



FACULTY OF HUMANITIES

PROPOSAL FOR CHANGES TO HUMANITIES I PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

In 2016-17, the Faculty of Humanities will require all students registered in Humanities I to take two new courses (HUMAN 1QU3 and 1VV3). These courses are being introduced in response to the report of a Faculty working group on the first year experience, a group that included faculty, students and staff. They concluded that the Faculty needed to promote our shared principles of learning, and to offer a unified, coherent and inviting gateway experience for first-year students in the Humanities. Our aspiration for our students is that they will be the leaders of tomorrow, and these two courses will introduce foundational skills in writing and inquiry.

These new courses will be taught in student-centred, active learning classrooms in Wilson Hall. Active learning classrooms offer learning environments that encourage student collaboration, technology that allows students to easily present work for review by their peers and instructors, and various options for student interaction and course structures. These courses will use classrooms comprised of 11 or 12 round tables that accommodate nine students each (course capacity of 99 or 108) and facilitate peer learning. The Faculty will offer 5-6 sections of each course. Student learning in each section will take place under the guidance of one faculty instructor, at least two teaching assistants, and up to ten senior undergraduate student mentors. The undergraduate students would not be involved in grading, but would help first-year students in their discussions and peer learning, and would participate in the course as part of our new senior-level leadership and mentorship courses. Apart from helping with foundational skills, then, these new courses will help build a sense of community among first-year students and between first-year and senior students in the Faculty.

The introduction of these new required courses entails some other changes in our Level I requirements. At the same time as they are taking these new required courses (6 units), we still want first-year students to explore our varied disciplines. Currently students must take at least 12 units in Humanities; because some students take an optional general inquiry course, this means that students take at least 9 units in Humanities discipline-specific courses. In future we will require that the students take HUMAN 1QU3 and 1VV3 and at least 9 units of Humanities courses that are discipline specific. In addition to 15 units in Humanities, students will still be able to take up to 15 units – half of their courses – in disciplines beyond the Faculty.

HUMANITIES I REQUIREMENTS

HUMANITIES I: 30 units (*beginning in 2016-17*)

~~12~~ 9 units Courses offered by the Faculty of Humanities

3 units HUMAN 1QU3

3 units HUMAN 1VV3

~~18~~ 15 units Electives

NEW COURSES

HUMAN 1QU3 - Insight and Inquiry: Questions to Change the World

Effective leaders are constantly formulating creative questions, about themselves and about the world around them. Working in the technology-enriched environment of an active learning classroom, students will focus on how to ask good questions about specific issues, and how to answer those questions with evidence. Students can take these research skills and apply them in other university courses, and in the world beyond.

3 hours, discussion; one term

Prerequisite(s): Registration in Humanities I, Studio Art I or Music I

HUMAN 1VV3 - Voice and Vision: Words to Change the World

Effective leaders understand that the best ideas become really powerful when they are communicated clearly and effectively. Working in the technology-enriched environment of an active learning classroom, students will explore the elements of effective writing and argumentation so that they can inform, persuade, and motivate others. Students can take these communication skills and apply them in other university courses, and in the world beyond.

3 hours, discussion; one term

Prerequisite(s): Registration in Humanities I, Studio Art I or Music I

Approved by the Academic Planning Committee
October 30, 2014