THE HUMANITIES COURSE OF STUDY

While other majors channel knowledge toward specialization in specific areas, the Department of Humanities’s successful interdisciplinary curriculum seeks out ways to put this knowledge to work in the service of the good and the good life.

Our curriculum identifies four fundamental questions at the heart of all human inquiry. Humanities majors participate in four Gateway seminars that address these fundamental questions:

**THE GATEWAY SEMINARS**

- **HUMAN PERSON:** What does it mean to be a human being?
- **SOCIETY:** How do I relate to my family, my friends, society, politics?
- **GOD:** Is there a God and what difference does it make if there is?
- **WORLD:** What can I know about the world I inhabit and my place in it?

These Gateway seminars anchor the curriculum. Our electives revisit the Gateway conversations, as faculty draw on the resources of their specific disciplines to deepen and extend the inquiry. Fiction, verse, art and architecture, philosophy, theology, politics, economics and history provide worlds of wisdom for students and faculty to explore together.

WHAT'S REQUIRED?

**THE HUMANITIES MAJOR REQUIRE 10 COURSES:**
1. 4 Gateway Courses
2. 5 Electives, 3 within Humanities
3. Senior Symposium

**THE HUMANITIES MINOR REQUIRE 5 COURSES:**
1. 2 Gateway Courses
2. 3 Electives, 2 within Humanities

WHERE THE QUESTIONS THAT MATTER REALLY MATTER

- **Goods and the Good Life**
- **Lewis, Tolkien, and Inklings**
- **Forgiveness: Personal and Political**
- **Architecture and Religion in America**
- **Development of Capitalism**
- **Catholic Novel**
- **Dostoevsky’s Brothers Karamazov**
- **Dante and Theology**
- **Jews, Christians, and Muslims**
- **Return of the Real**
- **Vocation of the Child**
- **Poetry of Meditation**
- **Thomas Aquinas in the Modern World**
- **Romantic Revolutions**

WHAT'S OFFERED?

Courses that will help you to answer the questions that really matter.

SEEKING A COMPLETE EDUCATION

HUMANITIES FACULTY

- Mark G. Shiffman, PhD, Chair, Department of Humanities
- Jesse Couenhoven, PhD, Moral Theology/Ethics
- Margaret M. Grubiak, PhD, Architectural History
- Mary Hirschfeld, PhD, Economics & Theology
- Eugene McCarraher, PhD, History
- Anna B. Moreland, PhD, Theology
- Thomas W. Smith, PhD, Director, Honors Program
- Michael Tomko, PhD, Literature
- James M. Wilson, PhD, Literature

OUR GRADUATES

Nourished by an education in the Department of Humanities, our alumni pursue their passions in diverse and exciting ways. Here are a sampling of their careers and accomplishments:

- Fulbright Fellows in Denmark, India, and Korea
- Law schools at Boston College, Northeastern University, Seton Hall University, University of Pennsylvania, Notre Dame, and University in India
- Government service at the Department of Health and Human Services
- Teaching at the preschool, elementary, and high-school levels
- Farming in Vermont
- Medical residency at hospitals including Akron (Ohio) General Hospital, Temple University, and University of Pennsylvania
- Service and charitable work for Catholic Relief Services, Augustinian Volunteers, and the Jesuit Volunteer Corps
- PhD programs in theology, philosophy, and anthropology at the University of Virginia, Fordham University, New School for Social Research, Indiana University, and Boston College
- MA programs in history, social work, theology, and clinical mental health counseling at Boston College, Duquesne University, Loyola University (Chicago), Villanova University, and Pontifical John Paul II Institute, Washington, DC

CAN I FIT IT IN?

Yes! Humanities classes can fulfill a range of Core and Diversity Requirements. For many of our students, the interdisciplinary nature of the Department provides an unique opportunity to walk through the Core while making our a Second Major or Minor in Humanities, often opening up opportunities for study abroad. Core classes taken in Humanities also offer a valuable and distinctive counterpart to pre-professional study—people to be ready for your career without losing track of the big questions that you need to ask about your life.
Welcome to the Department of Humanities

For more than a decade the Department of Humanities has offered students at Villanova an innovative curriculum that seeks to explore the most important questions of human life. Through an integrated series of courses, we ask the big questions about the meaning of life and the reality of goodness, truth, and beauty in our world, seeking answers that accord with faith and reason. Our curriculum focuses on concrete questions that matter in living a good life, and we enlist the great minds of the ancient, medieval, and modern world to help us in this endeavor. Humanities faculty are specialists in complementary disciplines, including theology, philosophy, political science, economics, history, literature, and architectural history. Together they have crafted intersecting classes that equip students to debate, analyze, and discern how best to live a deeply human life.

Who We Are

The Department of Humanities is a community of students and faculty dedicated to a shared exploration of the human condition. From the time that we offer in the Department of Humanities exists to give you the intellectual tools that will help you to answer the great questions about the meaning of life. We offer vibrant seminar-style classes and conversations in our comfy lounge, so that you and your classmates will grow in friendship, in intellectual curiosity, and in the skills of spoken argument, written analysis, and personal discernment. We believe that what you study with us will stay with you, not just until you graduate, but for a lifetime.

Learn to Live with Those Who Live to Learn

Seeking Truth and Discovering Beauty

Villanova University

www.humanities.villanova.edu