

# HUMANITIES

## GENERAL EDUCATION SEQUENCES

All first-year students take a Humanities sequence that engages them in the pleasure and challenge of humanistic works through the close reading of literary, historical, and philosophical texts. These are not survey courses; rather, they work to establish methods for appreciating and analyzing the meaning and power of exemplary texts. The class discussions and the writing assignments are based on textual analysis. In combination with these courses, students are required to take a zero-unit seminar (HUMA 19100 Humanities Writing Seminars) that introduces the analysis and practice of expert academic writing.

All HUMA 10000-level sequences that meet general education requirements, listed below, are available as either a two-quarter sequence (Autumn, Winter) or as a three-quarter sequence (Autumn, Winter, Spring). Once students begin a sequence, they are expected to remain in the same sequence. Students are expected to complete this foundational requirement in their first year. NOTE: Students registered in any of the sequences below must attend the first and second class sessions or their registration will be dropped.

The sequences that fulfill the general education requirements in Humanities are listed here. Descriptions of individual courses are below.

HUMA 11000-11100-11200	Readings in World Literature I-II-III	300
HUMA 11500-11600-11700	Philosophical Perspectives I-II-III	300
HUMA 12050-12150-12250	Greece and Rome: Texts, Traditions, Transformations I-II-III	300
HUMA 12300-12400-12500	Human Being and Citizen I-II-III	300
HUMA 13500-13600-13700	Introduction to the Humanities I-II-III	300
HUMA 14000-14100-14200	Reading Cultures: Collection, Travel, Exchange I-II-III	300
HUMA 16000-16100-16200	Media Aesthetics: Image, Text, Sound I-II-III	300
HUMA 17000-17100-17200	Language and the Human I-II-III	300
HUMA 18000-18100-18200	Poetry and the Human I-II-III	300

For students preparing for medical school: A three-quarter sequence in Humanities is recommended. Those able to complete only a two-quarter sequence in their first year should plan to take a writing-intensive English Language and Literature course when their schedule allows. This English course, however, cannot be applied to the general education requirement in the humanities.

### Course Descriptions for General Education Sequences

#### **HUMA 10000. The Common Room: living and learning together. 000 Units.**

College is a time for community building - forming lasting friendships, participating in the academic community, determining communities one will serve or professional communities one will participate in. Living and learning in community is, in fact, at the heart of the liberal arts tradition and central to the mission of the University of Chicago's undergraduate college. But how does one participate in this unique space well? How do we choose friends and what role might they play in our lives? How does one learn to listen carefully to the views and experiences of others? How do we determine what communities we wish to serve? These are some of the questions we will engage with together through a mix of seminar discussions, guided conversation, and reflection. In addition to the formal seminar meetings, we will enjoy a set number of shared meals together, as well as with faculty and staff guests from across the university. Requirements include attendance at each session and dinner, as well as the completion of brief weekly exercises.

Instructor(s): Andrew Karas Terms Offered: Winter

#### **HUMA 10001. Undergraduate Research: What, Why, and How. 000 Units.**

Faculty-mentored research experiences can complement and deepen academic work done in the classroom, nurture mentoring relationships, and prepare students for national and international fellowships, graduate study, and diverse careers-but where do you start? This course introduces the basics of undergraduate research. We will discover what the practice of research entails in different fields, discuss why undergraduates might choose to get involved in research, and practice foundational skills and literacies that are essential for any undergraduate researcher. Presenters include staff from the College Center for Research and Fellowships (CCRF) and the University Library, as well as current undergraduate researchers and faculty members. Topics include navigating the library's vast array of physical and digital resources; working with archives and special collections; managing, analyzing, and sharing data; ethical conduct of research; writing research proposals; and sharing your research. We will also think together about the role research experiences might play in your UChicago education and how to decide whether research is right for you. Together we will demystify the world of research, understand how research experiences can align with broader academic and vocational goals, and take practical steps to prepare for involvement in research. Requirements include attendance at each session and completion of brief weekly exercises. This series is designed to complement our Spring Quarter sequence, which provides the opportunity to reflect deeply and holistically on the purpose and structure of your UChicago education and its components, including research.

Terms Offered: Spring

**HUMA 11000-11100-11200. Readings in World Literature I-II-III.**

This Humanities general education sequence examines the relationship between the individual and society in a rich, diverse, and exciting selection of literary texts from across the globe and from the earliest literary text to today. We address the challenges faced by readers confronting foreign literatures, reading across time and cultures, and reading texts in translation.

**HUMA 11000. Readings in World Literature I. 100 Units.**

The theme for the Autumn Quarter of Readings in World Literature is "The Epic". Beginning with the oldest extant literary text known to mankind, The Epic of Gilgamesh, and moving on to India's national epic The Mahabharata as well as The Odyssey, we study epic texts that are central to the literary and cultural traditions of various regions and peoples of the world. As an introduction to the study of the Humanities, this course will help you develop your skills in textual analysis, independent critical thinking, and expository writing. As a course on literature, it will pay particular attention to issues such as narrative structure, verse form, performativity and poetic devices, but also to the question of how literature might matter for our lives here and now. As a course that aims to address world literatures, this class will focus on ways in which texts from different cultural backgrounds articulate the cultural values, existential anxieties, and power structures of the societies that produced them.

Instructor(s): Staff Terms Offered: Autumn

Note(s): These courses must be taken in sequence. Students registered in this sequence must attend the first and second class sessions or their registration will be dropped.

**HUMA 11100. Readings in World Literature II. 100 Units.**

The theme for the Winter Quarter of Readings in World Literature is "Autobiography/ Writing the Self." This course examines the nature of autobiographical writing from a wide range of cultural and historical contexts, including texts such as Augustine's Confessions, Sei Shonagon's The Pillow Book, Vladimir Nabokov's Speak Memory, Wole Soyinka's Aké and Alison Bechdel's graphic memoir Fun Home. While last quarter focused on the genre of the epic-texts that imagine and even create a people's sense of a shared past and a shared culture-this quarter will focus on how individuals imagine their own, particular lives. We will explore, among other issues, how the self is constructed through reading and writing, the relationship between memory and identity, the claims of authenticity or truth, the oscillation between interior and exterior life, and the peculiarities of individual voice.

Instructor(s): Staff Terms Offered: Winter

Prerequisite(s): HUMA 11000

Note(s): These courses must be taken in sequence.

**HUMA 11200. Readings in World Literature III. 100 Units.**

Students wishing to take the third quarter of the Readings in World Literature sequence will be able to choose from a selection of different topics that varies slightly from year to year, such as "Gender and Literature," "Crime Fiction and Murder Mysteries," "Reading the Middle Ages: Europe and Asia," "Colonial Fictions: Novel of Exoticisms, Adventure, and East and West", "Masterpieces of Poetry," "The Nobel Prize in Literature," or "Fictions of the Modern City".

Instructor(s): Staff Terms Offered: Spring

Prerequisite(s): HUMA 11100

Note(s): These courses must be taken in sequence.

**HUMA 11500-11600-11700. Philosophical Perspectives I-II-III.**

This sequence considers philosophy in two lights: as an ongoing series of arguments addressed to certain fundamental questions about the place of human beings in the world and as a historically situated discipline interacting with and responding to developments in other areas of thought and culture. Readings tend to divide between works of philosophy and contemporaneous works of literature, but they may also include texts of scientific, religious, or legal practice.

**HUMA 11500. Philosophical Perspectives I. 100 Units.**

In Autumn Quarter, we examine fundamental ethical issues--about virtue, the good life, and the role of the individual in society--in the works of ancient Greek writers as well as 20th-century writers in conversation with them. Texts are drawn from Plato, Aristotle, the Greek tragedians, Martin Luther King and others.

Instructor(s): Staff Terms Offered: Autumn

Note(s): These courses must be taken in sequence. Students registered in this sequence must attend the first and second class sessions or their registration will be dropped.

**HUMA 11600. Philosophical Perspectives II. 100 Units.**

Winter Quarter explores metaphysical and epistemological questions as they confronted participants and spectators of the 'scientific revolution'. Problems of skepticism, self-understanding and the social status of knowledge are at the fore. Authors tend to include Descartes, Newton, Voltaire, and Mary Shelley, among others.

Instructor(s): Staff Terms Offered: Winter

Prerequisite(s): HUMA 11500

Note(s): These courses must be taken in sequence.

**HUMA 11700. Philosophical Perspectives III. 100 Units.**

In Spring Quarter we explore the constitution of agency and personal morality from the vantage point of Enlightenment and post-Enlightenment philosophy and novels. Authors include Hume, Kant, Nietzsche and Jane Austen.

Instructor(s): Staff Terms Offered: Spring

Prerequisite(s): HUMA 11600

Note(s): These courses must be taken in sequence.

**HUMA 12050-12150-12250. Greece and Rome: Texts, Traditions, Transformations I-II-III.**

In this sequence, students learn about the three poetic genres that Aristotle thought most important: epic, tragedy, and comedy—how they were invented by the Greeks and how they were then adapted and reinvented many times, first by the Romans and then by subsequent poets and playwrights from the Renaissance to modern times. Autumn Quarter is devoted to epic poetry, beginning with the Iliad and ending with Paradise Lost; in Winter Quarter we read a different tragic play each week, beginning with Aeschylus and ending with dramatists like Shakespeare and Racine; and in the Spring Quarter we turn to comedy, starting with Aristophanes and Plautus, and ending with comic playwrights like Shakespeare, Moliere, or Kleist.

**HUMA 12050. Greece and Rome: Texts, Traditions, Transformations I. 100 Units.**

In the Autumn quarter of the sequence, we will examine the epic tradition as it is received - and transformed - in Homer, Vergil, and Milton. Each poem explores the relationship between war and social order, the breakdown and possibility of restoration in the wake of disruption. Each poem also transforms the terms set in the prior readings without leaving their framework entirely behind. We will ask how the hero or paradigmatic individual lives, loves, suffers, and recovers (or not) in relation to others and how the craft of poetry participates in shaping a world for the contemporary audience as well as for the readership of posterity.

Instructor(s): Staff Terms Offered: Autumn

Note(s): These courses must be taken in sequence. Students registered in this sequence must attend the first and second class sessions or their registration will be dropped.

**HUMA 12150. Greece and Rome: Texts, Traditions, Transformations II. 100 Units.**

The Winter Quarter focuses on how tragedy and history confront familial, social, and external conflict in different genres. Readings cover Aeschylus' "Oresteia," selections from the histories of Herodotus, Livy, and Tacitus, tragedies by Seneca, and several of Shakespeare's history plays.

Instructor(s): Staff Terms Offered: Winter

Prerequisite(s): HUMA 12050

Note(s): These courses must be taken in sequence.

**HUMA 12250. Greece and Rome: Texts, Traditions, Transformations III. 100 Units.**

Spring Quarter alternates between comedy as a vehicle for negotiating social norms and the subject of love in philosophical and literary perspectives. In comedy years, social integration is treated with a lighter touch than in Autumn and Winter Quarters, through the texts of Aristophanes, Plautus, and Shakespeare. In the alternate years, love is explored through the philosophical texts of Plato's Symposium and Lucretius' The Way Things Are, as well as works of Shakespeare and Shelley's Frankenstein.

Instructor(s): Staff Terms Offered: Spring

Prerequisite(s): HUMA 12150

Note(s): These courses must be taken in sequence.

**HUMA 12300-12400-12500. Human Being and Citizen I-II-III.**

Human Being and Citizen explores the needs and aspirations that draw human beings together in formal and informal communities and the problems that we encounter as social animals in the pursuit of human flourishing. We investigate matters of justice, the law, and leadership, and consider these together with modes of human interaction from contractual relations to friendship and kinship ties in both their legislative and affective dimensions (especially love, anger, shame, grief, and faith). We think about the role of divinity (from Greek mythology to modern Christianity) in shaping the ways our texts conceive of these topics, and we consider ideas about the formation of the self. Our readings are predominantly drawn from the western tradition—Homer, Plato, Aristotle, Augustine, Dante, Shakespeare, Kant, among others—and these canonical texts do not go unquestioned. Rather, by entering into conversation with one another, they provide the intellectual resources for an inquiry that leads ultimately into an exploration of contemporary questions of rights, representation, and belonging.

**HUMA 12300. Human Being and Citizen I. 100 Units.**

The autumn quarter explores the ways that Ancient Greek and the Abrahamic text of Genesis conceive of, express ideals about, and articulate tensions in conceptions and practices of justice, human and divine law, and emotion. We examine the ways these conceptions figure in literary, philosophical and religious texts concerned with rupture and continuity in the social order. We consider the ways human beings come together in groups (families, cities, armies, but also beliefs and aspirations) and strive to understand what binds these groups as structures of meaning-making and social practice. Texts include Homer's Iliad, the book of Genesis, Plato's Apology and Laches, and Sophocles' Antigone.

Instructor(s): Staff Terms Offered: Autumn

Note(s): These courses must be taken in sequence. Students registered in this sequence must attend the first and second class sessions or their registration will be dropped.

**HUMA 12400. Human Being and Citizen II. 100 Units.**

In the winter quarter, we examine conceptions of the human good in connection with practices of the self as they pertain to virtue, the social order, spiritual beliefs and practices, and community. We ask what constitutes human flourishing and explore relations and tensions between individual self-formation and the social and political good. Texts include Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics*, Augustine's *Confessions*, and Dante's *Inferno*.

Instructor(s): Staff Terms Offered: Winter

Prerequisite(s): HUMA 12300

Note(s): These courses must be taken in sequence.

**HUMA 12500. Human Being and Citizen III. 100 Units.**

The spring quarter addresses matters of community, law, freedom, morality, and ideology in a (broadly speaking) modern idiom of citizenship and its attendant idea of the human being as a rights-bearing subject. We ask what (whether culture, religion, reason itself) might ground our moral judgments, and what the limits and freedoms are of thinking the human being as a subject accorded rights through instruments of philosophical or political law. Resourced by our autumn and winter texts, we consider the impact of thinking matters of race, ethnicity, and gender through a modern lens and how these considerations both challenge and draw on the past. Texts include Shakespeare's *The Tempest*, Kant's *Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals*, and Baldwin's *No Name in the Street*.

Instructor(s): Staff Terms Offered: Spring

Prerequisite(s): HUMA 12400

Note(s): These courses must be taken in sequence.

**HUMA 13500-13600-13700. Introduction to the Humanities I-II-III.**

This sequence emphasizes writing, both as an object of study and as a practice. As we study the texts of the course, we pay special attention to questions about how they function as instances of writing: How does the writing of a text shape the way that we understand it? How does writing shape our sense of what we are doing in the humanities? Such questions about writing will lead to similar questions about language in general: How is our understanding shaped by the language we use? In the Autumn Quarter, we'll ask these questions within classical and familiar norms for using language to argue, to analyze, to be accurate, to be logical, and so on. In Winter and Spring Quarters, we'll move to challenges, and radical criticisms, of these familiar ideas. As to practice: The writing workload of the course is significant. Students will write at least one writing assignment each week, and we discuss these assignments in small writing workshops. This is not a course in remedial writing; rather it is a course for students who are particularly interested in writing or who want to become particularly proficient writers. Readings for the course are selected not thematically or chronologically, but to serve the focus on writing.

**HUMA 13500. Introduction to the Humanities I. 100 Units.**

In the Autumn Quarter, we read two of Plato's *Dialogues*, the Declaration of Independence, selections from Thucydides' *History of the Peloponnesian War*, and a Shakespeare play.

Instructor(s): Staff Terms Offered: Autumn. Sequence not offered every year.

Note(s): These courses must be taken in sequence. Students registered in this sequence must attend the first and second class sessions or their registration will be dropped.

**HUMA 13600. Introduction to the Humanities II. 100 Units.**

In the Winter Quarter, we read Descartes' *Meditations*, Conrad's *Heart of Darkness*, further selections from Thucydides' *History*, Woolf's *The Waves*, and Nietzsche's *Beyond Good and Evil*.

Instructor(s): Staff Terms Offered: Winter. Sequence not offered every year.

Prerequisite(s): HUMA 13500

Note(s): These courses must be taken in sequence.

**HUMA 13700. Introduction to the Humanities III. 100 Units.**

In the Spring Quarter, we read Plato's *Phaedrus* with Derrida's "Pharmakon," Harriet Jacobs's *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*, still more selections from Thucydides' *History*, an experimental feminist essay, and a graphic novel, perhaps Alison Bechdel's *Fun Home* or Chris Ware's *Building Stories*.

Instructor(s): Staff Terms Offered: Spring. Sequence not offered every year.

Prerequisite(s): HUMA 13600

Note(s): These courses must be taken in sequence.

**HUMA 14000-14100-14200. Reading Cultures: Collection, Travel, Exchange I-II-III.**

This sequence introduces students to the critical analysis of culture, principally through the interpretation of literary works drawn from a wide variety of traditions and periods, ranging from Homeric epic to folktale to the contemporary novel. Our overarching goal is to study the specific kinds of questions that literature and narrative make possible to ask about a cultural or historical moment—in other words, to think about how literary texts can variously express, differ from, or even critique the cultural situations out of which they emerge. To this end, students in this sequence will cultivate skills in textual interpretation and narrative analysis, while also learning how to formulate broad critical questions concerning the relationship of literary works to the worlds they inhabit

as well as regarding the meaning and definition of culture more generally. Each quarter of the sequence considers a theme or concept that is central to the analysis of culture: collection and accumulation, in the Autumn; mobility, movement, and travel in Winter; and exchange in Spring. Works considered in the Autumn include Zora Neale Hurston's *Mules and Men*, Ovid's *Metamorphoses*, and T. S. Eliot's *The Waste Land*; in the Winter, Homer's *Odyssey*, Harriet Jacobs's *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*, and Tomás Rivera's *And the Earth Did Not Devour Him*; and Richard Wright's *Native Son*, Honoré de Balzac's *Le Père Goriot*, and Xiao Hong's *The Field of Life and Death in the Spring*.

**HUMA 14000. Reading Cultures: Collection, Travel, Exchange I. 100 Units.**

The Autumn Quarter of Reading Cultures is devoted to the analysis of "collection" as a form of cultural activity. Reading texts such as Ovid's *Metamorphoses*, *The Arabian Nights*, and Zora Neale Hurston's *Mules and Men* that offer collections of stories in lieu of a single tale, we consider the extent to which culture comes into being through the accumulation, assemblage and transmission of narratives. In other words, students in this quarter learn how to think about narrative and storytelling in terms of the production, organization and control of culture. Who gets to collect and to tell the stories of a culture, we ask, and what difference does their identity make to cultural representation?

Instructor(s): Staff Terms Offered: Autumn

Note(s): These courses must be taken in sequence. Students registered in this sequence must attend the first and second class sessions or their registration will be dropped.

**HUMA 14100. Reading Cultures: Collection, Travel, Exchange II. 100 Units.**

The Winter Quarter of Reading Cultures considers the centrality of movement, migration and travel to the study of culture. Turning to texts such as Harriet Jacobs's *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*, Jamaica Kincaid's *A Small Place* and Tomás Rivera's *And the Earth Did Not Devour Him*, we ask how cultures have retained their coherence, historically, under conditions of migration, diaspora and violent or enforced movement. We also consider the ways that cultures themselves travel and change, and analyze the ways that language and narrative function as mediums of cultural movement and transmission.

Instructor(s): Staff Terms Offered: Winter

Prerequisite(s): HUMA 14000

Note(s): These courses must be taken in sequence.

**HUMA 14200. Reading Cultures: Collection, Travel, Exchange III. 100 Units.**

The Spring Quarter of Reading Cultures focuses on exchange as a fundamental cultural activity. Here, we consider literary texts such as Xiao Hong's *The Field of Life and Death*, Richard Wright's *Native Son* and Honoré de Balzac's *Le Père Goriot*, as well as theoretical texts by Karl Marx and Marcel Mauss that raise questions about the cultural function of exchange. Thus in this quarter, students study the ways in which literary works from different cultural traditions have offered unique critiques of and pointed responses to the prevailing economic systems of their times.

Instructor(s): Staff Terms Offered: Spring

Prerequisite(s): HUMA 14100

Note(s): These courses must be taken in sequence.

**HUMA 16000-16100-16200. Media Aesthetics: Image, Text, Sound I-II-III.**

This sequence examines a question central to humanistic thought across cultures and historical periods: How do different kinds of media allow us to perceive and represent our world? We study how painting, photography, writing, film, song, and other media have allowed for new forms of knowledge, expression, and experience—but have also been seen as ethically dangerous or politically disruptive. The sequence traces philosophical and aesthetic debates about media from antiquity to the present in various cultural contexts; we examine discussions of image, text, and sound in Plato, Shakespeare, Nietzsche, W. E. B. Du Bois, Alfred Hitchcock, Toni Morrison, and recent critical theory. Throughout, we develop attention to the "aesthetics" of media by closely studying how specific aspects of complex works of art and literature lead audiences to think and feel in particular ways. In Spring Quarter, students may take a third quarter of humanities or shift into a related general education course in the arts (MAAD 16210).

**HUMA 16000. Media Aesthetics: Image, Text, Sound I. 100 Units.**

Autumn Quarter focuses on images, imitation, and seeing. Images may seem to simply reflect the real, but they just as often distort or distance viewers from it. We explore the strangeness of images through Diego Velasquez's *Las Meninas*, Plato's *Republic*, Hitchcock's *Vertigo*, and Toni Morrison's *The Bluest Eye*.

Instructor(s): Staff Terms Offered: Autumn

Note(s): These courses must be taken in sequence. Students registered in this sequence must attend the first and second class sessions or their registration will be dropped.

**HUMA 16100. Media Aesthetics: Image, Text, Sound II. 100 Units.**

Winter Quarter focuses on writing, reading, and signs. Language is an extraordinarily flexible medium for representing events and experiences—but it also raises distinctive challenges of interpretation, decoding, and translation. We examine some of these challenges through Plato's *Phaedrus*, Shakespeare's *The Tempest*, Akira Kurosawa's *Rashomon*, and Alison Bechdel's *Fun Home*.

Instructor(s): Staff Terms Offered: Winter

Prerequisite(s): HUMA 16000

Note(s): These courses must be taken in sequence.

**HUMA 16200. Media Aesthetics: Image, Text, Sound III. 100 Units.**

Spring Quarter focuses on sound, music, and listening. How do sounds or noises become meaningful? Why are music and voice so effective at expressing desire, suffering, or even overwhelming the intellect? We explore these and other questions through William Blake's *Songs of Innocence and Experience*, W.E.B. Du Bois's *The Souls of Black Folk*, Nietzsche's *The Birth of Tragedy*, contemporary albums, and sound art.

Instructor(s): Staff Terms Offered: Spring

Prerequisite(s): HUMA 16100

Note(s): These courses must be taken in sequence. For the option of taking the third quarter of Media Aesthetics as the general education requirement in the arts, see MAAD 16210.

**HUMA 17000-17100-17200. Language and the Human I-II-III.**

Language is at the center of what it means to be human and is instrumental in all humanistic pursuits. With it, we understand others, persuade, argue, reason, and think. This course aims to provoke critical examination of common assumptions that determine our understanding of language, texts, and the ways language is used and understood via three interconnected processes: power, identity, and thought.

**HUMA 17000. Language and the Human I. 100 Units.**

The Autumn Quarter of this sequence explores the role of language in articulating, maintaining, and subverting power relations in society. Some of the questions we discuss include: How does language support structures of power and privilege? How does language shape our assumptions and beliefs? How does language motivate us to act or keep us from acting? Is language a basic human right? How does language influence the ways we think about race, gender, sexual orientation, and species? How do we use language to perceive or shape the identity of others? Typical texts used include George Bernard Shaw's *Pygmalion*, Shakespeare's *The Tempest*, and Margaret Atwood's *The Handmaid's Tale*.

Instructor(s): Staff Terms Offered: Autumn

Note(s): These courses must be taken in sequence. Students registered in this sequence must attend the first and second class sessions or their registration will be dropped.

**HUMA 17100. Language and the Human II. 100 Units.**

The Winter Quarter of this sequence examines the relations between language and identity. Some of the issues we will explore include language ideologies and hierarchies, vernacular languages and literatures, linguistic nationalism, language in the education system, and the involvement of language in constructing identities around race, gender, sexuality, nationality, religion and culture. Readings include Patanjali, Dante Alighieri, Lu Xun, Zora Neale Hurston, Antonio Gramsci, Richard Rodriguez, Junot Díaz, and Sumathi Ramaswamy.

Instructor(s): Staff Terms Offered: Winter

Prerequisite(s): HUMA 17000

Note(s): These courses must be taken in sequence.

**HUMA 17200. Language and the Human III. 100 Units.**

The Spring Quarter of this sequence examines the many interrelationships between language and thought. We will explore this theme through readings from a wide range of fields, including philosophy, neuroscience, anthropology, linguistics, literature and animal cognition. Some of the questions we discuss include: Does language shape your thought, or vice versa? Is thought even possible without language? Are you the same person across different languages that you speak? Do animals use language to think and communicate? How does language acquisition in children change their capacity to think? Does learning languages make us smarter? What kind of thought does translation involve? Does body language "count" as language? These readings will help us address the questions above, while providing an overview of some of the most fascinating problems surrounding our notions of language today.

Instructor(s): Staff Terms Offered: Spring

Prerequisite(s): HUMA 17100

Note(s): These courses must be taken in sequence.

**HUMA 18000-18100-18200. Poetry and the Human I-II-III.**

What is poetry and why do we do it? This three-quarter sequence examines the practice of poetry as a form of communication, linguistic innovation, and embodied presence. How is poetry as language and action different from other forms of activity? What is the role of poetry in society, in regard to memory, performance, storytelling, and history; ritual and creation; knowledge and formation of selfhood; institution and revolution? This sequence addresses these questions in the poetry of different eras and peoples, including Homer, Sappho, Catullus, Beowulf, John Donne, Emily Dickinson, the Popol Vuh, Gwendolyn Brooks, Audre Lorde, Paul Celan, N. Scott Momaday, Layli Long Soldier, Claudia Rankine, and many others. It provides students with skills in the close reading of texts and performance and a grasp of the literary, philosophical, and theoretical questions that underpin the humanities. In the Spring Quarter, students may take a third quarter of Humanities or shift into a related general education course in the arts (CRWR 18200).

**HUMA 18000. Poetry and the Human I. 100 Units.**

In Autumn (form/formation/transformation), we closely analyze poetry to understand its distinctive qualities, looking at questions of form and rhythm, translation and adaptation, and experimentation



with genre. We also explore argumentation, criticism, and the role of poetry in mapping creation through practices of language, image, and sound.

Instructor(s): Staff Terms Offered: Autumn

Note(s): These courses must be taken in sequence

**HUMA 18100. Poetry and the Human II. 100 Units.**

In Winter (crisis/performance/politics), we turn to questions of social rupture, breakdown, and reformation as we consider the ways that poetry revolts, reflects, and rebuilds in political crises. We will also look at poetry in performance, and performance as poetry, to consider how poetry is practiced in non-textual media such as spoken word, film, and dance.

Instructor(s): Staff Terms Offered: Winter

Prerequisite(s): HUMA 18000

Note(s): These courses must be taken in sequence

**HUMA 18200. Poetry and the Human III. 100 Units.**

In the Spring Quarter Humanities course (object/event/narrative), we consider the poem first as an object that expresses the processes of writing and the materiality of the body, then as a staged and sonic event, and finally as a way of shaping a life or of conceiving an afterlife.

Instructor(s): Staff Terms Offered: Spring

Prerequisite(s): HUMA 18100

Note(s): These courses must be taken in sequence. For the option of taking the third quarter of Poetry and the Human to meet the general education requirement in the arts, see CRWR 18200.

## WRITING SEMINARS

**HUMA 19100. Humanities Writing Seminars. 000 Units.**

These seminars introduce students to the analysis and practice of expert academic writing. Experts must meet many familiar standards for successful writing: clear style, logical organization, and persuasive argument. But because they work with specialized knowledge, experts also face particular writing difficulties: they must be clear about complexities and specific about abstractions; they must use uncomplicated organization for very complicated ideas; they must create straightforward logic for intricate arguments; they must be concise but not incomplete, direct but not simplistic; they must clarify the obscure but not repeat the obvious; and they must anticipate the demands of aggressively skeptical readers. The seminars do not repeat or extend the substantive discussion of the Humanities class; they use the discussions and assignments from those classes as a tool for the advanced study of writing. We study various methods not only for the construction of sophisticated and well-structured arguments but also for understanding the complications and limits of those arguments. These seminars also address issues of readership and communication within expert communities. As students present papers in the seminars, we can use the reactions of the audience to introduce the techniques experts can use to transform a text from one that serves the writer to one that serves the readers.

Instructor(s): Staff Terms Offered: Autumn Spring Winter

Note(s): These seminars are available only in combination with either a two- or a three-quarter general education sequence in the Humanities.

## COLLEGIATE COURSES

The 20000-level Collegiate courses in Humanities seek to extend humanistic inquiry beyond the scope of the general education requirements. A few of them also serve as parts of special degree programs. All of these courses are open as electives to students from any Collegiate Division.

### Course Descriptions for Collegiate Courses

**HUMA 02980. Practicum. 25 Units.**

This course is for students who secure a summer internship. For details, visit [careeradvancement.uchicago.edu/jobs-internships-research/internships-for-credit](http://careeradvancement.uchicago.edu/jobs-internships-research/internships-for-credit). Students write a short paper (two to three pages) and give an oral presentation reflecting on their internship experience.

Instructor(s): D. Spatz Terms Offered: Summer

Note(s): Must be taken for P/F grading; students who fail to complete the course requirements will receive an F on their transcript (no W will be granted). Students receive 025 units of credit at completion of course. Course meets once in Spring Quarter and once in Autumn Quarter. Course fee \$150; students in need of financial aid should contact Jay Ellison at 702.8609.

Equivalent Course(s): SOSC 02980

**HUMA 20710-20711-20712-20713. At the Piano I-II-III-IV.**

**Keyboard Studies for Non-Music Majors**

**HUMA 20710. At the Piano I: Keyboard Studies for Non-Music Majors. 100 Units.**

Keyboard Studies for Non-Music Majors

Instructor(s): C. Bohlman Terms Offered: Autumn Spring Winter

**HUMA 20711. At the Piano II: Keyboard Studies for Non-Music Majors. 100 Units.**

Keyboard Studies for Non-Music Majors

Instructor(s): C. Bohlman Terms Offered: Autumn

Prerequisite(s): HUMA 20710 or consent of instructor

**HUMA 20712. At the Piano III: Keyboard Studies for Non-Music Majors. 100 Units.**

Keyboard Studies for non-Music majors

Instructor(s): C. Bohlman Terms Offered: Winter

Prerequisite(s): HUMA 20711 or consent of instructor.

**HUMA 20713. At the Piano IV: Keyboard Studies for Non-Music Majors. 100 Units.**

Keyboard Studies for non-Music majors

Instructor(s): C. Bohlman Terms Offered: Spring

Prerequisite(s): HUMA 20712 or consent of instructor.

**HUMA 24800. Dostoevsky. 100 Units.**

Dostoevsky was an inveterate risk-taker, not only at the baccarat tables of the Grand Casino in Baden-Baden, but in his personal life, his political activities, and his artistic endeavors. This course is intended to investigate his two greatest wagers: on the presence of the divine in the world and on the power of artistic form to convey and articulate this presence. Dostoevsky's wager on form is evident even in his early, relatively conventional texts, like *The Double*. It intensifies after his decade-long sojourn in Siberia, exploding in works like *The Notes from Underground*, which one-and-a-half centuries later remains an aesthetic and philosophical provocation of immense power. The majority of the course will focus on Dostoevsky's later novels. In *Crime and Punishment* Dostoevsky adapts suspense strategies to create a metaphysical thriller, while in *The Demons* he pairs a study of nihilism with the deformation of the novel as a genre. Through close readings of these works we will trace how Dostoevsky's formal experimentation created new ways of exploring realms of existence that traditionally belonged to philosophy and theology. The results were never comfortable or comforting; we will focus on interpreting Dostoevsky's metaphysical provocations.

Instructor(s): William Nickell Terms Offered: Winter

Equivalent Course(s): FNDL 24612, REES 30013, RLIT 39501, REES 20013, RLST 28204

**HUMA 25207. Mindfulness: Experience and Media. 100 Units.**

How do we experience media (of all kinds) with (or without) awareness? Methods of mindfulness offer principles and practices of awareness focusing on mind, body, and embodied mind. Mindfulness (a flexible, moment-to-moment, non-judging awareness) is an individual experience and at the same time, practices of mindfulness can be a mode of public health intervention. Mindfulness involves social epistemologies of how we know (or don't know) collectively, as we interact with immediate sensory experience as well as with mediated communication technologies generating various sorts of virtual realities (from books to VR). In addition to readings and discussions, this course teaches embodied practices of attention and awareness through the curriculum of Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction.

Instructor(s): M. Browning Terms Offered: Spring

Equivalent Course(s): HIPS 25207, HLTH 25207, MAAD 14207, TAPS 20507

**HUMA 25208. Seeing Anew: Human Transformation and the Senses in Art, Film, Music, and Literature. 100 Units.**

This course explores the ways in which writers, musicians, and other artists renew and reframe the way that we see the world. Through readings, viewings, and other experiences, we will consider how the arts speak to our senses and imagination, the relationship between the senses and reality, and how works of art might help us imagine a transformed world. We will devote most of our time to discussions of works on the individual senses: vision through experimental cinema and poetry from the Romantic and modern eras; hearing through soundscapes—especially those of the South Side of Chicago—and the Afrofuturist music of Sun Ra; touch through art spaces and recent advances in human-computer interaction; and smell and taste through gastronomic writing and explorations of the urban agriculture of the South Side. The course will also feature guest lectures by local artists, musicians, and scholars, as well as field trips to local sites such as museums, galleries, and music venues. Students will be expected to contribute regularly to class discussions, keep a log of their responses to readings, artworks, and field trips, and create their own critical or creative project that responds to the themes explored in the course.

Terms Offered: Summer

**HUMA 28400. Comparative Fairy Tales. 100 Units.**

How do we account for the allure of fairy tales? For some, fairy tales count as sacred tales meant to enchant rather than edify. For others, they are cautionary tales, replete with obvious moral lessons. For the purposes of the course, we will assume that these critics are correct in their contention that fairy tales contain essential underlying meanings. We will conduct our own readings of fairy tales from the German Brothers Grimm, the Norwegians, Asbjørnsen and Moe and the Dane, Hans Christian Andersen, relying on our own critical skills as well as selected secondary readings.

Instructor(s): Kimberly Kenny Terms Offered: Winter

Equivalent Course(s): GRMN 28500, CMLT 21600, NORW 28500

**HUMA 29700. Reading Course. 100 Units.**

An instructor within Humanities agrees to supervise the course and then determines the kind and amount of work to be done. Students must receive a quality grade. Students may not petition to receive credit for more than two HUMA 29700 courses. Students may register for this course using the College Reading and Research



Form, available in the College Advising offices. This form must be signed by the instructor and the Director of Undergraduate Studies and then submitted to the Office of the Registrar.

Instructor(s): Staff Terms Offered: Autumn Spring Winter

Prerequisite(s): Consent of instructor and senior adviser.

