
HUMANITIES

W. Francis Ryan

Director, Institute of Humanities

The Master of Arts in Humanities is an interdisciplinary program designed for qualified holders of the bachelor's degree who seek to deepen their understanding of cultural and ethics topics and who regard the liberal arts as subjects of lifelong study. The program is open to both traditional and nontraditional students. For persons who have postponed graduate study for family or professional reasons, the program offers opportunities to pursue cultural studies that may have been bypassed in the processes of career building. Courses are offered at flexible times with many courses scheduled in the evenings.

The humanities are defined as those fields that have from earliest times recorded—in script or sound, on canvas or stone—the achievements, ideals, and even failures of humanity. The humanities examine the intellectual foundations and values of political cultures through literature, the languages, the history of ideas, and the theoretical and historical aspects of the fine and visual arts. These studies emphasize the relationships of past and present, a sensitivity to aesthetic expression, an appreciation for the complexities of problems, and the abilities to make critical discernments and to express them with logic and clarity. Students may take courses from the fields of Art History, Classics, English, History, Modern Languages and Cultures, Philosophy, and Religious Studies. Courses from other departments that clearly address the above goals may be taken with approval.

Admission Requirements

Applicants must hold a bachelor of arts or science degree from an accredited institution and present an undergraduate record that shows evidence of ability to do graduate work in the humanities. A minimum undergraduate overall average of 2.75 will normally be required. Applicants must write a 500-word typed essay on personal goals and interests and indicate how these might be met through the graduate program. The essay may refer to one of the suggested study plans (European Studies, English and/or American Culture, or Religion and Ethics) or focus on a proposed idea for a self-designed study plan. An interview with the program director is required. The University recognizes that each applicant, including those who have been away from formal schooling for many years or who may have less than the required average, possesses unique qualifications which will be given full consideration. In some cases, prospective students may be required to complete prescribed undergraduate courses or take the Graduate Record Examination.

Students are not formally admitted until all undergraduate transcripts and other required materials have been submitted to the Dean of The Graduate School. Application deadlines are: August 15 for the fall semester, January 3 for the spring semester, and June 1 for the summer session. Students may enroll for courses as non-matriculated students for six hours (two courses), which may be credited toward the degree.

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Program Requirements

All students are admitted under Plan B. Those students who are interested in pursuing Plan A, the thesis option, should seek approval from the director and the graduate dean by way of a petition. Both plans include 33 semester hours of study, at least 18 of which must be at the 500-level, and a comprehensive review of the student's course work. The specific courses to be taken are determined by the student's study plan (see below) and by any prerequisites required for individual courses. Students may take six hours outside of, but related to, the specific study plan. Courses taken from other departments—Communications, Political Science, and Sociology—must be clearly humanistic in content and approach and can be taken only with the permission of the program director.

Plan A: 33 semester hours, including:

- HM 501 The Classical Ethos: Medieval Era to 1500
- HM 502 The Humanities and Modernity
- HM 599 Master's Thesis

21 hours of approved electives from at least three of the following disciplines: Art History, Classics, English, History, Modern Languages and Cultures, Philosophy, and History.

Plan B: 33 semester hours, including:

- HM 501 The Classical Ethos: Medieval Era to 1500
- HM 502 The Humanities and Modernity
- HM 598 The Integration of the Humanities (with final research essay)

24 hours of approved electives from at least three of the following disciplines: Art History, Classics, English, History, Modern Languages and Cultures, Philosophy, and History.

Study Plans and Individualized Study

Each student will select, or design with director and faculty guidance, a plan of studies. These may be on European (Medieval/Renaissance or Modern) Studies; English and/or American Culture; Religion, Culture and Ethics; Irish-American (or Irish-English) or Holocaust Studies; or an individualized study plan for which university courses are available. Samples of study plans are listed below. Although most of the courses listed are offered on a regular basis, students may request to take courses other than those listed. Within their overall study plans, students are encouraged to identify and pursue individualized themes and interests. These themes will enable students to build relationships between courses and can be pursued through the wide latitude allowed in the selection of course papers and readings. For example, a student electing European Studies may pursue a theme of women's roles, which could be the topic of many course papers as well as the final research essay. A student interested in English and American Culture could emphasize the Victorian period; another taking Religion, Culture and Ethics could focus on ethics in modern society. The following plan outlines are provided as samples.

Holocaust Studies

Through an agreement between John Carroll University and the Siegal College of Judaic Studies, M.A. in Humanities students may pursue a study plan in Holocaust Studies in which four (of eleven required) courses will be taken at the Siegal College of Judaic Studies on nearby Shaker Boulevard. Specific courses on the Holocaust era, 1933-1945, Holocaust topics and literature will be complemented by John Carroll courses on Modern Europe, Literature, Ethics, or Art History.

Irish Studies

Students interested in Irish, Irish-English, Irish-American, or Irish-Catholic themes may wish to design a Study Plan or an emphasis based on appropriate courses in English, History, and Religious Studies. Students may apply for tuition and research assistance funds available through the William and Mary McNulty Endowment for Irish Studies. Applications should be made to the Director, Institute of Humanities.

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Sample Study Plans

Study Plan: Medieval & Renaissance Studies*

HM 501	The Classical Ethos: Medieval Era to 1500
HM 502	The Humanities and Modernity
RL 520	Early Christianity to the Sixth Century
RL 529	Early Christian Ireland
EN 511	Medieval Drama
EN 520	English Renaissance Literature
HS 501	Readings in Medieval History
AH 499	Early Medieval Art
AH 499	Gothic Art
AH 499	Italian Renaissance Art
HM 598	The Integration of the Humanities (Final Seminar)

* Other options: Medieval Philosophy, Medieval Music, Dante, or courses on the Spirituality of Medieval Women may be substituted for some of the above.

Study Plan: America's Cultural Foundations

HM 501	The Classical Ethos: Medieval Era to 1500
HM 502	The Humanities and Modernity
HS 531	Early America: Colonial to Mid-Eighteenth Century
HS 541	Gilded-Age America: Immigrants and Urban Problems
HS 542	Twentieth-Century Urban America and Culture
EN 570	The American Renaissance: Nineteenth Century
EN 572	Studies in American Realism, 1860-1900
EN 573	Studies in Modern American Literature Since 1900
AH 499	Modern Art
AH (or HM)	Topics in American Art or Architecture
HM 598	The Integration of the Humanities (Final Seminar)

Study Plan: Anglo-Irish Culture & Conflict

HM 501	The Classical Ethos: Medieval Era to 1500
HM 502	The Humanities and Modernity
RL 529	Early Christian Ireland
AH 499	Early Medieval (and Celtic) Art
EN 520	Sixteenth-Century Literature: Spenser
EN 533	Eighteenth-Century English Literature
EN 550	The Gaelic Renaissance
HS 512	Tudor-Stuart England (Policies on Ireland)
HS 541	Gilded-Age America: Immigrants and Urban Problems
HM 597	Readings in Irish America
HM 598	The Integration of the Humanities (Final Seminar)

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Study Plan: Religion, Culture, and Ethics

HM 501	The Classical Ethos: Medieval Era to 1500
HM 502	The Humanities and Modernity
RL 529	History of Christian Thought
RL 530	Contemporary Approaches to Theology
RL 569	Religious Ethics
PL 430	Topics in the History of Philosophy: Feminist Issues
PL 430	Topics in the History of Philosophy: Contemporary European Philosophers
HS 511	Readings in Early Modern Europe
HS 541	Seminar: Modern American History
HS 571	Seminar: Modern Eastern Europe
HM 598	The Integration of the Humanities (Final Seminar)

Study Plan: Holocaust Studies

HM 501	The Classical Ethos: Medieval Era to 1500
HM 502	The Humanities and Modernity
LIT 366Y	(CJS: College of Jewish Studies) Literature of the Holocaust
THO 353X	(CJS) The Roots of Anti-Semitism
HS 351X	(CJS) The Jews of Europe Between the World Wars
HS 362Y	(CJS) Confronting the Holocaust
HS 573	The Third Reich: The Nazi State and Policies
HS 571	Modern France: Dreyfus and Vichy
EN 580	Imaginative Literature and Ethics
RL 499	Special Topics: Religious Ethics
HM 598	The Integration of the Humanities (Final Seminar)

As the sample study plans show, students take eight of the eleven courses required for the degree from the departments of English, History, and Religious Studies, which are listed in the sections on these departments in this *Bulletin*. Courses at the 400 level are taken from the Art History, Classical and Modern Languages and Cultures, Philosophy, and other departments.

In certain cases, courses on special topics will be offered under an HM (Humanities) number. These include Independent Studies, courses taught by visiting scholars, and certain courses whose content relates to more than a single discipline (but may be cross-listed with another department). In each case, the HM courses will have specific titles, such as "Music of the Middle Ages" or "The Royal Courts of Europe and the Arts," which may indicate the interdisciplinary designation field. The specific topical title will replace the "Special Topics" title listed for HM 597 below.

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COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

HM 497. INSTITUTE OF HUMANITIES WORKSHOP 1-3 cr. Study and examination of selected topics in the Humanities. Workshop credit at the 400-level is not applicable toward a graduate degree.

HM 501. THE CLASSICAL ETHOS: MEDIEVAL ERA TO 1500 3 cr. Principles of humanities research and criticism. The city, realm or state as Ethos (ethical entity) from ancient Greeks and Romans and later thinkers as Augustine, Aquinas, Dante with focus on selective clashes by competing forces to build the ideal state of cultural and ethical values and virtues.

HM 502. THE HUMANITIES AND MODERNITY 3 cr. The study of selected thinkers from the late Renaissance through the twentieth century; the rise of new cultural ideals as both refining and challenging traditional humanities learning; the threats of growing State powers and often uncompromising ideologies with new definitions of human cultural identity and dignity.

HM 597. SPECIAL TOPICS 1-3 cr. Examination of specific problems in the humanities for study by individuals or selected small groups. Permission required.

HM 598. THE INTEGRATION OF THE HUMANITIES 3 cr. Demonstration of interrelationships of course work and individualized themes. A major research essay will be written.

HM 599. MASTER'S THESIS 6 cr. upon approval.