
THEL 209H Honors Introduction to Christianity

(4, F12)

An introductory survey of the main beliefs and practices that constitute the Christian tradition. Christianity will be approached in a way that overcomes the traditional division between doctrine and practice. The Biblical, theological, historical, ethical, and spiritually formative aspects of Christian faith will be explored. The course aims to enable the student to develop a personal theology and life perspective that is informed by Christian faith and Christian spirituality. Faith Foundation: Theology.

Humanities (major)

Department of Philosophy: W. Christopher Stewart, chair, Associate Dean and Program Director

Web site: www.houghton.edu/academics/programs/religion-philosophy/maj_humanities.htm

Phone: 585.567.9440

Major: 34-45 hours

The interdisciplinary major in humanities consists of an equal emphasis on courses selected from the departments of history, literature, and philosophy. The program encourages students to learn the methodologies of several disciplines, to trace interrelationship among disciplines, and to study common themes and issues from a variety of perspectives. Intensive and extensive study in the intellectual, social, and aesthetic movements of Western culture culminates in a senior project in which the student has the opportunity to synthesize some of the developments that he or she studies.

Students majoring in humanities often look toward careers in a wide variety of professional fields such as church-related ministry (pre-seminary), law, education (elementary, secondary, or college), linguistics/translation, missions, medicine, business, finance, counseling, government service, public administration, journalism, library science, relief work, or just about any other field of work. This major often appeals particularly to students with a broad range of intellectual interests and with a desire to study widely as well as in depth. The program, which involves the departments of History and Political Science, English, World Languages, Art, Music, Theology and Philosophy, is administered by the Department of Philosophy.

Major required courses:

Literature (one course may be in a modern foreign language).....	9-12
History	9-12
Philosophy	9-12
Art History or Music History.....	3-4
Elective (with consent of advisor)	3-4
Senior Capstone: Humanities Project	1

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

HUM 306 Varieties of Postmodernism

(3, OD)

Interdisciplinary analysis of the many-faceted cultural phenomenon known as “postmodernism.” Moves from an initial starting point considering postmodernism as a reaction to various philosophical claims associated with modernity to the meaning and significance of postmodern ideas as they have been transposed into a variety of other contexts in the analytic humanities, literature, arts and sciences.

HUM 395 Special Topics

(1, 2, 3, or 4)

HUM 401 Pagans and Christians: Ancient and Medieval Texts

(4, OD)

Close analysis of some primary texts from ancient medieval times: Plato, Aristotle, Thucydides, Cicero, Augustine, Dante, et al. Develops scholarly skills of research, interpretation, writing; foster awareness of influence of such works on modern thought. Major/minor credit in history.

HUM 481 Senior Capstone: Humanities Project

(1, F&S)

The student undertakes a directed studies project in which he or she produces a paper that synthesizes the historical, literary, and philosophical developments relevant to a selected theme or person.