

Master of Arts in Liberal Studies Concentration: Humanities

The humanities at Wesleyan encompasses a multitude of ways in which people observe, review, process, and document the human experience. Broadly speaking, humanities courses may be in classics, literature, language, philosophy, or cultural theory, among other disciplines. More specifically, writing (creative as well as nonfiction), poetry, literature studies, literary theory, and area studies (European novel, classical civilization) that focus on literature, philosophy, and cultural theory may be pursued through the humanities concentration.

Educators pursuing a Master of Arts in Liberal Studies (MALS) degree with a concentration in the humanities gain a unique interdisciplinary perspective on the connections between literature, history, political movements, and social structures, in addition to a highly refined ability to write both fluently and articulately about their opinions and observations.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS: MALS/Humanities – 12 courses (36 credits)

6 courses (18 credits) within the humanities concentration. Students may choose six courses from our humanities curriculum, or propose independent studies, that best meet their professional needs. Their academic plan may include a mixture of literature, poetry, and writing workshops, or may be restricted to a particular area, i.e., American and British Literature or world literature. All students are encouraged to take a foundational writing course option within the humanities concentration, to receive more extensive feedback on their work through more frequent writing assignments and individual meetings with the instructor.

Recent courses and course areas in the humanities have included:

- New Trends in Fiction & Nonfiction
- Writing and Revision
- The European Novel
- Creative Writing Workshop
- Arthurian Legend
- American Lit. since the Civil War
- Nobel Literature Prize Writers
- Place, Character and Design
- Children's Literature
- Epic Novels: Tolstoy and Joyce
- The Art of Memoir
- Incarceration in American Literature

6 courses (18 credits) outside the humanities concentration. Of the remaining six courses, students must choose from at least two of the other areas of concentration (arts, social sciences, mathematics, sciences), but may distribute their credits in a way that most effectively accomplishes their personal and professional goals. Below is a sampling of highly relevant out-of-concentration courses for educators:

- The Constitution (Social Sciences) – American Literature
- The Tudors (Social Sciences) – British Literature
- Adolescent Brain Development (Sciences) – Student Dynamics/Educational Studies
- Music and Downtown New York (Arts) – American Literature
- Testing and Educational Policy (Social Sciences) – Educational Studies
- Cross-Cultural Childhoods (Social Sciences) – Educational Studies

Optional master's essay instead of twelfth course. MALS candidates may choose to replace their twelfth course with a Master's Essay, a 25- to 30-page capstone project of publication quality. Students must go through a comprehensive proposal process, working one-on-one with librarians, the GLS writing consultant, and a faculty advisor.