

HUMANITIES (BA)

CIP: 24.0103

Program Description

The Humanities major combines a rigorous general education in the humanities with a concentrated focus on a particular discipline or theme. The requirements for the major are designed to allow students to construct a program of study that fits their own intellectual interests.

The curriculum is cross-cultural in foundation and reflects the interdisciplinary strength of our faculty in areas including art history, philosophy, literature, religion, film and media, the visual and performing arts, gender and sexuality studies, and science and technology studies. The Humanities faculty teach courses that span the globe, covering the histories and contemporary cultures of Asia, Africa, Europe and the Americas. In these courses, students learn to employ multiple disciplinary perspectives and to engage with a wide range of different sources, from literary fiction to courtroom trial transcripts, from classical paintings to contemporary political cartoons and posters.

The Humanities major provides students with advanced skills in critical reading, academic writing, visual arts creation, interpretation, analysis and argument that are highly valuable and readily transferable to a spectrum of careers, including law, cultural production, contemporary art curation, journalism, and non-fiction writing. While some Humanities majors pursue post-graduate degrees, many others successfully use the skills they develop in their Humanities studies to pursue a wide range of career paths.

In introductory and foundations courses, students acquire a set of methods for humanistic inquiry. Students then develop an area of thematic or disciplinary focus by choosing advanced courses in Shanghai and other NYU sites in consultation with their advisors. While students may choose to focus on a particular discipline, at least one advanced course must be explicitly interdisciplinary in orientation. In their senior year, students take the two semester Capstone Course sequence and produce a final thesis that marks the culmination of their intellectual development.

Admissions

New York University's Office of Undergraduate Admissions supports the application process for all undergraduate programs at NYU. For additional information about undergraduate admissions, including application requirements, see How to Apply (<https://www.nyu.edu/admissions/undergraduate-admissions/how-to-apply.html>).

Program Requirements

Course	Title	Credits
Core Courses		
<i>Social and Cultural Foundations</i>		
CCSF-SHU 101L	Global Perspectives on Society	4
	Interdisciplinary Perspectives on China (Two Courses)	8
<i>Writing</i>		
WRIT-SHU 102	Writing as Inquiry	4
WRIT-SHU 201	Perspectives on the Humanities	4
<i>Language</i> ¹		
	Language Courses	8-16

<i>Mathematics</i>		
Mathematics Course		4
<i>Algorithmic Thinking</i>		
Algorithmic Thinking Course		4
<i>Science</i>		
Experimental Discovery in the Natural World Course		4
Science, Technology, and Society		4
Major Requirements		
<i>Introductory Courses</i>		
Foundation Courses		
Choose at least two of the following:		8
ART-SHU 101	What is Art?	
HUMN-SHU 110	What is Science and Technology Studies	
HUMN-SHU 112	Foundations: What is Human Geography?	
HIST-SHU 101	Foundations: What is History	
HIST-SHU 102	What is Art History?	
LIT-SHU 101	Foundations: What is Literature?	
PHIL-SHU 101	Foundations: What is Philosophy?	
Other Introductory Courses ²		8
<i>Advanced Courses</i> ³		
Choose at least one Advanced Interdisciplinary Course: ⁴		4
HIST-SHU 303	Histories and Politics of Noise	
HIST-SHU 310	The Birth of Psychology	
SOCS-SHU 229	Capitalism, Socialism, Communism: Theory and Practice	
HUMN-SHU 366	Shanghai Stories	
PHIL-SHU 90	Philosophy of Science	
PHIL-SHU 91	Philosophy of Biology	
PHIL-SHU 130	Philosophy of Technology: Thinking Machines	
Other Advanced Courses		20
<i>Capstone Sequence</i> ⁵		
HUMN-SHU 400A	Humanities Capstone Seminar I	2
HUMN-SHU 401	Humanities Capstone Seminar ⁶	4
Other Elective Credits		38-46
Total Credits		128

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Students who did not attend a Chinese-medium high school fulfill the Core language requirement by demonstrating proficiency of the Chinese language through the Intermediate level. Chinese speakers who did not attend an English-medium high school fulfill the Core language requirement through completion of EAP-SHU 100 English for Academic Purposes I and EAP-SHU 101 English for Academic Purposes II. Additional information can be found on the NYU Shanghai Core Curriculum page (<https://bulletins.nyu.edu/undergraduate/shanghai/core-curriculum/#text>).

2

If you take more than two Foundations courses, the first two count towards the Foundations requirement, and the remaining count towards the general Introductory course requirement.

3

At least 12 credits (usually three 4-credit courses) of your Advanced Courses must fit together thematically in a way that can serve as a basis for a capstone project. The aim of this requirement is to allow students to select a set of courses that builds towards a capstone project. Students should consult with their academic advisor and with Humanities professors to discuss how best to fulfill this requirement.

4

If you take more than one Advanced Disciplinary course, the first counts toward the Advanced Interdisciplinary requirement, and the remainder count toward the general Advanced course requirement.

5

Qualifying students may elect to complete a Creative Capstone in the Visual Arts. This requires completing an artistic project in addition to the research-based Capstone thesis: the Creative Capstone in Visual Arts is comprised of an artistic project, the research-based Humanities capstone thesis, and an artist statement. These three elements should form a unified project, with the expectation that the research-based capstone thesis is still the primary focus.

In order to qualify for the Creative Capstone in the Visual Arts, the students must take ART-SHU 101 What is Art?, three Visual Arts Praxis courses at any level, and ART-SHU 1911 Projects in Studio Art. A list of Visual Arts Praxis courses can be found below.

Please note that these courses do not directly satisfy Humanities requirements but fulfill general elective requirements.

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Students may also complete this requirement by enrolling in an Advanced 4-credit course, with the approval of the course instructor. Students selecting this option should inform their academic advisor and the Humanities Area Leader of their decision before the end of the Fall term.

Other Humanities Introductory Courses

Code	Title	Credits
ART-SHU 101	What is Art?	4
ART-SHU 180	Asian Art and Architecture	4
ART-SHU 610	Art is a Hammer	4
CCCF-SHU 110	Introduction to Shanghai Cinema Legacy and Contemporary Chinese Film/Media Industry	4
CRWR-SHU 159	Introduction to Creative Writing	4
GCHN-SHU 110	The Concept of China	4
GCHN-SHU 135T	Topics in Global China Studies: China and Japan: Cultural, Political and Population Flows	4
GCHN-SHU 156	History of Chinese Art	4
GCHN-SHU 164	The History of the Silk Road	4
GCHN-SHU 165	China and the Islamic World, c.600AD-Present	4
GCHN-SHU 208	Chinese Science Fictions	4
GCHN-SHU 211	Chinese Architecture	4
GCHN-SHU 255	Eat, Pray, Ponder: Chinese Intellectual Culture through the Ages	4
GCHN-SHU 263	Voices from the Margin: Modern Chinese and Sinophone Writers	4
GCHN-SHU 264	Chinese Migrant and Diasporic Networks	4
HIST-SHU 101	Foundations: What is History	4
HIST-SHU 102	What is Art History?	4
HIST-SHU 103	Oral History: Method and Practice	4

HIST-SHU 110	U.S. History through Literature and Film	4
HIST-SHU 126	World History: Part I	4
HIST-SHU 127	World History: Part II	4
HIST-SHU 130	Arab-Islamic Influence on the West	4
HIST-SHU 144	Fashion and Body Politics in 20th Century East Asia	4
HIST-SHU 153	History of Modern China Since 1840	4
HIST-SHU 155	Chinese American History: From the California Gold Rush to the Cold War	4
HIST-SHU 156	Europe Since 1945	4
HIST-SHU 205	History of Modern Medicine	4
HIST-SHU 302	History of Water	4
HIST-SHU 312	China Encounters the World	4
HUMN-SHU 110	What is Science and Technology Studies	4
HUMN-SHU 168	Penning the Self(ie): Orality, Literacy, Digitality, and the Literary Subject	4
HUMN-SHU 170	Algorithmic Cultures around the Globe	4
HUMN-SHU 180	Korean Culture and Society through K-pop	4
HUMN-SHU 181	Gender and Sexuality in Modern Visual Culture	4
HUMN-SHU 185	Gender and Migration in Islam	4
HUMN-SHU 207	Bible As Literature	4
HUMN-SHU 229	Masters of Asian Cinema	4
HUMN-SHU 231	Contemporary Art and Theory in North America and Europe	4
HUMN-SHU 271	Humanities Research Lab: Study Immigrant Cities	1-3
HUMN-SHU 284	Modern European Philosophy	4
HUMN-SHU 366	Shanghai Stories	4
LIT-SHU 101	Foundations: What is Literature?	4
LIT-SHU 125	La Belle Epoque Literature in France, 1852-1914	4
LIT-SHU 135	The Global Experimental: Modernism and Beyond	4
LIT-SHU 160	Translation in Theory and Practice	4
LIT-SHU 250	Love and Hate in the Time of Dragons	4
MUS-SHU 222	Music of the Baroque	4
NEUR-SHU 304	Meaning	4
PHIL-SHU 40	Ethics	4
PHIL-SHU 70	Logic	4
PHIL-SHU 80	Philosophy of Mind	4
PHIL-SHU 101	Foundations: What is Philosophy?	4
PHIL-SHU 106	Ancient Greek and Roman Philosophy	4
PHIL-SHU 107	Great Works in Philosophy	4
PHIL-SHU 115	Ethics and Society	4
PHIL-SHU 145	Philosophy of Art	4
PHIL-SHU 220	Philosophy of Law	4
SOCS-SHU 130	Introduction to Political Theory	4
SOCS-SHU 245	Ethnographic Thinking	4

Other Humanities Advanced Courses

Code	Title	Credits
ART-SHU 222	Site and Situation: Social Space and Public Art	4
ART-SHU 629	The Villain	4
ART-SHU 9077	Contemporary Art & New Media in China	4
CCSF-SHU 123	Contemporary Chinese Political Thought	4

CRWR-SHU 201T	Topics in Creative Writing: Creative Writing, Creative Translation: The Art of Literary Translation	4
CRWR-SHU 207	Introduction to Screenwriting	4
CRWR-SHU 221	Intermediate Poetry Workshop	4
CRWR-SHU 248	Writing the Novella	4
GCHN-SHU 205	Hong Kong Cinema	4
GCHN-SHU 209	Theme Parks in China: An Ambitious and Ambiguous Journey	4
GCHN-SHU 233	Foreign Societies in Classical Chinese Writing	4
GCHN-SHU 250	Geographies of China	4
GCHN-SHU 275	Memory Politics in China	4
GCHN-SHU 351	Buddhism, Nature and Technology in the Chinese World	4
HIST-SHU 145	Food in Chinese History	4
HIST-SHU 209	Witches, Magic and the Witch Hunts in the Atlantic World, 1400-1700	4
HIST-SHU 220	Chinese American History: From the California Gold Rush to the Cold War	4
HIST-SHU 221	Behind the Uniform: Race, Sex & Gender in 20th Century Military History	4
HIST-SHU 225	The Global Space Age	4
HIST-SHU 232	Moments of Europe	4
HIST-SHU 239	New York: History of the City and its People	4
HIST-SHU 255	The Second World War on Film	4
HIST-SHU 260	Voice of Empire	4
HIST-SHU 265	The Emergence of the Modern Middle East and North Africa	4
HIST-SHU 270	Japan After 1945	4
HIST-SHU 280	The Two Koreas	4
HIST-SHU 303	Histories and Politics of Noise	4
HIST-SHU 305	When Science Goes Wrong	4
HIST-SHU 310	The Birth of Psychology	4
HIST-SHU 313	China Goes Global: How China and the World Changed Each Other	4
HIST-SHU 314	Chinese American Women, Gender and Sexuality	4
HIST-SHU 330	Popular Culture and the Scientific Revolution	4
HUMN-SHU 150	Asian Religions	4
HUMN-SHU 168	Penning the Self(ie): Orality, Literacy, Digitality, and the Literary Subject	4
HUMN-SHU 214	European Thought and Culture: 1750-1870	4
HUMN-SHU 235	In Conversation: Black and Chinese Artists	4
HUMN-SHU 240	Gender, Sexuality, and Culture	4
HUMN-SHU 366	Shanghai Stories	4
LIT-SHU 190	Transnational Feminist Aesthetics and Politics	4
LIT-SHU 215	Excavating Deep Time: Literature and the Human Condition	4
LIT-SHU 246	Introduction to Gender and Feminism in African Literature	4
LIT-SHU 253	Comparative Islamic Feminisms in World Literature	4
LIT-SHU 280	Writing Empire	4
PHIL-SHU 80	Philosophy of Mind	4
PHIL-SHU 90	Philosophy of Science	4
PHIL-SHU 91	Philosophy of Biology	4

PHIL-SHU 110	Traditional Chinese Political and Legal Philosophy	4
PHIL-SHU 130	Philosophy of Technology: Thinking Machines	4
PHIL-SHU 202	Epistemology and Imagination	4
PHIL-SHU 203	Epistemology and Memory	4
PHIL-SHU 230	Philosophy of Physics	4
PHIL-SHU 255	Habermas and Chinese Modernity	4
RELS-SHU 9270	Religion and Society in China: Ghosts, Gods, Buddhas and Ancestors.	4
SCA-SHU 9634	Global Connections: Shanghai	4
SOCS-SHU 228	Merchants, Chiefs, and Spirits	4
SOCS-SHU 239	Anthropology of Settler Colonialism: Social and Global Structures	4
SOCS-SHU 254	Ethnographies of Change in China	4

Visual Arts Praxis Courses

Course	Title	Credits
Visual Arts Praxis Foundational and Introductory Level Courses		
ART-SHU 103	Foundations in Visual Arts	4
ART-SHU 211	Foundations in Painting: Painting in Practice and Theory	4
ART-SHU 255	Printmaking in an Expanded Field	4
ART-SHU 275	Mark Making: From Basic Drawing Skills to Contemporary Approaches to Drawing	4
ART-SHU 301	Photography I	4
ART-SHU 306	Moving Images I	4
Advanced Visual Arts Praxis Courses		
ART-SHU 250	Visual Culture and Social Art Practice: Collaborations and Community Interactions	4
ART-SHU 302	Photography II	4
ART-SHU 307	Moving Images II	4
ART-SHU 375	The Graphic Novel	4
ART-SHU 1911	Projects in Studio Art	2

Sample Plan of Study

Course	Title	Credits
1st Semester/Term		
CCSF-SHU 101L	Global Perspectives on Society	4
Core Class		4
Core Class		4
Chinese or EAP		4
		Credits
		16
2nd Semester/Term		
WRIT-SHU 102	Writing as Inquiry	4
Humanities Foundations Course		4
Core Class		4
Chinese or EAP		4
		Credits
		16
3rd Semester/Term		
WRIT-SHU 201	Perspectives on the Humanities	4
Humanities Foundations Course		4
Humanities Introductory Course		4
Chinese or Core Course		4
		Credits
		16
4th Semester/Term		
Humanities Introductory Course		4
Core Class		4

Core Class	4
Chinese or Core Course	4
Credits	16
5th Semester/Term	
Humanities Advanced Interdisciplinary Course	4
Humanities Advanced Course	4
Core Course or General Elective	4
General Elective	4
Credits	16
6th Semester/Term	
Humanities Advanced Course	4
Humanities Advanced Course	4
General Elective	4
General Elective	4
Credits	16
7th Semester/Term	
Humanities Advanced Course	4
Humanities Advanced Course	4
HUMN-SHU 400A Humanities Capstone Seminar I	2
General Elective	4
General Elective	2
Credits	16
8th Semester/Term	
HUMN-SHU 401 Humanities Capstone Seminar	4
General Elective	4
General Elective	4
General Elective	4
Credits	16
Total Credits	128

NYU Shanghai Policies

Additional academic policies can be found on the NYU Shanghai Academic Policies page (<https://bulletins.nyu.edu/undergraduate/shanghai/academic-policies/>).

Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this program, students should be able to:

1. Produce powerful and plausible interpretations of sources.
2. Independently develop arguments.
3. Write papers that display sophisticated organization, clarity of expression, and strength of argument.
4. Read, interpret and analyze sources from multiple disciplinary perspectives, including for example literary, historical, philosophical and anthropological perspectives.
5. Evaluate the reach and limits of different types of evidence, for example quantitative evidence, photographic evidence, textual evidence, narrative evidence and artifactual evidence.
6. Formulate a research question, identify primary and secondary sources relevant to the question, construct a research strategy to address the question in light of the sources, and successfully carry out the research.
7. Independently conceive and execute an academic project, for example a research paper, at the scale of work expected in typical humanities graduate programs in a chosen discipline.

Policies

NYU Policies

University-wide policies can be found on the New York University Policy pages (<https://bulletins.nyu.edu/nyu/policies/>).