

General Education Course Criteria – Foundations of the Arts and Humanities

General Aims

The aim of courses in this area is to provide students with the perspectives and intellectual skills necessary to comprehend and think critically about our situation in the world as human beings. In particular, these courses provide students with the basic means to appreciate and evaluate the ongoing efforts of humans to explain, translate, and transform our diverse experiences of the world through such media as language, literature, philosophical systems, images, sounds, and performances. These courses will introduce students to the historical development and fundamental intellectual and ethical issues associated with the arts and humanities and may also investigate the complex relations between artistic and humanistic expression and other facets of society and culture.

Specific Criteria

Introductory Courses: An “introductory” class offered for GE by a department or an IDP should introduce students to the discipline’s methodologies or “ways of knowing.”

Upper-Division Courses: Introductory courses are, generally speaking, better suited for GE than those at the more specialized or advanced level. Nevertheless, upper-division submissions should not be excluded from consideration on that basis alone.

Trans-Foundational Courses: Submissions requesting certification in Arts & Humanities but originating from departments in other foundations will be judged primarily on whether the course integrates methodologies or “ways of knowing” (rather than simply texts) familiar to the foundations of the Arts and Humanities.

Linguistics Analysis Subgroup Area: The “linguistic” designation in the “philosophical & linguistic analysis” subgroup area of is not exclusively the domain of Linguistics Department courses.

Writing Assignments: GE courses within the Arts & Humanities foundations should contain a significant writing component.