

LIBERAL ARTS (LA)

LA 83: First Year Seminar in the Liberal Arts

1 Credits

An exploration of a theme through the lens of the humanities, social sciences and diverse cultural perspectives.

Prerequisite: open only to DUS students
First-Year Seminar

LA 97: Special Topics

1-9 Credits/Maximum of 9

Formal courses given infrequently to explore, in depth, a comparatively narrow subject that may be topical or of special interest.

LA 103: Professional Development for the Liberal Arts Student

1 Credits

This course is designed to provide you with the techniques and information necessary to specify and implement post-graduation educational and career plans. This course is designed to assist students in the College of the Liberal Arts with the process of developing and implementing career plans for after graduation. It helps students understand the process of seeking and gaining employment and how to effectively transition from college to the workplace. This course will help students think about how to make their time at Penn State worthwhile and will be exposed to the various opportunities available to them at the College and University level. Students will hear from staff, alumni, and employers about a range of topics including interviewing, hiring practices, professionalism, social media, networking, post-graduate options, and other professional development topics. Students will start and/or continue to solidify their plans for after college and take steps to create a portfolio of work for the job and internship search. Students will use tools to learn more about themselves and explore career options. They will learn about career fields for students graduating with Liberal Arts degrees and hear from employers, staff, and alumni about how to leverage their education, skills, and knowledge to be successful during the job and internship search and during their time in the workforce. Students will develop a multitude of skills from this class, including identifying abilities, interests, and values and understand how to incorporate these into career decision-making. They will be able to utilize various resources such as informational interviewing and networking to research industries and careers, and inform career decision-making. They will make use of targeted searches, and online job postings to identify potential jobs and internships. Students will spend time writing effective position-specific application materials such as resumes and cover letters and learn to implement effective interviewing techniques during phone, individual, panel, and group interviews. For students who are thinking about post-baccalaureate options, the class will help these students identify and search for graduate programs as well as successfully complete the graduate school application process. This course will help students transition successfully into the professional world, using skills and knowledge to conduct future career decision making and job searches.

LA 135N: College, Work, and Citizenship in the 21st Century

3 Credits

Concentrated on the 21st-century, this course engages students in cutting-edge information about the critical roles the humanities and social sciences play in the high-tech global economy, now and in the future. In this course, students will learn what is vital about the humanities and social sciences in the global economy and society more generally. This class helps students to understand what is meant by the knowledge and creative economies, and why the modern economy's need for the core skills and knowledge developed through a humanities and social science education opens excellent career opportunities to students. Importantly, students will explore both humanistic and social science inquiry that challenges the dominant narratives and distorted facts that relegate the humanities and social sciences as insignificant and turn students away from these majors. Students will also learn to understand and explain in concrete ways the core skills and knowledge that humanities and social science students possess that are in high demand in business and industry so they can hone these skills in college as they prepare for life after college as contributing citizens through work and public life.

General Education: Humanities (GH)
General Education: Social and Behavioral Scien (GS)
General Education - Integrative: Interdomain
GenEd Learning Objective: Effective Communication
GenEd Learning Objective: Crit and Analytical Think
GenEd Learning Objective: Integrative Thinking
GenEd Learning Objective: Key Literacies

LA 197: Special Topics

1-9 Credits/Maximum of 9

Formal courses given infrequently to explore, in depth, a comparatively narrow subject that may be topical or of special interest.

LA 199: Foreign Study--Liberal Arts

1-9 Credits/Maximum of 9

Study in selected foreign countries of the cultural, institutional, and/or social development of the host country.

International Cultures (IL)

LA 201W: Experiential Learning Portfolio

3 Credits

Students will learn how to assemble a portfolio that reflects their progress, knowledge, and insight into college-level study. LA 201W Experiential Learning Portfolio (3) This course will instruct students in what has become a distinctive model of performance assessment - a learning portfolio. Students will learn to assemble the components required to demonstrate their progress, articulate their knowledge, and gain insight into the qualities of learning that are expected of college-level study. Students will utilize active engagement and questioning of how we know what we know. The course is designed to assist learners in contextualizing what they have learned and provide them with the skills to contextualize what they learn in the future. By the end of the course, students will have developed an experiential learning portfolio.

Writing Across the Curriculum

LA 202: Innovation and Entrepreneurship in the Liberal Arts

3 Credits

Entrepreneurs and liberal arts graduates share a surprisingly broad array of learned traits. Both rely on well-trained habits of critical, analytical, and systems thinking, effective oral and written communication, perspective taking, coalition building, and intercultural competence to understand, challenge, and transform the limits of conventional systems and practices. For entrepreneurs, this training leads to the creation of new and innovative nonprofit and for-profit ventures; for liberal arts professionals, this training is often used to develop, expand, and alter our understanding and appreciation of the ever-shifting contours of the human experience. When integrated deliberately, this course prepares undergraduate students to imagine innovations and create ventures that add value to our understanding, experience, and expression of the liberal arts. Entrepreneurship, which cultivates self-efficacy and personal agency as professional learning behaviors, is perhaps especially salient for the liberal arts, which tend not to be prescriptively careerist. In this way, students who take this course can more intentionally pursue creative career work that extends the value and experience of their undergraduate liberal arts education.

LA 295: Undergraduate Field Experience or Practicum

1-18 Credits/Maximum of 18

Approved experience, related to student career objectives, in agencies external to the University.

LA 296: Independent Studies

1-18 Credits/Maximum of 18

Creative projects, including research and design, which are supervised on an individual basis and which fall outside the scope of formal courses.

LA 297: Special Topics

1-9 Credits/Maximum of 9

Formal courses given infrequently to explore, in depth, a comparatively narrow subject which may be topical or of special interest.

LA 299: Foreign Studies

1-12 Credits/Maximum of 12

Courses offered in foreign countries by individual or group instruction.

International Cultures (IL)

LA 335N: Media, Social Justice, and the Public Humanities

3 Credits/Maximum of 3

This course introduces students to the ideas and skills that comprise "public humanities," with a focus on digital media tools. It aims to develop student understanding of how public humanities work can address present-day problems, fostering empathy within and building bridges between persons, groups, and communities. It offers hands-on training in three forms of digital media: documentary film, podcasting, and web publishing. Through honest and respectful engagement with a diverse range of ideas, perspectives, and experiences, students will develop

creative and critical thinking and problem-solving skills by locating, analyzing and applying information in project formation and production.

Cross-listed with: COMM 335N

General Education: Arts (GA)

General Education: Humanities (GH)

General Education - Integrative: Interdomain

GenEd Learning Objective: Effective Communication

GenEd Learning Objective: Creative Thinking

GenEd Learning Objective: Integrative Thinking

GenEd Learning Objective: Soc Resp and Ethic Reason

LA 395: Internship

1-18 Credits/Maximum of 18

Supervised off-campus, nongroup instruction including field experiences, practica, or internships. Written and oral critique of activity required.

Prerequisite: prior approval of proposed assignment by instructor

LA 397: Special Topics

1-9 Credits/Maximum of 9

Formal courses given infrequently to explore, in depth, a comparatively narrow subject that may be topical or of special interest.

LA 399: Foreign Studies

1-12 Credits/Maximum of 12

Courses offered in foreign countries by individual or group instruction.

International Cultures (IL)

LA 402: Fundraising Leadership: Building a Strong Base

3 Credits

The course will focus on the fundamentals of fundraising and leadership, including communications, management of events and people, and stewardship.

Prerequisite: 60 undergraduate credits or permission of program

LA 404: Careers in Fundraising and Development

3 Credits

This course will guide students through an introduction to the fundraising/advancement profession, including a review of the history and emergence of the profession. The course will also touch on key issues such as professional ethics and the legal environment of the field. Students will learn about the wide array of career paths and sectors in which fundraising and advancement professionals are employed. The course will review current roles within fundraising and advancement and emerging practice areas such as social media fundraising, data analytics, and talent management. Students will acquire specific knowledge and develop some of the skills required to successfully secure entry-level positions such as asking for gifts, drafting newsletter copy, and creating materials to present to a board of trustees. Students will also make connections between life experiences, such as volunteering for a nonprofit organization, and positions in the field. Students should be able to make connections between fundraising and a variety of disciplines from English to psychology to economics. By the end of this course, students will be able to: 1. Describe fundraising as a profession, including

a brief history, purpose, laws, ethics, and foundational principles. 2. Describe various positions held by fundraising professionals, including duties and responsibilities, skills and characteristics for success, and various pathways to a career in each position. 3. Practice foundational principles of fundraising as they apply to various fundraising positions. 4. Identify resources for locating fundraising positions and appropriate education and training opportunities. 5. Create professional application materials that reflect the students' ability to differentiate between various roles in fundraising professions. Students enrolled in this course will need to have acquired skills and knowledge in introductory courses, have a connection to an academic discipline, and be career-oriented. As a result, only upper-level students will be eligible to enroll. If academic departments are willing, the course might be added to the list of electives made available to students majoring in various fields such as English, psychology, or economics. Given the dearth of well-educated professionals and the growing number of jobs in the field this course could serve well those students who seek a career in the profession.

Prerequisite: ENGL 15, and 6 credits in social and behavioral sciences (GS)

LA 424: Liberal Arts Venture Development

3 Credits

Students who complete this course will be able to create a nonprofit or for-profit liberal arts venture based on the iterative vetting of an original idea rooted in careful and rigorous research; examine the impact of that venture and the resulting services and/or products on themselves, employees, customers, the environment, and local, national, and/or global communities; understand how the ecologies of successful nonprofit and for-profit liberal arts ventures operate; and articulate best practices of successful liberal arts startups and organizations in relation to founder roles and relationships, fundraising, public presentation/pitching, market analysis, product differentiation, financial projecting, sales and marketing strategies, and scaling. Every other summer, this course will be offered in San Francisco, where students will be exposed to and work in one of the most entrepreneurial cities in the world, and meet a number of founders of non-profit and for-profit organizations whose services and solutions are tied to Liberal Arts disciplines.

LA 435: Public Humanities Capstone Experience

3 Credits

This course is the Capstone Experience for Public Humanities Fellows in the Humanities Institute. The course provides students with hands-on experience applying skills and insight gained during the prerequisite course, Introduction to Public Humanities. Students will gain substantive experience in research, digital media production, and community engagement. The centerpiece of the course is an individual digital public humanities project on a topic of the student's choosing. Students will also participate in public outreach events in conjunction with the Humanities Institute, actively participating in a community engagement plan in coordination with the Institute's documentary film series, HumIn Focus.

Prerequisite: LA 335N or COMM 335N

LA 494: Research Project Courses

1-12 Credits

Supervised student activities on research projects identified on an individual or small-group basis. (No course under L A 294/494 may be

offered without approval of the associate dean of liberal arts. All courses must have a specific title and letter suffix.)

LA 494H: Research Project Courses

1-12 Credits

Supervised student activities on research projects identified on an individual or small-group basis. (No course under L A 294/494 may be offered without approval of the associate dean of liberal arts. All courses must have a specific title and letter suffix.)

Honors

LA 495: Undergraduate Field Experience or Practicum

1-12 Credits/Maximum of 12

Approved experience, related to student career objectives, in agencies external to University.

LA 496: Independent Studies

1-18 Credits/Maximum of 18

Creative projects, including research and design, which are supervised on an individual basis and which fall outside the scope of formal courses.

LA 497: Special Topics

1-9 Credits/Maximum of 9

Formal courses given infrequently to explore, in depth, a comparatively narrow subject which may be topical or of special interest.

LA 498: Special Topics

1-9 Credits/Maximum of 9

Formal courses given infrequently to explore, in depth, a comparatively narrow subject that may be topical or of special interest.

LA 499: Foreign Study--Liberal Arts

1-9 Credits/Maximum of 9

Study in selected foreign countries of the cultural, institutional, and/or social development of the host country.

International Cultures (IL)