

Designation of Courses to be Considered for Inclusion in Humanities Breadth Category (BHUM)

Content/Subject Matter

Humanities courses examine how humans organize, understand, and communicate their experiences. Courses in the Humanities involve study of the cultural and intellectual expression of the constructs that humans use to shape individual and societal beliefs and values. Fundamental questions confronted by all humans, such as those pertaining to the meaning of life, the definition of justice, the nature of the divine, the formation of emotional bonds, and many other topics that relate to the human condition are addressed. A multiplicity of perspectives underlying responses to such questions are examined through literature, history, philosophy, and other modes of inquiry.

Methodology

Humanities courses examine human expression of beliefs and values through analysis and discussion of written and visual texts, cultural products, and oral arguments. In such courses, analytical, interpretive, or comparative perspectives are used. Ethical, emotional, and value-based approaches to interpreting the expression of human beliefs and values may be explored, as well as evidence-based approaches.

Course Goals

- perspectives of the human experience and systems of knowledge at individual or social levels;
- an appreciation of the diverse ways in which ideas and perspectives are formulated and values are established;
- an ability to analyze, integrate, and communicate aspects of the human experience including the thought processes, mental and emotional states, and perspectives used by themselves and others to shape expression of belief and value.