

Principles and Criteria for Integrative Studies Courses Arts and Humanities

Study in literature, history, religion, philosophy, and language assists students in assessing their own sense of self, the ethical consequences of their action, and their place in the world historically, culturally, and linguistically. The role of the humanities is to foster and elevate awareness of these fundamental aspects of our lives. Performance and the study of the fine arts extend these understandings to the appreciation of forms of human expression and heighten levels of aesthetic sensitivity, creativity, and insight.

The Arts and Humanities Integrative Studies Core Program requires each student to complete two courses as follows:

- (a) IAH 201, a 4-credit course that addresses major issues in the development of U.S. society and culture, presented in an international and comparative context. This course aims to break down the often more narrow outlook that students bring with them from secondary school and permit the students to place themselves and their culture and history in an international and global context. IAH 201 provides an introduction to the vocabulary, concepts and themes of historical and cultural development which will serve as a gateway to more focused study provided in the second IAH course and in the various arts and humanities disciplines.

- (b) Following completion of IAH 201, students will select one additional 4-credit, 200-level IAH course. These courses are grouped in four main categories: Area Studies and Multicultural Civilizations (e.g. the arts and humanities of Africa); Great Ages (e.g. the arts and humanities in the ancient world); Themes and Issues in the arts and humanities (e.g. role of language in society); and Creative Arts and Humanities (e.g. philosophy in literature). The additional course will provide interdisciplinary studies of the arts and humanities in greater depth than does IAH 201.

Criteria Used in Considering Course Proposals*

1. The course must have either a historical or a thematic focus.
2. The course must include an emphasis on student writing.
3. The course materials must be situated historically.
4. The course materials and organizing principles must reflect the world's cultural diversity.
5. Each course must employ significant texts (defined broadly to include belletristic literature, non-fiction, historical documents, the visual arts, music, dance, theatre, architecture and the artifacts of material culture). Each course should include several, but not necessarily all, of the above.
6. Each course must pose an important problem(s) or questions(s) for the Arts and/or Humanities.

*Approved by Advisory Committee

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