Institute of Humanities
3041 Batten Arts and Letters
757-683-3821

Master of Arts - Humanities
Avi Santo, Graduate Program Director

The Institute of Humanities at Old Dominion University offers a Master of Arts in Humanities in the College of Arts and Letters. The program, which promotes interdisciplinary studies with an emphasis on critical theory and cultural studies, allows students to pursue individualized programs of study that incorporate classes from across departments within the college. Students in the program are encouraged to develop their curricular and extra-curricular activities around one of two thematic anchors: the digital humanities and/or humanities in the Hampton Roads. Each student works closely with the program director to create an appropriate program of study.

Admission
The Humanities master’s program is open to all qualified holders of a B.A. or B.S. and is designed for full-time or part time students, who have recently completed their bachelor’s degree, as well as nontraditional or adult students. Although admission is selective, the Humanities program recognizes that each individual has unique qualifications that should be taken into consideration.

In addition to meeting general University requirements, an applicant must have an undergraduate average of 3.25 overall, as well as 24 hours in liberal arts disciplines. All students seeking admission to the humanities program are required to submit recent GRE scores. Although admission is selective, the University recognizes that each individual possesses unique qualifications that will be taken into consideration. An essay of 500 words must be submitted with the application material. The essay should

1. Propose a general program of study
2. Discuss personal, intellectual, and professional goals
3. Explain the relationship of those goals to the intended program of study

All application inquiries should be made to the Office of Admissions.

Requirements
Once students gain admission to the program, they may pursue the 36-hour thesis option or the non-thesis option. All students must take HUM 601, HUM 602, HUM 603, HUM 604, and HUM 692. Thesis students enroll in HUM 698 or HUM 699; non-Thesis students enroll in HUM 693. Students may only take 12 hours at the 500 level. Students are required to complete their graduate work within a 6-year period.

Curriculum
All students must take the following five required courses. These courses provide an introduction to humanities research, critical theory (601) and methods (602), ongoing debates about the future of the humanities in a digital era (604), introduce students to interdisciplinary research and teaching (603), and serve as a foundation for each student’s individualized program of study. HUM 692 prepares students for their final project.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HUM 601</td>
<td>Introduction to the Humanities</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>HUM 602</td>
<td>Theory and Methods in Humanities</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>HUM 603</td>
<td>Preparing Humanities Teachers &amp; Scholars Pro-seminar</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>HUM 604</td>
<td>Debates in the Digital Humanities</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>HUM 692</td>
<td>Humanities Thesis and Non-Thesis Preparation</td>
<td>3</td>
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</tbody>
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Total Hours 15

Thesis Option
Students pursuing the thesis option must take HUM 698-HUM 699 (thesis, six hours). The thesis is to be based on original scholarly research and should reflect the interdisciplinary nature of the humanities degree. Each student will choose a faculty advisor who will chair a thesis committee appointed by the director of the Humanities Institute. The thesis committee will direct and evaluate the student’s work and consists of faculty members from at least two different Arts and Letters disciplines. Upon completion of the thesis, the committee will conduct an oral examination and student defense of the thesis. A formal written statement explaining and justifying the project must be submitted by the student before the oral examination.

Non-thesis Option
Students selecting the non-thesis option must take the capstone seminar, HUM 693. Students have the option of creating a theoretically informed final project instead of a traditional thesis. Individual projects must be approved by the program director, but can include creative works, art installations, film and video, interactive and born-digital works, as well as other forms of community engagement.

M.A. Emphasis Areas
The Master of Arts in Humanities is interdisciplinary in focus. Choosing from more than 70 graduate-level courses offered through various departments of the College of Arts and Letters each semester, students may select their own emphasis and design a program in order to meet their own intellectual and professional objectives, or they may select a pre-approved concentration with a more structured program of study. Students will work closely with the program director to design a coherent program of study that encourages critical thinking, individual vision and dynamic scholarship.

Together, the student and program director design an emphasis area that is comprised of courses from across the disciplines and fields in the College of Arts and Letters. These include art history, linguistics, literature, foreign languages and cultures, history, international studies, music, philosophy, political studies, geography, sociology, anthropology, communication, film studies, and women’s/gender studies.

Focalization Areas
The Institute is currently developing strength areas in the digital humanities and humanities in the Hampton Roads, around which we hope to generate grant funded collaborations and graduate student resources. These areas are also intended to serve as thematic anchors that students carry with them across their individualized and interdisciplinary course of study, proving grounded opportunities for students to develop coherent programs of study within the Institute’s flexible curriculum. These areas of focalization also provide opportunity for students taking varied courses to form community.

Visual Studies Concentration
The Master of Arts in Humanities –Visual Studies Concentration emphasizes interdisciplinary studies, and allows students to pursue individualized programs of study. In addition to the core courses in the Humanities and one core course in Art (Visual Arts Across Media and Time), a curriculum comprised of studies in Art Education, Art History, Studio Art can be combined with courses in other disciplines housed in the College of Arts and Letters. These include Communication, English, Philosophy, History, Foreign Languages, Music and Performing Arts, Women’s Studies, Sociology, Geography, Political Science, and International Studies.

At the center of the Visual Studies Concentration course of study is the required Visual Arts Across Media and Time seminar course. This course is an introduction to and overview of creative, curricular, and research activities in contemporary art, design, art education, and art history. Through lectures, readings, Students will gain an overview of creative theory and practice in contemporary art, design, art education, and art history. Through written research assignments they will gain critical and analytical skills that will broaden their concepts about art and culture. Through class studio projects, they will acquire an immediate awareness of, and experience in, creative process production while enhancing their hands-on artistic skills. The overview of the different disciplines (Art Education, Art History, and Studio Art) will guide students to selecting their own research direction in the Visual Studies track, discussion, and creative work, students will engage with ideas and artwork across a broad spectrum of contemporary art education, process, investigation, and production. Faculty lecturers representing different areas in the art programs (Art Education, Art History,
Art Studio) will provide insights into theory and practice in their disciplines. Lectures and readings will introduce significant concepts, figures, and works in the respective fields. Through creative written and studio projects, students will explore research activities and develop their personal skills.

The degree requires 36-hours in Thesis and Non-Thesis (Project) options. Those who intend to pursue teaching positions at the Community College or 4-year College/University level must complete at least 18 hours in the intended discipline.

Admission Requirements

**Studio Art**

For those intending to pursue studies in studio art, the submission of a portfolio of five examples of the applicant’s work in the area of intended concentration (Fine Arts, Prints, Graphic Design) is required.

**Art History**

For those intending to pursue studies in art history, the submission of a writing sample is required. The writing sample should demonstrate your ability to research and write a scholarly paper on a topic in Art History. The paper should be no more than ten pages in length and must be fully referenced according to a professional, scholarly style manual.

**Women’s Studies Certificate**

A Women’s Studies Certificate is available to graduate students through the Institute of Humanities (in association with the women’s studies program) upon completion of the following 15-hour program of course work:

| WMST 560 Feminist Theory                      | 3 |
| WMST 570 Feminist Research Methods           | 3 |
| At least 9 additional credits in 500 or 600-level courses | 9 |
| **Total Hours**                               | 15 |

* Courses approved for the women’s studies curriculum and drawn from various disciplines (such as English, history, political science and geography, foreign languages, art history, women’s studies, etc.). No more than six of these credits may be taken in any one field. At least one of the courses chosen must be on the 600 level.

Only students who hold a B.A. or B.S. degree with an overall GPA of 2.80 may apply for the graduate women’s studies certificate. Students must maintain a 3.00 grade point average in the 15 graduate credits needed for the certificate. The women’s studies certificate may be undertaken independently or in combination with a graduate degree in humanities (or in combination with another graduate degree). Students wishing to pursue the certificate through the Institute of Humanities must gain admission to the humanities graduate program before the completion of nine graduate hours and must satisfy all of the admission requirements for the program including the GRE.

The director of the women’s studies program or a designee will serve as advisor for students who gain admission to the humanities program only for the purpose of pursuing the graduate women’s studies certificate. Students pursuing the certificate in combination with a graduate degree in the humanities will have their progress monitored by both a women’s studies advisor and the director of the Institute of Humanities.

**Accelerated Programs**

The Institute of Humanities offers several BA/BS-MA accelerated degree programs, through which ODU undergraduate students can apply classes toward an MA in the Humanities and obtain a graduate degree within one additional year of study.

Current accelerated degree programs include:

- Communication
- Cultural Geography
- Philosophy
- Visual Studies

For additional information please contact the Institute of Humanities at: http://al.odu.edu/hum/.