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Graduate Program in Liberal Studies

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

A total of 10 courses is required to complete the program (30 credits):

- **2** interdisciplinary colloquia through which students are exposed to a variety of cultural developments in the history of western civilization (56:606:501, 511, 521, 531).
- **1** colloquium on either non-western cultures or issues pertaining to gender and minorities (56:606:541).
- **6** additional courses from among the following offerings:
 - at least 2 of the elective colloquia designed specifically for liberal studies students.
 - cross-listed colloquia offered by the graduate programs in Childhood Studies, English, History, Law, Psychology, and Public Policy (subject to approval by the directors of these programs)
 - up to two cross-listed undergraduate courses from a wide variety of liberal arts and science disciplines (in which graduate students will be expected to do extra work).
- **1** capstone course of independent study which will require a research paper on a topic of particular interest to the individual student (56:606:698, 690).



[Capstone course instructions](#)

[Graduation instructions](#)

GRADUATE LIBERAL STUDIES COURSES

56:606:501,502 Studies of the Ancient and Medieval Eras

The foundations of western thought in classical antiquity and the Middle Ages. Topics vary from term to term. Treatment of themes such as the individual and society in ancient Athens ; pagans and Christians before and after the fall of Rome ; cultures in conflict in the Near East .

56:606:511,512 Studies of the Early Modern Era

Cultural development between about 1500 and 1789. Topics vary from term to term. Focus on topics such as the Italian Renaissance, the world of William Shakespeare, the scientific revolution of the 17th century, and the French enlightenment of the 18th century.

56:606:521,522 Studies of the Age of Revolutions

Interrelationships between social and cultural development between the French Revolution and the First World War. Attention given to such phenomena as debates about industrialization, the social novel, and the depiction of urban society in the visual arts.

56:606:531,532 Studies of the 20th Century

Various aspects of the era that began with the outbreak of the First World War. Topics vary from term to term. Exploration of themes such as war and tyranny in literature, conflicting ideas about science and technology, and the rise of popular culture in Europe and America .

56:606:541,542 Studies of Cultural Diversity

Either in historical or contemporary perspective, treatment of issues pertaining to gender, race, or ethnicity within western societies or examination of various developments in one or more nonwestern societies.

56:606:601,602 Studies of Ideas

Examination of ideas about the natural world and the human conditions that are rooted in the past but still have enduring significance.

56:606:611,612 Studies of the Arts and Literature

Opportunity to explore a particular theme in the history of culture. Course may focus heavily on influential contemporary developments.

56:606:613,614 International Study Abroad

Short-term study trip abroad focusing on a literary figure or theme, some aspect of art or architecture, or a particular component of foreign language or culture.

56:606:621,622 Studies of Politics and Society

Exploration of one or more problems rooted in the past that continue to cause controversy in the present, such as nationalism, dictatorship, freedom, poverty, and health and illness.

56:606:631,632 Studies of Culture and Criticism

Exploration of some aspect of modern culture or the arts and the varieties of criticism exercised upon it.

56:606:641,642 Studies of Philosophy and Religion

Exploration of major philosophical and religious ideas from a variety of traditions, shedding light on different approaches to the meaning of human life and the ethical values that guide it. The social, cultural, and political roots and consequences of these ideas may also be considered.

56:606:689,690 Research in Liberal Studies

Independent study of a topic of special interest to the student, under the supervision of an adviser chosen in consultation with the program director. If this course is taken for one term, the project culminates in a paper about 20-25 pages in length. If the course is taken for two terms, a more substantial paper is required.

56:606:800 Matriculation Continued

Continuous registration may be accomplished by enrolling for at least 3 credits in standard course offerings, including research courses, or by enrolling in this course for 0 credits. Students actively engaged in study toward their degree who are using university facilities and faculty time are expected to enroll for the appropriate credits.

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