

LEARNING OUTCOMES FOR LOWER DIVISION HUMANITIES COURSES IN GENERAL EDUCATION

LOWER DIVISION GE HUMANITIES CLUSTERS, HUMANITIES COURSES IN MIXED CLUSTERS, and HUMANITIES STAND-ALONE GE COURSES

Humanities clusters in the freshman general education program include the equivalent of at least one course in fine arts, at least one course in letters, and one additional course in either fine arts or letters, as described below. The courses must be in three different disciplines, unless taking a three-quarter sequence of language and culture study. If possible, each humanities cluster should expose students to both western and non-western cultures.

Humanities courses in mixed clusters will consist of courses in fine arts or letters as described below. Students taking humanities courses as stand-alone classes must complete at least one fine arts, one letters course. The third course may be from either category.

Fine Arts: Courses in the Fine Arts examine significant artistic expressions of the creative intellect. Courses meeting this requirement have as their major component the integration of evaluative and descriptive aspects of the history, theory, aesthetics, and criticism of different works, forms, styles, and schools of art.

Letters: Courses in Letters examine significant written and/or oral texts of the creative intellect. The major goals are: (a) to teach the critical examination of ideas and theories through the use of historical, linguistic, literary, philosophical, and/or rhetorical approaches and methods; and (b) to encourage understanding of enduring human concerns and the intellectual and cultural traditions within which they arise.

Humanities courses in the lower-division general education program should lead to the four Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) listed below:

1. Students will demonstrate through oral and written work how foundational works in the humanities illuminate enduring human concerns and the intellectual and cultural traditions within which these concerns arise, including both classical and contemporary artists and/or theorists.
2. Students will demonstrate a developing understanding of the interaction among historical and cultural contexts, individual works, and the development of humanities over time.
3. Through oral and written work, students will demonstrate their ability to critically employ concepts, theories, and methods of analysis used in the humanities to interpret and evaluate enduring human concerns.
4. Students will critically reflect on the formation of human goals and values, and will articulate an understanding of the creativity reflected in works of the humanities that influenced the formation of those values.