

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
<i>Interdisciplinary Perspectives on China (Two Courses)</i>		
<i>Writing</i>		
WRIT-SHU 102	Writing as Inquiry	4
WRIT-SHU 201	Perspectives on the Humanities	4
<i>Language</i>		
Language Courses		8-16

<i>Mathematics</i>		
Mathematics Course		4
<i>Algorithmic Thinking</i>		
<i>Algorithmic Thinking Course</i>		
Experimental Discovery in the Natural World Course		4
Science, Technology, and Society		4
Major Requirements		
<i>Foundation Courses</i>		8
Choose at least two of the following:		
ART-SHU 101	What is Art?	
HIST-SHU 101	What is History	
HIST-SHU 102	What is Art History?	
HUMN-SHU 101	What is Literature?	
HUMN-SHU 110	What is Science and Technology Studies?	
HUMN-SHU 112	What is Human Geography?	
PHIL-SHU 101	What is Philosophy?	
<i>Introductory Courses</i>		8
Choose at least two of the following:		
HIST-SHU 130	Arab-Islamic Influence on the West	
HIST-SHU 205	History of Modern Medicine	
HIST-SHU 310	The Birth of Psychology	
HUMN-SHU 180	Korean Culture and Society through K-pop	
HUMN-SHU 182	Contemporary East Asian Media Culture	
HUMN-SHU 183	Global Environmental History	
HUMN-SHU 205	French Cinema: The Birth of the Seventh Art	
HUMN-SHU 231	Making Sense of Contemporary Art	
HUMN-SHU 140	Magic and Realism in Latin American Fiction	
HUMN-SHU 160	Translation in Theory and Practice	
PHIL-SHU 70	Logic	
PHIL-SHU 80	Philosophy of Mind	
PHIL-SHU 107	Great Works in Philosophy	
PHIL-SHU 115	Ethics and Society	
<i>Advanced Courses</i>		20
Choose at least five of the following:		
ART-SHU 180	East Asian Art in the World	
GCHN-SHU 210	China Encounters the World	
HIST-SHU 158	Is That Art? The Rise of the Avant-Garde	
HIST-SHU 188	Empires in World History	
HIST-SHU 209	Witches, Magic and the Witch Hunts in the Atlantic World, 1400-1700	
HIST-SHU 265	The Emergence of the Modern Middle East and North Africa	

HIST-SHU 305	When Science Goes Wrong	HIST-SHU 188	Empires in World History	4
HUMN-SHU 190	Transnational Feminist Aesthetics and Politics	HIST-SHU 205	History of Modern Medicine	4
HUMN-SHU 280	Writing Empire	HIST-SHU 208	Europe's Long Twentieth Century	4
PHIL-SHU 110	Traditional Chinese Political and Legal Philosophy	HUMN-SHU 101	What is Literature?	4
PHIL-SHU 200	Topics in Epistemology:	HUMN-SHU 110	What is Science and Technology Studies?	4
PHIL-SHU 205	Metaphysics	HUMN-SHU 125	Paris, I love you / Paris, je t'aime: Literature, Culture and Society in la Belle Epoque	4
<i>Advanced Interdisciplinary Courses</i>		HUMN-SHU 135	The Global Experimental: Modernism and Beyond	4
Choose at least one of the following:		HUMN-SHU 140	Magic and Realism in Latin American Fiction	4
ART-SHU 222	Site and Situation: Public Art	HUMN-SHU 160	Translation in Theory and Practice	4
HIST-SHU 330	Popular Culture and the Scientific Revolution	HUMN-SHU 168	Penning the Self(ie): Orality, Literacy, Digitality, and the Literary Subject	4
HUMN-SHU 308	Legends & their Medieval Past: King Arthur, Robin Hood, Frodo Baggins, Daenerys Targaryen, and more	HUMN-SHU 180	Korean Culture and Society through K-pop	4
PHIL-SHU 91	Philosophy of Biology	HUMN-SHU 181	Gender and Sexuality in Modern Visual Culture	4
PHIL-SHU 130	Philosophy of Technology: Thinking Machines	HUMN-SHU 182	Contemporary East Asian Media Culture	4
<i>Capstone Sequence</i>		HUMN-SHU 183	Global Environmental History	4
HUMN-SHU 400A	Humanities Capstone Seminar I	HUMN-SHU 184	Urban Geography	4
HUMN-SHU 401	Humanities Capstone Seminar	HUMN-SHU 229	Masters of Asian Cinema	4
Other Elective Credits	38-46	HUMN-SHU 231	Making Sense of Contemporary Art	4
Total Credits	128	HUMN-SHU 250	Love and Hate in the Time of Dragons	4
		HUMN-SHU 284	Modern European Philosophy	4
		NEUR-SHU 132	Meaning	4
		PHIL-SHU 70	Logic	4
		PHIL-SHU 80	Philosophy of Mind	4
		PHIL-SHU 101	What is Philosophy?	4
		PHIL-SHU 105	Introduction to Chinese 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 220	Philosophy of Law	4
		SOCS-SHU 130	Introduction to Political Theory	4
		SOCS-SHU 245	Ethnographic Thinking	4

Other Humanities Introductory Courses

Code	Title	Credits
ART-SHU 101	What is Art?	4
ART-SHU 180	East Asian Art in the World	4
CRWR-SHU 159	Introduction to Creative Writing	4
GCHN-SHU 102	History of Modern China Since 1840	4
GCHN-SHU 110	The Concept of China	4
GCHN-SHU 111	Shanghai Stories	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 210	China Encounters the World	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	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 130	Arab-Islamic Influence on the West	4
HIST-SHU 150	Asian American History	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 157	A Global History of Mathematics	4

Other Humanities Advanced Courses

Code	Title	Credits
ART-SHU 222	Site and Situation: Public Art	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 123	Contemporary Chinese Political Thought	4
GCHN-SHU 145	Food in Chinese History	4
GCHN-SHU 205	Hong Kong Cinema	4
GCHN-SHU 233	Foreign Societies in Classical Chinese Writing	4
GCHN-SHU 247	Religion and Society in China: Ghosts, Gods, Buddhas and Ancestors.	4
GCHN-SHU 250	Geographies of China	4
GCHN-SHU 283	Reading and Viewing Modern China	4
GCHN-SHU 311	Global Connections: Shanghai	4
HIST-SHU 158	Is That Art? The Rise of the Avant-Garde	4
HIST-SHU 200	Topics in History:	4

HIST-SHU 209	Witches, Magic and the Witch Hunts in the Atlantic World, 1400-1700	4	ART-SHU 274	Chinese Woodblock Printmaking: A Socially Engaged Graphic Art Form	4
HIST-SHU 220	Chinese American History: From the California Gold Rush to the Cold War	4	ART-SHU 306	Moving Images I	4
HIST-SHU 225	The Global Space Age	4	Advanced Visual Arts Praxis Courses		
HIST-SHU 230	Life beyond Earth: Extraterrestrials since 1897	4	ART-SHU 320	Experiences in Time: The Art of Time-based Media	4
HIST-SHU 239	New York: History of the City and its People	4	ART-SHU 375	The Graphic Novel	4
HIST-SHU 265	The Emergence of the Modern Middle East and North Africa	4	ART-SHU 1911	Projects in Studio Art	2
HIST-SHU 280	The Two Koreas	4			
HIST-SHU 301	Material Culture: History You Can Touch	4			
HIST-SHU 303	Histories and Politics of Noise	4			
HIST-SHU 305	When Science Goes Wrong	4			
HIST-SHU 330	Popular Culture and the Scientific Revolution	4			
HUMN-SHU 190	Transnational Feminist Aesthetics and Politics	4			
HUMN-SHU 205	French Cinema: The Birth of the Seventh Art	4			
HUMN-SHU 212	Paper City: Examining Urban Bureaucracies Ethnographically	4			
HUMN-SHU 214	European Thought and Culture: 1750-1870	4			
HUMN-SHU 215	Excavating Deep Time: Literature and the Human Condition	4			
HUMN-SHU 235	In Conversation: Black and Chinese Artists	4			
HUMN-SHU 240	Gender, Sexuality, and Culture	4			
HUMN-SHU 280	Writing Empire	4			
HUMN-SHU 308	Legends & their Medieval Past: King Arthur, Robin Hood, Frodo Baggins, Daenerys Targaryen, and more	4			
INTM-SHU 194	Global Media Cultures	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 204	Metaphysics and Epistemology: Perception	4			
PHIL-SHU 205	Metaphysics	4			
PHIL-SHU 206	Epistemology and Perception	4			
PHIL-SHU 230	Philosophy of Physics	4			
PHIL-SHU 255	Habermas and Chinese Modernity	4			
PHIL-SHU 300	Kant	4			
SOCS-SHU 228	Merchants, Chiefs, and Spirits	4			
SOCS-SHU 254	Ethnographies of Change in China	4			

Visual Arts Praxis Courses

Please note that these courses do not fulfill Humanities major requirements as listed above.

Course	Title	Credits		Credits	
Visual Arts Praxis Foundational and Introductory Level Courses					
ART-SHU 103	Foundations in Visual Arts	4			
ART-SHU 105	Actions and Gestures - Embodied Media as Performance Art	2			
ART-SHU 211	Foundations in Painting: Painting in Practice and Theory	4			
ART-SHU 222	Site and Situation: Public Art	4			
ART-SHU 259					
8th Semester/Term					
	HUMN-SHU 401		Humanities Capstone Seminar		4
			General Elective		4
			General Elective		4

General Elective	4
Credits	16
Total Credits	128

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

1. 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>).

Humanities Policies

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. If you take more than one Advanced Interdisciplinary course, the first counts toward the Advanced Interdisciplinary requirement, and the remainder count toward the general Advanced course requirement.
4. Qualifying students may elect to complete a Creative Capstone in the Visual Arts. 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.

5. 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.

Prerequisite Courses for Declaring a Major

Final grade of C/ current semester midterm grade of B or higher in Global Perspectives on Society.

NYU Policies

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

NYU Shanghai Policies

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