN Expository Writing (1 Unit)

NPEP course.

ENGLISH 110-CN Writing Seminar I: (1 Unit)

Topics vary. TBD.

ENGLISH 111-CN Writing Seminar II (1 Unit)

Topics vary. TBD.

ENGLISH 111-DL Writing Seminar II (1 Unit)

Topics vary. TBD.

ENGLISH 113-CN Introduction to Literature (1 Unit)

Introduction to the vocabulary, techniques, and pleasures of literature through close study and discussion of poems, plays, short stories, and novels. Short critical papers develop ability to analyze and interpret literature.

Prerequisite: ENGLISH 111-CN or equivalent.

ENGLISH 121-CN Writing for Professionals (1 Unit)

Introduction to writing effective business documents, ranging from letters, memos, and email messages to reports, proposals, and press releases. ENGLISH 111-CN, ENGLISH 205-CN, or equivalent writing experience recommended.

ENGLISH 205-CN Intermediate Composition (1 Unit)

Expository writing at an intermediate level. Emphasis on techniques for writing clearly, precisely, and persuasively. May be repeated for credit with different topic.

ENGLISH 206-CN Reading and Writing Poetry (1 Unit)

Forms and techniques of verse. May not be audited or taken P/N. Advanced composition course or equivalent writing experience strongly recommended.

ENGLISH 207-CN Reading and Writing Fiction (1 Unit)

Forms and techniques of fiction. May not be audited or taken P/N. Advanced composition course or equivalent writing experience strongly recommended.

ENGLISH 208-CN Reading and Writing Creative Nonfiction (1 Unit)

Forms and techniques of creative nonfiction. May not be audited or taken P/N. Advanced composition class and strong basic writing skills highly recommended.

ENGLISH 213-CN Introduction to Fiction (1 Unit)

NPEP course.

ENGLISH 270-A American Literary Traditions I (1 Unit)

Chronological survey of American literature from the Puritan era to the Civil War. Previous literature course strongly recommended. Students should have fulfilled the SPS writing requirement or completed equivalent writing courses prior to enrolling.

ENGLISH 270-B American Literary Traditions II (1 Unit)

Chronological survey of American literature from the aftermath of the Civil War to World War I. Previous literature course strongly recommended. Students should have fulfilled the SPS writing requirement or completed equivalent writing courses prior to enrolling.

ENGLISH 300-CN Seminar in Reading and Interpretation (1 Unit)

Close reading of literary works in the light of various perspectives in literary study.

ENGLISH 306-A Advanced Reading and Writing Poetry I (1 Unit)

For students who have taken courses in poetry writing or who have been writing poetry on their own, further practice and study in the development of poems. May not be audited or taken P/N.

Prerequisite: ENGLISH 206-CN or permission of instructor. Students should have previous poetry writing experience in an academic setting. Instructor's consent and confirmation of the prerequisite course or appropriate writing experience is required for enrollment in this course.

ENGLISH 307-A Advanced Reading and Writing Fiction I (1 Unit)

For students who have taken courses in fiction writing or who have been writing fiction on their own, further practice and study in the development of short stories. May not be audited or taken P/N.

Prerequisite: ENGLISH 207-CN or permission of instructor. Students should have previous creative writing experience in an academic setting. Instructor's consent and confirmation of the prerequisite course or appropriate writing experience is required for enrollment in this course.

ENGLISH 307-B Advanced Creative Writing: Fiction II (1 Unit)

For students who have completed at least one course in fiction writing, further study of matters of technique and structure, with an emphasis on the exploration of character and discovery of plot through the process of revising. Short stories by contemporary authors will be read as models. The course builds on the premises, assignments, and goals of ENGLISH 307-A, but students may enroll without having completed that course. May not be audited or taken P/N.

Prerequisite: ENGLISH 207-CN or ENGLISH 307-A or comparable courses in creative writing with permission of instructor. Instructor's consent and confirmation of the prerequisite course or appropriate writing experience is required for enrollment in this course.

ENGLISH 308-A Advanced Reading and Writing Creative Nonfiction I (1 Unit)

For students who have taken courses in creative nonfiction or who have been writing creative nonfiction on their own, further study in developing command of creative writing techniques and forms to frequent short writing exercises and essays. Class discussion of published essays and excerpts from longer works and student drafts may address such topics as voice, style, structure, the uses of research, and truth. May not be audited or taken P/N.

Prerequisite: ENGLISH 208-CN or permission of instructor. Students should have previous creative writing experience in an academic setting. Instructor's consent and confirmation of the prerequisite course or appropriate writing experience is required for enrollment in this course.

ENGLISH 308-B Advanced Reading and Writing Creative Nonfiction II (1 Unit)

For students who have completed at least one course in fiction writing, further study of the analysis and writing of creative nonfiction, emphasizing close reading of assigned selections and careful writing and revision of student work. The course builds on the premises, assignments, and goals of ENGLISH 308-A, with focus on the writing of a longer work; students may enroll without having completed that course. May not be audited or taken P/N.

Prerequisite: ENGLISH 208-CN or ENGLISH 308-A, or comparable courses in creative writing with permission of instructor. Instructor's consent and confirmation of the prerequisite course or appropriate writing experience is required for enrollment in this course.

ENGLISH 310-CN Studies in Literary Genre: (1 Unit)

Topics vary. May be repeated for credit with different topic. Students who enroll should have fulfilled the SPS writing requirement or taken equivalent writing courses.

ENGLISH 312-CN Studies in Drama: (1 Unit)

Topics vary. May be repeated for credit with different topic. Students who enroll should have fulfilled the SPS writing requirement or taken equivalent writing courses.

ENGLISH 313-CN Studies in Fiction: (1 Unit)

Topics vary. May be repeated for credit with different topic. Students who enroll should have fulfilled the SPS writing requirement or taken equivalent writing courses.

ENGLISH 323-CN Chaucer (1 Unit)

The Canterbury Tales, read in Middle English. Students should have fulfilled the SPS writing requirement or completed equivalent writing courses prior to enrolling. Meets the pre-1830 literature requirement for English Writing majors.

ENGLISH 324-CN Studies in Medieval Literature: (1 Unit)

Topics vary. May be repeated for credit with different topic. Students who enroll should have fulfilled the SPS writing requirement or taken equivalent writing courses.

ENGLISH 338-CN Studies in Renaissance Literature (1 Unit)

Topics vary. May be repeated for credit with different topic. Students who enroll should have fulfilled the SPS writing requirement or taken equivalent writing courses.

ENGLISH 339-CN Special Topics in Shakespeare: (1 Unit)

Topics vary. May be repeated for credit with different topic. Students who enroll should have fulfilled the SPS writing requirement or taken equivalent writing courses.

ENGLISH 348-CN Studies in Restoration and 18th-Century Literature (1 Unit)

Topics vary. May be repeated for credit with different topic. Students who enroll should have fulfilled the SPS writing requirement or taken equivalent writing courses.

ENGLISH 351-CN Romantic Poetry (1 Unit)

Writers such as Blake, Wordsworth, Coleridge, Byron, Shelley, and Keats.

ENGLISH 353-CN Studies in Romantic Literature: (1 Unit)

Topics vary. May be repeated for credit with different topic. Students who enroll should have fulfilled the SPS writing requirement or taken equivalent writing courses.

ENGLISH 357-CN 19th-Century British Fiction (1 Unit)

Topics vary. May be repeated for credit with different topic. Students who enroll should have fulfilled the SPS writing requirement or taken equivalent writing courses.

ENGLISH 358-CN Dickens (1 Unit)

Representative works of Charles Dickens. Students who enroll should have fulfilled the SPS writing requirement or taken equivalent writing courses.

ENGLISH 363-CN 20th-Century Fiction (1 Unit)

Topics vary. May be repeated for credit with different topic. Students who enroll should have fulfilled the SPS writing requirement or taken equivalent writing courses.

ENGLISH 365-CN Studies in Postcolonial Literature (1 Unit)

Topics vary. May be repeated for credit with different topic. Students who enroll should have fulfilled the SPS writing requirement or taken equivalent writing courses.

ENGLISH 368-CN Studies in 20th-Century Literature (1 Unit)

Topics vary. May be repeated for credit with different topic. Students who enroll should have fulfilled the SPS writing requirement or taken equivalent writing courses.

ENGLISH 369-CN Studies in African Literature (1 Unit)

Topics vary. May be repeated for credit with different topic. Students who enroll should have fulfilled the SPS writing requirement or taken equivalent writing courses.

ENGLISH 371-CN American Novel (1 Unit)

Writers such as Cooper, Alcott, Chopin, Hawthorne, Melville, Poe, Twain, James, Howells, Crane, Dreiser, and Wharton. Content varies. May be repeated for credit with different topic.

ENGLISH 377-CN Topics in Latina and Latino Literature (1 Unit)

Topics vary. May be repeated for credit with different topic. Students who enroll should have fulfilled the SPS writing requirement or taken equivalent writing courses.

ENGLISH 378-CN Studies in American Literature: (1 Unit)

Topics vary. May be repeated for credit with different topic. Students who enroll should have fulfilled the SPS writing requirement or taken equivalent writing courses.

ENGLISH 383-CN Studies in Theory & Criticism: (1 Unit)

Topics in theory and criticism related to the study of literature and culture. Topics vary. May be repeated for credit with different topic. Students who enroll should have fulfilled the SPS writing requirement or taken equivalent writing courses.

ENGLISH 385-CN Topics in Combined Studies (1 Unit)

Special topics in literature and related disciplines. Students should have fulfilled the SPS writing requirement or completed equivalent writing courses.

ENGLISH 385-DL Topics in Combined Studies: Literature and Leadership (1 Unit)

Special topics in literature and related disciplines. Students should have fulfilled the SPS writing requirement or completed equivalent writing courses.

ENGLISH 386-CN Studies in Literature and Film (1 Unit)

Topics vary. May be repeated for credit with different topic. Students who enroll should have fulfilled the SPS writing requirement or taken equivalent writing courses.

ENGLISH 392-CN The Situation of Writing (1 Unit)

The sociology of writers, writing, publication, dissemination of literature, and reading. Students should have fulfilled the SPS writing requirement or taken equivalent writing courses.

ENGLISH 399-CN Independent Study (1 Unit)

HISTORY 201-A European Civilization I (1 Unit)

Culture and structure of preindustrial society, high medieval through mid-18th century.

HISTORY 201-B European Civilization II (1 Unit)

Impact of industrial and political change and development of modern society to the present.

HISTORY 210-A History of the United States (1 Unit)

Interpretative survey from the 17th century to the present. Pre-colonial to the Civil War.

HISTORY 210-B History of the United States (1 Unit)

Interpretative survey from the 17th century to the present. Reconstruction to the present.

HISTORY 250-A Global History: Early Modern to Modern Transition (1 Unit)

The early-modern to modern transition.

HISTORY 250-B Global History: Modern World (1 Unit)

The modern world. HISTORY 250-A is not a prerequisite for HISTORY 250-B.

HISTORY 300-CN New Lectures: (1 Unit)

Topics vary. May be repeated for credit with different topic.

HISTORY 392-CN Topics in History: (1 Unit)

Topics vary. May be repeated for credit with different topic.

HISTORY 395-CN Trailer Seminar (1 Unit)

Students research and complete a term paper on a topic of choice. Topics vary. May be repeated for credit with different topic.

PHIL 110-CN Introduction to Philosophy (1 Unit)

Fundamental problems and methods of philosophy.

PHIL 111-CN Introduction to Philosophy (1 Unit)

NPEP course.

PHIL 150-CN Elementary Logic (1 Unit)

Introduction to the philosophical study of logical entailment and deduction. Systems of classical propositional and predicate logic; and their bearing on philosophical quandaries.

PHIL 268-CN Ethics and the Environment (1 Unit)

Topics include our relationship to the environment, the obligation to future generations, pollution and population control, food and energy production and distribution, species diversity, and the preservation of wilderness.

PHIL 269-CN Bioethics (1 Unit)

Ethical analysis of a variety of issues such as the human genome project, genetic therapy, cloning and stem cell transplantation, human and animal research, reproductive technologies, and the allocation of resources.

PHIL 269-DL Bioethics (1 Unit)

Ethical analysis of a variety of issues such as the human genome project, genetic therapy, cloning and stem cell transplantation, human and animal research, reproductive technologies, and the allocation of resources.

PHIL 326-CN Philosophy of Medicine (1 Unit)

Exploration of a variety of issues that have risen in medical practice and biological research and development. Introduces students interested in the health professions to ethical problems they are likely to encounter.

PHIL 364-DL Business and Professional Ethics (1 Unit)

Examines a variety of ethical issues relating to contemporary business from a philosophical perspective.

PHIL 390-CN Special Topics (1 Unit)

Topics vary. May be repeated for credit with different topic.

PHIL 399-CN Independent Study (1 Unit)