School Overview

Consider some of the challenges we all face: the pressures created by demographic and economic changes, and increased ethnic and cultural diversity; the development of new technologies, and the increasingly complex problem of human interaction with the environment. Equipping students to understand and analyze such phenomena is precisely what a liberal education in the humanities accomplishes. Humanistic inquiry prepares students to interpret visual media and written texts in our changing world.

Humanities provides the ability to express oneself clearly and accurately; the skill of critical evaluation, both of ideas and actions; the courage to make choices based on shared values and priorities; the opportunity to conduct an intensive conversation with the traditions, present and past, that help make us who we are and, above all, who we will be; and as a result, the ability to comprehend cultural differences nationally and internationally.

In the UCI School of Humanities, students find the opportunities for personal and intellectual growth most often associated with small, selective liberal arts colleges, yet they can also access all the advantages of a large research university. The faculty is distinguished by the range of its scholarly interests, its international scholarly renown, and its commitment to undergraduate education.

Academic Offerings

African American Studies

Majors in African American Studies investigate the histories and cultures of peoples in the African Diaspora from a variety of theoretical and interdisciplinary methodologies/practices. Students may select from coursework that includes the study of black protest throughout history, scientific racism, critical theories on blackness, and black urban political movements.

Art History

Majors in Art History learn about the visual arts in all their guises — from ancient Greek statuary to Renaissance painting and sculpture; from Chinese and Japanese calligraphy to American streamlined appliances; from the spectacles of world’s fairs to photography, collage, and assemblage. Majors learn how to write about these artifacts for their social and cultural functions as well as their formal properties.

Undergraduate Areas of Study

majors

African American Studies, B.A.
Art History, B.A.
Asian American Studies, B.A.
Chinese Studies, B.A.

Emphases:
- Chinese Language and Literature
- Chinese Culture and Society

Classics, B.A.

Emphases:
- Greek and Latin Language and Literature
- Latin Language and Literature
- Classical Civilization

Comparative Literature, B.A.

Emphases:
- Literature and Cultural Theory
- Cultural Studies
- World Literature

East Asian Cultures, B.A.
English, B.A.

Emphasis:
- Creative Writing

European Studies, B.A.

Emphases:
- British Studies
- Early Modern Europe
- Encounters with the Non-European World
- French Studies
- German Studies
- Italian Studies
- Medieval Studies
- The Mediterranean World: Past and Present
- Modern Europe (1789-present)
- Russian Studies
- Spanish/Portuguese Studies

Film and Media Studies, B.A.

French, B.A.

German Studies, B.A.

Global Cultures, B.A.

Emphases:
- Atlantic Rim
- Hispanic, U.S. Latin/Latina, and Luso-Brazilian Culture
- Inter-Area Studies
- Locating Africans (Nation, Culture) and its Diaspora
- Locating Asians (Nation, Culture) and its Diaspora
- Europe and its Former Colonies
- Pacific Rim

History, B.A.

Japanese Language and Literature, B.A.

Korean Literature and Culture, B.A.

Literary Journalism, B.A.

Philosophy, B.A.

Religious Studies, B.A.

Emphases:
- Judaism/Christianity/Islam
- World Religious Traditions

Spanish, B.A.

Emphases:
- Cinema: Spain, Latin America, and U.S. Latino Literature and Culture
- Spanish for Future Teachers

Women’s Studies, B.A.

minors

African American Studies

Archaeology

Art History

Asian American Studies

Asian Studies

Chinese Language and Literature

Classical Civilization

Comparative Literature

English

European Studies

Film and Media Studies

French

German Studies

Global Culture

Greek

History

Humanities and Law

Italian Studies

Japanese Language and Literature

Jewish Studies

Korean Literature and Culture

Latin

Latin American Studies

Literary Journalism

Philosophy

Portuguese

Queer Studies

Religious Studies

Russian Studies

Spanish

Women’s Studies
Asian American Studies
Majors in Asian American Studies examine the history, social organization, culture, literature, and art of Asian Americans as part of American multi-ethnic society. The program provides a context for understanding the cultures and histories of Asian American and Pacific American peoples, and their experiences in relation to their countries of origin.

Comparative Literature
Comparative Literature trains students in the cultural literacy needed to be citizens of a globalized world. It reaches beyond any single national culture to consider relations between various literatures as well as cultural phenomena such as films, comics, urban space, monuments and politics. Our students learn about the historical, linguistic, and cultural contexts of texts as they are produced and received across national boundaries and in response to the dynamics of global movements and crises. In order to be critical producers and receptors of key texts by later thinkers and writers. Authors include Homer, Vergil, Catullus, Livy, Euripides, Plato, and others.

Classics
Students majoring in Classics choose one of three emphases: Greek and Latin Language and Literature, Latin Language and Literature, and Classical Civilization. The emphases in Greek and Latin Language and Literature and Latin Language and Literature focus upon reading primary texts in their original language while Classical Civilization students do most of their study in English translation. All majors develop an in-depth understanding of the historical, political, literary, and cultural developments of ancient Greece and Rome. In addition, students will examine the reception of key texts by later thinkers and writers. Authors include Homer, Vergil, Catullus, Livy, Euripides, Plato, and others.

Comparative Literature
Comparative Literature trains students in the cultural literacy needed to be citizens of a globalized world. It reaches beyond any single national culture to consider relations between various literatures as well as cultural phenomena such as films, comics, urban space, monuments and politics. Our students learn about the historical, linguistic, and cultural contexts of texts as they are produced and received across national boundaries and in response to the dynamics of global movements and crises. In order to be critical producers and receptors of key texts by later thinkers and writers. Authors include Homer, Vergil, Catullus, Livy, Euripides, Plato, and others.

Classics
Students majoring in Classics choose one of three emphases: Greek and Latin Language and Literature, Latin Language and Literature, and Classical Civilization. The emphases in Greek and Latin Language and Literature and Latin Language and Literature focus upon reading primary texts in their original language while Classical Civilization students do most of their study in English translation. All majors develop an in-depth understanding of the historical, political, literary, and cultural developments of ancient Greece and Rome. In addition, students will examine the reception of key texts by later thinkers and writers. Authors include Homer, Vergil, Catullus, Livy, Euripides, Plato, and others.

English
The UCI English major is distinctive in its focus on literary theory and criticism. Focusing on American and English literature throughout history, the flexibility of the curriculum allows students to tailor a program to fit their individual needs and interests. An emphasis is offered in creative writing (poetry or fiction).

European Studies
The European Studies major, with a variety of emphases, gives students a multidisciplinary view of Europe as a whole, and its historical, political, and cultural formations and global implications. It provides an opportunity to study Europe from the vantage points of several disciplines in the humanities and social sciences.

Film and Media Studies
An undergraduate education in Film and Media Studies provides students with an opportunity to explore and understand the appeal and operation of these complex meaning-producing machines called cinema, television, and new technologies. Film and Media Studies at UCI trains students to read and understand the audio-visual languages of modern media and new technologies, and to analyze images from socioeconomic, political, aesthetic, and historical perspectives.

Global Cultures
Global Cultures is a rapidly growing undergraduate major (and minor) with an exciting mission: to explore the problems and processes of globalization from a humanistic perspective. The major equips students with twenty-first-century analytical skills and knowledge that is critical to understanding the complexities of the diverse world in which we live.

History
History majors can build a Chinese empire, march with Roman legions, mingle with the Aztecs and Maya, have a rebirth (Renaissance), explore the events leading up to two world wars, or colonize North America and then revolt. They can also trace the interactions and origins of the globalism that daily shapes our world. Majors can focus on countries or topics. Faculty are experts not only in the more commonplace — the United States, England, France, Germany, and Russia — but also in Morocco, China, Japan, Mexico, Brazil, and Chile. They are a disparate group united by deep curiosity and a desire to try out new ways of thinking.

Literary Journalism
The major in Literary Journalism is designed for students interested in writing creative non-fiction and journalism, and in studying the history of each. Defined both by its historical and theoretical focus and by its intensive writing seminars, the program contextualizes literary journalism in a wider study of the discourses of fact throughout history, while also attending to the impact of new media technologies on the evolution of the field.

Language Majors
- Chinese Studies
- Classics (Greek or Latin)
- East Asian Cultures
- French
- German Studies
- Japanese Language and Literature
- Korean Literature and Culture
- Spanish

Learning a new language involves more than just the ability to speak, read, and write. Each language major program gives students a complete cultural understanding and appreciation of the literature, art, and philosophy of a given national identity. Upper-division courses develop critical and analytical skills necessary not only to interpret literary texts but also to deal with the increasingly complex and culturally diverse world at large.
**Philosophy**
A major in Philosophy trains students to be flexible, imaginative, and creative thinkers rather than skilled performers of a fixed routine. Students receive solid training in argument and reasoning, which exposes them to provocative and intriguing ideas by such master thinkers as Plato, Aristotle, Descartes, and Kant. Courses in metaphysics, epistemology, ethics, and other areas are designed to emphasize discussion, essay writing, and the presentation and defense of personal points of view on topics central to the human condition.

**Religious Studies**
Religious Studies includes an interdisciplinary major and minor that focus on the comparative understanding of the various ways different peoples, across space and through time, have developed their religious ideas, values, systems, beliefs, rituals, and traditions in response to fundamental questions of human existence. As an interdisciplinary academic discipline, the study of religion offers a rigorous, systematic, and dispassionate intellectual inquiry into various aspects of religious systems, their practitioners and outlooks, and their goals and expressions. It employs a wide variety of approaches and methods in order to understand the role of religion in both human experience and thought. Majors complete an emphasis in either Judaism/Christianity/Islam or in world religious traditions.

**Spanish and Portuguese**
With 350 million speakers, Spanish ranks third among the most spoken languages in the world. In the U.S., and especially in California, a Spanish major (or double major) offers wide-ranging career opportunities. The department prides itself on its world-class faculty and its high-quality program, offering courses in the literatures and cultures of Iberia, Latin America and U.S. Latinos. The major features three different tracks: Spanish for future teachers; literature and culture; and cinema.

**Women’s Studies**
Women’s Studies focuses on the study of women, gender, and sexuality in their complex connections with different races, ethnicities, socio-economic classes, religions, nationalities, and regions. Students learn how feminist transnational analysis can be used to study many compelling phenomena, including histories of identity production, body politics, religion and gender, the politics of fashion, remote intimacy through technology, human rights discourses, environmental politics, microlending, social justice philanthropy, and sexual rights. By emphasizing a rigorous interdisciplinary perspective, the major and minor train students to link the private and the public, the individual and the collective, and the local and the global. Courses integrate many aspects of learning, allowing students to apply what they learn in schools to their lives, careers, and to understanding the world around them.

**Minor in Archaeology**
The interdisciplinary Archaeology minor exposes students to the different approaches used to reconstruct past cultures based on their material remains. The minor includes coursework from anthropology, history, classics and art history, and stresses a comparative approach across history and geographic regions. The minor will help prepare students for advanced training in art history, the archaeology of specific geographical regions, cultural resource management, museum studies, and historical preservation. Students from all majors are welcome to pursue the minor.

**Minor in Asian Studies**
The Asian Studies minor allows students to explore Asian topics in a variety of fields, to develop advanced language skills, and to acquire a broader perspective as they apply the disciplinary training of their major field to effective and informed studies of Asian subjects. The minor may be combined with any major, and requires that students choose a focus on China, Japan or Korea.

**Minor in Humanities and Law**
The Humanities and Law minor brings together coursework useful in preparation for law-related careers. Emphasizing reading, writing, and critical thinking skills, and humanistic approaches to problems of law and society, the minor can be taken in tandem with any major.

**Minor in Jewish Studies**
The minor in Jewish Studies is an interdisciplinary program that introduces students to many facets of Jewish cultures through the study of the history, philosophy, art, literature, languages, and social and political institutions of Jews from ancient to modern times. The minor provides students with grounding in areas of fundamental importance to the humanities and social sciences, supporting and enriching the students’ majors. The minor may be taken in tandem with any major, and prepares students for graduate programs in Jewish Studies, and a wide range of careers.

**Minor in Latin American Studies**
Latin America is a complex cultural and historical region created by Spanish and Portuguese colonization in the New World and which encompasses territories and peoples from the southernmost tip of South America to the Caribbean Islands and the United States. As an area born out of a series of conquests, migrations, contacts and conflicts it is transcultural, multi-lingual and multi-ethnic. It has been a vital part of the formation of the modern world even as it has continued to function as a source for the expression of economic, political and cultural alternatives to dominant Western formations. The minor provides deeper knowledge and expertise in this region for students interested in a variety of careers. It complements the disciplinary training of a student’s major field by asking that students engage with Latin America through a variety of disciplines, taking advantage of the expertise of faculty across different schools at UCI.

**Minor in Queer Studies**
The minor in Queer Studies combines theories and methods in humanities, arts, science, and social science for a critical look into sexuality, and is open to students from any major.

**Minor in Russian Studies**
The Russian Studies minor introduces students to the rich history and culture of Russia, and provides the intellectual and linguistic tools necessary for sustained engagement in this area of the world.
Special Programs and Opportunities

Honors Societies
The School of Humanities provides membership in the following national honors societies: Eta Sigma Phi (Greek and Latin), Sigma Delta Pi (Hispanic), and Phi Alpha Theta (history). High-achieving students also may be inducted into Phi Beta Kappa, the nation’s oldest and most prestigious honor society.

Humanities Core Course
This year-long freshman sequence is central to the intellectual enterprise of the school. The course introduces students to critical thinking, writing, and literacy by exploring key intellectual issues at the center of contemporary humanistic inquiry. At the heart of the course is the careful reading of key texts drawn from history, literature, philosophy, and the arts. The Humanities Core Course has won national recognition and serves as a model for other institutions.

Humanities Education Abroad Program Scholarships
The Dean of Humanities annually provides two to three scholarships to meritorious humanities majors who participate in a UC Education Abroad Program.

Humanities Honors Program
This two-year, upper-division program challenges superior students by providing special opportunities to learn within a small seminar environment, working closely with the best teachers in the school. The program consists of a one-year interdisciplinary seminar taken in the junior year, and culminates in the year-long writing of a senior thesis. An annual prize is awarded for the best senior honors thesis.

Humanities House
One of several theme houses in Arroyo Vista housing for undergraduates, Humanities House is devoted to majors in the School of Humanities. Residents are provided with an intellectual and social environment in which to share the “humanities experience” through a wide range of activities, including faculty guest dinners, discussions, symposiums, workshops, and films. Humanities faculty and academic counselors join the residents to give talks, moderate panels, and offer academic counseling.

Humanities Out There (H.O.T.)
H.O.T. is a literacy outreach program between UCI’s School of Humanities and local schools. Each year there are workshops on several different topics, such as world mythology, creative writing, shakespearean improv, imagining America, “what is philosophy?”, telemedia literacy, women’s studies, and literacy through literature. Each workshop sends out a team of undergraduates to a K-12 classroom, supervised by faculty and advanced graduate students in the humanities.

Humanities Peer Mentoring Program
This program addresses some of the academic, cultural, and social needs of disadvantaged students admitted into the School of Humanities. It features small-group mentoring of new students. Participants attend workshops on topics such as study skills, library research, time management, and careers, as well as social events.

Career Opportunities

Because humanists deal analytically with complex problems and issues affecting people, students majoring in the humanities are well prepared for careers in which analysis, judgment, and argument are important. Thus, a humanities background is advantageous not only for a career in teaching, but also in such fields as management, law, medicine, communications, diplomacy, social work, and politics. In a world where people change careers several times during their lives, it is crucial that students develop the general skills of analysis and imagination that are fostered by humanistic inquiry and critical literacy.

Career fields pursued by School of Humanities graduates include:

- Advertising
- Banking
- Broadcasting
- Business
- Counseling
- Communications
- Diplomacy
- Editing/Publishing
- Film and Television
- Foreign Service
- Government Service
- Higher Education Administration
- Human Resources
- Insurance
- International Relations
- Journalism
- Law
- Library Science
- Management/Administration
- Marketing
- Medicine
- Personnel
- Politics
- Public Administration
- Public Relations
- Publicity
- Publishing
- Research
- Retail Sales
- Social Welfare
- Teaching
- Technical Writing
- Tourism
- Translation/Interpreting
- Writing

Additional Information

School of Humanities
Undergraduate Counseling Office
University of California Irvine, CA 92697-3380
Telephone: (949) 824-5132
www.humanities.uci.edu

Admissions and Relations with Schools
260 Aldrich Hall
University of California
Irvine, CA 92697-1075
Telephone: (949) 824-6703
www.admissions.uci.edu

General Campus Information
Telephone: (949) 824-5011
www.uci.edu

UCI General Catalogue
UCI Bookstore
Telephone: (949) 824-2665
www.book.uci.edu
www.editor.uci.edu/catalogue (PDF Version)

UCIrvine | UNIVERSITY of CALIFORNIA

www.uci.edu

Accommodations: Upon request, this publication will be made available in alternative formats for people with disabilities. Contact the UCI Disability Services Center; telephone (949) 824-7494, TDD 824-6272. The campus and all buildings are accessible by wheelchair.

Campus Safety: Pursuant to the Federal Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act, UCI annually makes available to the public statistics on reported occurrences of criminal activity on and off campus and at UCI Medical Center at www.police.uci.edu/awareness/jca.html.

Nondiscrimination Policy: The University of California, in accordance with applicable federal and state law and University policy, does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity, pregnancy, physical or mental disability, medical condition (cancer related or genetic characteristics), ancestry, marital status, age, sexual orientation, citizenship, or service in the uniformed services. The University also prohibits sexual harassment. This nondiscrimination policy covers admission, access, and treatment in University programs and activities. For more information, call (949) 824-5594.

MARCH 2013