

HUMANITIES FACULTY

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Political Philosophy

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Literature

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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 OFFERED?

COURSES THAT WILL HELP YOU TO ANSWER THE QUESTIONS THAT REALLY MATTER.

In addition to the Gateway seminars on the Human Person, Society, God, and World, here are a few of the Electives we have offered in recent semesters:

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

SEEKING A COMPLETE EDUCATION

WHAT'S REQUIRED?

THE HUMANITIES MAJOR REQUIRES 10 COURSES:

4 Gateway Courses

5 Electives, 3 within Humanities

Senior Symposium

THE HUMANITIES MINOR REQUIRES 5 COURSES:

2 Gateway Courses

3 Electives, 2 within Humanities



CAN I FIT IT IN?

Yes! Humanities classes can fulfill a range of Core and Diversity Requirements. For many of our students, the interdisciplinarity of the department provides a unique opportunity to walk through the Core while working on a Second Major or Minor in Humanities, often opening up opportunities for study abroad.

Cross-college Majors and Minors also offer a valuable and distinctive counterpart to pre-professional study—a great way to be ready for your career without losing track of the big questions that you need to ask about your life.

WHERE THE QUESTIONS THAT MATTER REALLY MATTER



OUR GRADUATES

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

Fulbright Fellows in Denmark, India, and Korea

Law schools at Boston College, Northwestern University, Seton Hall University, University of Pennsylvania, University of Notre Dame, and University of Virginia

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, Dartmouth College, Loyola University (Chicago), Villanova University, and Pontifical John Paul II Institute, Washington, DC

WHO WE ARE

The Department of Humanities is a community of students and faculty dedicated to a shared exploration of the human condition. Every class 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.

Between our vibrant seminar-style classes and conversations in our comfy lounge, we will get to know you and help you to advance 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



DEPARTMENT OF HUMANITIES

SEEKING TRUTH AND DISCOVERING BEAUTY



VILLANOVA
UNIVERSITY

College of Liberal Arts
and Sciences

www.humanities.villanova.edu

HUMANITIES

noun, plural | hu·man·i·ties | \hyü·'ma·nə·tēz\

1. The study of
 - a. God
 - b. World
 - c. Society
 - d. Human Person
 - Σ. You

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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.

ASKING THE QUESTIONS
THAT ANSWER YOUR LIFE

