



Handbook for Henderson State University

Master of Liberal Arts Students

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MASTER OF LIBERAL ARTS (MLA) PROGRAM

Mission Statement

The Master of Liberal Arts program at Henderson State University provides graduate students with an advanced liberal arts education which challenges the mind and invigorates the spirit. It is designed to meet the learning needs of candidates from a variety of backgrounds who wish to pursue advanced study in an accessible, flexible, interdisciplinary context. By adopting an individualized learning model, the program allows students to blend their interests, talents, and experiences to develop courses of study relevant to them, both personally and professionally.

The MLA program offers a range of innovative courses taught by graduate faculty accomplished at teaching, academic research, the arts and media. In both online and traditionally-delivered classes, as well as by personal mentoring and capstone supervision, our faculty facilitate students' academic engagement with a wide range of fields including literature, history, politics, language and composition, media studies, art history, popular culture, comic book and film studies, identity and gender studies, psychology, sociology, religion, rhetoric, and philosophy. Our students work closely with their professors to shape rigorous, dynamic, and intellectually nourishing degree programs that culminate in unique research or creative projects reflecting their individual academic or creative passions. Graduates of the program possess the skills to pursue further graduate study—in PhD, law, or MFA programs, for example—or otherwise advance in existing or new careers, including in community college-level teaching.

Henderson's MLA program offers a number of graduate assistantships, which provide tuition waivers and monthly stipends to candidates who teach and work on campus.

This program is an associate member of the AGLSP, the Association of Graduate Liberal Studies Programs.

Program Goals

- Students will develop qualities important to personal and professional success through creativity, intellectual growth, critical thinking, and a connection to the world in which we live through independent study and classroom-based courses.
- Students will hone their understanding and appreciation of interdisciplinary study in a manner enabling them to approach intellectual and practical problems from multiple perspectives.
- Students will develop and enhance their skills in research, critical thinking, scholarly writing, and oral communication.
- Students will develop their academic and professional competence.
- Students will become acquainted with major literature, theories, concepts, and practices in their fields.
- Students will significantly improve their written and oral communication skills.
- Students will engage in free thought and discourse.
- Students will gain the tools enabling them to participate as concerned, intelligent citizens.
- Students will mature intellectually and emotionally.

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MLA DEGREE

The MLA degree is a thirty-six (36) hour program.

All MLA candidates must complete the following:

- LA 6103 & LA 6203: “Truth, Order and Beauty” I and II, a two-semester (6 hour) core sequence completed during the student’s first two regular semesters.
- One of the following:
 - LA 6503 & LA 6513: Liberal Arts Thesis Project I & II (6 hours)
 - LA 6543 & LA 6553: Liberal Arts Thesis I & Thesis II (6 hours)
 - Or 6 hours of relevant coursework additional to track requirement, including two contracted research papers of twenty or more pages each.
 - Or 6 hours of relevant coursework additional to track requirement, including one contracted research paper of forty or more pages.
- 15 hours of 6000-level courses (unless otherwise specified).

Major Tracks

Students can choose their major tracks from the following: **Art History, English Literature, Rhetoric and Composition, Rhetoric and Philosophy, Philosophy, Social Sciences, Media and Popular Culture, or Society and Identity.**

Off-Track Electives Requirement

Students electing to follow tracks in English Literature, Rhetoric and Composition, Rhetoric and Philosophy, Philosophy, or Social Sciences will select two or three off-track electives.

Capstones

Before receiving an MLA degree, students must complete one of the following:

- Either a thesis or thesis project, taking six hours of either Liberal Arts thesis or Liberal Arts Thesis Project
- In lieu of thesis or thesis project hours,
 - Either 6 hours of relevant coursework additional to track requirement, with a contracted research paper of twenty or more pages in each course.
 - Or 6 hours of relevant coursework additional to track requirement, including one contracted research paper of forty or more pages.

All students will also complete an MLA Portfolio.

Students must maintain a 3.00 grade point average to maintain non-probationary status in the program.

GRADUATE SCHOOL ACADEMIC POLICY

Henderson State University Graduate School Catalog, 2018-20, pp. 20-23

Grades and GPA

Graduate students are required to earn a 3.00 cumulative grade point average before being admitted to candidacy as well as graduating from their graduate level program of study. Failing to earn this average on the minimum number of semester hours required for completion of the degree, the student may (re)take as many as six additional hours in an effort to accumulate a grade point average of 3.0. A student may not continue in a program with more than two (2) grades of "C" on his or her transcript; nor may a student continue in the program with a grade of "D" or "F". Courses in which a grade of "C" is earned may be repeated with permission of the course instructor and academic advisor. Courses in which a "D" or "F" is earned may be repeated only with permission of the course instructor, advisor, and departmental chair. A student will be dismissed from the Graduate School if the student is denied permission to repeat a "D" or "F".

A student will be placed on academic probation whenever his/her cumulative grade point average falls below 3.00. A student once placed on probation will have 12 credit hours to raise his/her cumulative grade point average to 3.00 or higher. If the cumulative grade point average has not been raised to 3.00 or higher after 12 credit hours, the student shall be suspended for one semester. Summer school is considered in the application of suspension from the university. A student on academic probation who does not earn a 3.0 average by the completion of the semester shall be suspended for one semester. A student who has returned from probation following a period of academic suspension or who has been reinstated by the graduate level Admissions and Adjustments Committee must earn at least a 3.00 average each semester while on probation in order to continue as a student. If a student receives a second suspension for academic reasons, he/she will be dismissed from the Graduate School.

Incomplete Grades

Each spring, a list of incomplete grades will be sent by the Dean of the Graduate School to all Deans and Department Chairs. If a student does not complete the work in one calendar year following the semester's end, the Dean will automatically issue the grade of "F" for the course(s). If a student needs an extension of time beyond the calendar year, he or she must obtain approval from the instructor of record for the courses and the program director. Program directors may request and provide justification for a specific extension of time from the Dean of the Graduate School.

Time Limit for Completion of Program

All requirements for Master's degrees, except those in Counseling, must be met within six (6) calendar years after the beginning of the student's program, exclusive of any time spent in the armed forces of the United States... Transfer credit presented to meet the requirements for the

Master's degree at Henderson State University must have been earned within seven (7) years, nine (9) in the case of Counseling, prior to graduation. If for reasons beyond the student's control, he/she is unable to complete all requirements within the time limit allowed, he/she may apply to the Dean of the Graduate School for an extension of one year...

Graduate Study Load

The maximum load for a summer term is six (6) semester hours, or a total of twelve (12) hours for the entire summer session. The maximum load for a graduate student is twelve (12) semester hours each semester during the regular academic year. This twelve (12) hour maximum also applies to a student who is enrolled in graduate and undergraduate courses concurrently.

Note: Six (6) hours is considered full-time status for a graduate student during the fall and spring semesters; three (3) hours is considered full-time status during summer terms. This does not apply to international students who are required to be enrolled in nine (9) hours during the fall and/or spring semesters.

A student may withdraw during the first two (2) weeks of the regular summer term or during the first six (6) weeks of a semester without penalty. If the course is taught in a compressed format, withdrawal dates may be adjusted. Failure to withdraw officially will result in the assignment of a grade of "F."

Thesis Requirement¹

...In the case of an MLA student, a Liberal Arts Project, or Thesis, must be successfully completed and may involve substantive research in the form of a thesis or other creative project, as decided by the student and his/her academic advisor. Following admission to candidacy and completion of an appropriate introductory research course, the student should submit a thesis proposal to the Graduate School [following its approval by the student's thesis committee and the MLA director]. The proposal must be filed at least three (3) months before the date set for the oral defense of the thesis. After the proposal and a version of the thesis have been accepted by the student's major professor, the thesis must be submitted for approval to the rest of the committee composed of two other graduate faculty members, one of whom may be from a department outside the student's major area of study. The committee members and the Graduate Dean must receive copies of the thesis at least three (3) weeks prior to the date of the oral defense. The defense, which is conducted by the committee chaired by the major professor, will occur no later than two (2) weeks before the date of graduation. In preparing the thesis, the student should follow the instructions contained in Preparation of the Master's Thesis, available through the Office of the Graduate School. The total number of thesis hours for which a student may enroll is six (6). A grade of "R" will be recorded on the student's transcript for the thesis hours at the end of the semester. The grade of "R" is not an evaluative

¹ This requirement has been altered. Please see capstones requirement, p. 4.

measure but rather denotes continuing work on thesis hours. At the conclusion of the thesis process, the thesis committee chair will notify the Graduate Dean of the appropriate letter grade in order for the "R" to be changed. The student should obtain approval of the advisor and the Dean of Graduate School prior to final printing of the thesis. A student who fails to obtain this approval does so at his/her own risk. Upon completion, one copy is required for the library, one copy for the student's major department, and one copy to the Graduate School. More detailed guidelines concerning the thesis proposal, the preparation of the thesis, and the thesis approval process are available in the Graduate School or from graduate student advisors.

Alpha Epsilon Lambda

Alpha Epsilon Lambda is the national honor society for graduate students. The purpose is to promote academic excellence, leadership, and service among graduate students. The Alpha Delta Chapter of Alpha Epsilon Lambda was chartered at Henderson State University on April 15, 1998. Nominees are required to meet outstanding academic scholarship, community leadership and service learning standards and must be nominated by the graduate student's advisor. Two initiation ceremonies are held annually. The dean of the graduate school is the AEL Sponsor with officers elected annually. Dismissal from The Graduate School A student may be dismissed from the Graduate School for the following infractions: A student is officially reported to the Graduate Dean for plagiarism or cheating A student receives two academic suspensions A student who is admitted on CONDITION may be dismissed from the Graduate School if a 3.0 GPA is not maintained throughout all graduate work. A student who is not in good standing in one graduate program is not eligible to switch to another program.

TRACKS AND COURSES

Notes

Some courses are cross listed; when this is the case, cross listing designations are indicated within parentheses. Students cannot take cross listed courses for credit under both prefixes.

*Readings courses indicated by a superscript plus sign [⁺] can be taken up to two times with the consent of the MLA director and relevant department chair.

Art History

In addition to fulfilling the general degree requirements, students will complete the following courses (15-18 hours):

ART	5103	Art of the Non-Western World
ART	5233	History of American Art
ART	5293	Contemporary Art
ART	5783	History of Photography
ART	6553	Readings in Art History (can be repeated once for credit) ⁺

Students will draw their non-track electives from the following list (2-3 courses):

COM	5293	Creative Nonfiction
COM	5713	Graphic Novel Seminar
ENG	5383	Literature and Film
HIS	5613	Tudors on Film: History from Source to Screen
LA	6303	Popular Culture
MUS	6103	Music and Culture
THA	5443	Theatre History I: Origins to 1800
THA	5463	Theatre History II: 1800 to Present
THA	5473	Women, Gender and Race in American Theatre

One of the electives can be selected from the following, with the permission of both the instructor and the Art Department chair. Each course requires a scholarly research paper:

ART	5093	Experimental and Contemporary Media
ART	6473	Special Problems in Ceramics
ART	6483	Special Problems in Drawing
ART	6493	Special Problems in Painting
ART	6503	Special Problems in Printmaking
ART	6563	Special Problems in Photography
ART	6643	Special Problems in Sculpture
ART	6693	Special Problems in Digital Design

English

In addition to fulfilling the general degree requirements, students will complete 5-6 courses (15-18 hours) from among the following:

ENG	5103	Shakespeare
ENG	5123	Renaissance Literature of England
ENG	5143	Introduction to the Theory and Practice of Tutoring and Teaching Writing
ENG	5163	Modern Grammar
ENG	5193	Victorian Literature
ENG	5203	English Romantic Literature
ENG	5213	English and Its Development
ENG	5223	American Novel
ENG	5303	Literature of the American South
ENG	5353	Eighteenth Century English Literature
ENG	5363	The Bible as Literature
ENG	5373	African American Literature
ENG	5383	Literature and Film
ENG	5403	Topics in Women's Literature
ENG	5453	Advanced Composition
ENG	5533	The Romantic Movement in American Literature
ENG	5563	Literature for Adolescents and Young Adults
ENG	5593	English Novel: 1830-1950
ENG	5603	Contemporary Literature
ENG	5633	Introduction to Literary Criticism
ENG	5643	Rhetoric and Composition
ENG	5653	Medieval Literature
ENG	5673	English Novel to 1830
ENG	5963	Special Topics
ENG	6253	Problems in Interpretation
ENG	6273	Seminar in American Literature
ENG	6283	Seminar in English Literature
ENG	6433	Seminar in Comparative Literature

Students will also complete 2-3 off-track courses (6-9 hours) from among the off-track electives.

Gender Studies

In addition to the general degree requirements, students will take the following:

HIS	5003	Women in Europe from the Fall of Rome to the French Revolution
HIS	5333	American Women's History
SOC	5603	Women and Law
THA	5473	Women, Gender, and Race in American Theatre

Students will also select four additional classes (12 hours) from among the following options:

ANT	5058	Readings and Research in Anthropology*
ART	5293	Contemporary Art (with gender emphasis)
ART	6553	Readings in Art History*
ENG	5373	African American Literature
ENG	5383	Literature and Film*
ENG	5403	Topics in Women's Literature
ENG	5863	Special Topics in Literature*
ENG	6273	Seminar in American Literature*
ENG	6283	Seminar in English Literature*
ENG	6433	Seminar in Comparative Literature*
COM	5003	Special Topics in Communications*
HIS	5073	Social and Political Thought (cross-listed as PSC5073)
HIS	5153	The Rise of American Diversity
HIS	5163	The Age of Social Movements
HIS	5173	Rights, Freedoms, and Justice (cross-listed as PSC5173)
HIS	5303	Sex and Gender in Africa
HIS	5343	Africa in the American South
HIS	5373	The African American Experience
HIS	5613	Tudors on Film: History from Source to Screen
HIS	6563	Readings in History*
HIS	6983	Special Topics in History*
LA	6303	Popular Culture
PHI	5003	Special Topics in Philosophy*
PHI	6493	Readings in Philosophy*
PSC	5133	Political Behavior
PSC	5173	Civil Liberties
PSC	6983	Special Topics in Political Science*
PSY	5003	Special Topics in Psychology*
SOC	5033	Marriage and Family
SOC	5163	Social Movements and Change
SOC	5263	Stratification and Poverty
SOC	5283	Critical Race Theory

SOC 5293 Sex and Gender
SOC 5303 Urban Sociology

There is no off-track electives requirement.

* Denotes with the approval of the MLA director.

Media and Popular Culture

In addition to fulfilling the general degree requirements, students will take the following:

LA 6303 Popular Culture
COM 5043 Media Law and Ethics **OR**
COM 5313 Media Criticism

Students will also take 6 courses from among the following (18 hours):

ANT 5053 World Cultures (cross-listed as SOC5063)
ART 5103 Art of the Non-western World
ART 5093 Experimental and Contemporary Media
ART 5233 History of American Art
ART 5293 Contemporary Art
ART 5783 History of Photography
ART 6553 Readings in Art History
ART 6693 Advance Studio Media and Design
COM 5043 Media Law and Ethics (if not chosen for requirement)
COM 5073 Comic Studies Project
COM 5093 Persuasion
COM 5123 Advertising Principles and Practices
COM 5133 Rhetorical Theory
COM 5141-3 Individual Study
COM 5173 Nonfiction Comics
COM 5181 Independent Study
COM 5253 Magazine and Feature Writing
COM 5293 Creative Nonfiction
COM 5303 Digital Journalism
COM 5313 Communications Criticism (if not chosen for requirement)
COM 5353 Special Topics
COM 5403 Seminar in Communication
COM 5453 Seminar in Mass Media
COM 5493 Preproduction
COM 5503 Postproduction
COM 5713 Graphic Novel Seminar
ENG 5383 Literature and Film
ENG 5633 Introduction to Literary Criticism
ENG 5983 Advanced Creative Writing
HIS 5003 Women in Europe from the Fall of Rome to the French Revolution

HIS	5153	The Rise of American Diversity
HIS	5163	The Age of Social Movements
HIS	5183	Early Modern Europe, 1350-1789: Ideas and Culture in a Changing World
HIS	5373	The African American Experience
HIS	5713	Social and Political Thought (cross-listed as PSC5073)
HIS	5733	Religion in American History and Life
HIS	5463	Renaissance and Reformation Europe
HIS	5613	Tudors on Film: History from Source to Screen
IMD	5033	Digital Publishing
IMD	5053	Special Topics in Innovative Media
MUS	6103	Music and Culture
PSC	5203	Popular Culture and American Politics
SOC	5063	World Cultures (cross-listed as ANT5053)
THA	5173	Theatre Dramaturgy
THA	5443	Theatre History I: Origins to 1800
THA	5463	Theatre History II: 1800 to Present
THA	5473	Women, Gender and Race in American Theatre

There is no off-track electives requirement.

Philosophy

In addition to fulfilling the general degree requirements, students will complete 5-6 courses (15-18 hours) from among the following:

COM	5133	Rhetorical Theory
PHI	5003	Special Topics
PHI	5013	Philosophy of Mind
PHI	5043	Ancient Philosophy
PHI	5053	Modern Philosophy
PHI	5073	20 th Century Philosophy
PHI	5143	Logic II
PHI	5203	Asian Philosophy
PHI	5233	Philosophy of Science
PHI	5253	Existentialism
PHI	5643	Rhetoric and Composition (cross-listed as ENG5643)
PHI	5663	Introduction to Linguistics (cross-listed as ENG5663)
PHI	6493	Readings in Philosophy [†]

Students will also complete 2-3 off-track courses (6-9 hours) from among the off-track electives. These cannot be designated as English or Philosophy classes.

Rhetoric and Composition

In addition to fulfilling the general degree requirements, students will complete 5-6 courses (15-18 hours) from among the following:

COM	5133	Rhetorical Theory
ENG	5163	Modern Grammar
ENG	5213	English and Its Development
ENG	5453	Advanced Composition
ENG	5633	Introduction to Literary Criticism
ENG	5643	Rhetoric and Composition (cross-listed as PHI5643)
ENG	5663	Introduction to Linguistics (cross-listed as PHI5663)
ENG	6493	Readings in Rhetoric and Composition ⁺

Students will also complete 2-3 off-track courses (6-9 hours) from among the off-track electives. These cannot be designated as English or Philosophy classes.

Rhetoric and Philosophy

In addition to fulfilling the general degree requirements, students will complete 5-6 courses (15-18 hours) from among the following:

COM	5133	Rhetorical Theory
ENG	5163	Modern Grammar
ENG	5213	English and Its Development
ENG	5453	Advanced Composition
ENG	5633	Introduction to Literary Criticism
ENG	5643	Rhetoric and Composition (cross-listed as PHI5643)
ENG	5663	Introduction to Linguistics (cross-listed as PHI5663)
ENG	6493	Readings in Rhetoric and Composition ⁺
PHI	5003	Special Topics
PHI	5013	Philosophy of Mind
PHI	5043	Ancient Philosophy
PHI	5053	Modern Philosophy
PHI	5073	20 th Century Philosophy
PHI	5143	Logic II
PHI	5203	Asian Philosophy
PHI	5233	Philosophy of Science
PHI	5253	Existentialism
PHI	5643	Rhetoric and Composition (cross-listed as ENG5643)
PHI	5663	Introduction to Linguistics (cross-listed as ENG5663)
PHI	6493	Readings in Philosophy ⁺

Students will also complete 2-3 off-track courses (6-9 hours) from among the off-track electives. These cannot be designated as English or Philosophy classes.

Social Sciences

In addition to fulfilling the general degree requirements, students will take one of the following as appropriate to his or her thesis/project area:

HIS	6583	History Research Seminar
		OR
PSC	6183	Seminar in Politics

Students will also complete 5-6 courses (15-18 hours) from among the following:

ANT	5053	World Cultures (cross-listed as SOC5063)
ANT	5058	Readings in Anthropology
GEO	5213	Human Geography
GEO	5043	Geo-Political Economies
HIS	5003	Women in Europe from the Fall of Rome to the French Revolution
HIS	5073	Social and Political Thought (cross-listed as PSC5073)
HIS	5173	Rights, Freedoms, and Justice (cross-listed as PSC5173)
HIS	5183	Early Modern Europe, 1350-1789: Ideas and Culture in a Changing World
HIS	5203	The New World: Cultural Encounters in Latin America and the Atlantic
HIS	5233	American Foreign Policy
HIS	5283	American Constitutional Development (cross-listed as PSC5053.)
HIS	5293	The Old South
HIS	5253	African Kingdoms
HIS	5263	Arkansas and the Southwest
HIS	5273	Islam and the West
HIS	5283	American Constitutional Development (cross-listed as PSC5053)
HIS	5303	Sex and Gender in Africa
HIS	5333	American Women's History
HIS	5343	Africa in the American South
HIS	5373	The African American Experience
HIS	5443	Medieval Europe: The Age of Faith
HIS	5463	Renaissance and Reformation Europe
HIS	5603	Tudor/Stuart England: from Reformation to Revolution
HIS	5613	Tudors on Film: History from Source to Screen
HIS	5623	Modern German History
HIS	5643	French Revolution and Napoleon
HIS	5683	The Modern Middle East
HIS	5693	African History: From Conquest to Independence, 1880 to the Present
HIS	5713	Social and Political Thought (cross-listed as PSC5073)
HIS	5733	Religion in American History and Life
HIS	6563	Readings in History *
HIS	6583	Research Seminar
PSC	5053	American Constitutional Development (cross-listed as HIS5283)
PSC	5063	Public Administration/ Public Management

PSC	5073	Social and Political Thought (cross-listed as HIS5073)
PSC	5093	International Relations
PSC	5103	American Foreign Policy
PSC	5133	Political Behavior
PSC	5163	Public Policy
PSC	5173	Rights, Freedoms, and Justice (cross-listed as HIS5173)
PSC	5203	Popular Culture and American Politics
PSC	5223	The American Presidency
PSC	5233	Comparative Politics in the Middle East
PSC	5243	Comparative Politics in Africa
PSC	5253	South Asian Politics
PSC	5303	Research Methods
PSC	6183	Seminar in Politics
PSC	6193	Readings in Political Science
PSC	6983	Special Topics in Political Science
PSY	5353	Psychology in Literature
PSY	5723	Psychology of Religion
SOC	5033	Marriage and Family
SOC	5043	Sociology of Education
SOC	5063	World Cultures (cross-listed as ANT5053)
SOC	5163	Social Movements and Change
SOC	5183	Death and Dying
SOC	5253	Group Dynamics
SOC	5263	Stratification and Poverty
SOC	5293	Sex and Gender
SOC	5303	Urban Sociology
SOC	5603	Women and Law

Students will also complete 2-3 off-track courses (6-9 hours) from among the off-track electives. These cannot be in a Social Sciences discipline.

Society and Identity

In addition to fulfilling the general degree requirements, students will take the following courses (6 hours):

SOC	5403	Social Movements and Change
HIS	5173	Rights, Freedom, and Justice (or as PSC 5173)

Students will also complete 6 courses (18 hours) from among the following:

ENG	5403	Topics in Women's Literature
HIS	5333	American Women's History
HIS	5003	Women in Europe from the Fall of Rome to the French Revolution
HIS	5283	American Constitutional Development (cross-listed as PSC5053)
HIS	5373	The African American Experience
HIS	5713	Social and Political Thought (cross-listed as PSC5073)
HIS	5153	The Rise of American Diversity
MUS	6103	Music and Culture
PSC	5173	Civil Liberties
PSC	5163	Public Policy
PSC	5053	American Constitutional Development (cross-listed as HIS5283)
PSC	5073	Social and Political Thought (cross-listed as HIS5713)
PSC	5203	Popular Culture and American Politics
SOC	5043	Sociology of Education
SOC	5253	Group Dynamics
SOC	5263	Stratification and Poverty
SOC	5273	Community Service
SOC	5293	Sex and Gender
SOC	5303	Urban Sociology
SOC	5603	Women and Law
THA	5473	Women, Gender and Race in American Theatre

There is no off-track electives requirement, and students are not required to take 18 hours of 6000-level courses.

OFF-TRACK ELECTIVES

Other graduate courses and newly created graduate courses may apply toward MLA degree with the approval of the MLA director and the dean of the Graduate School.

ANT	5053	World Cultures (cross listed as SOC5053)
ANT	5058	Readings and Research in Anthropology
ART	5103	Art of the Non-Western World
ART	5233	History of American Art
ART	5293	Contemporary Art
ART	5783	History of Photography
ART	6553	Readings in Art History
COM	5003	Special topics in Communication
COM	5073	Comic Studies Project (cross-listed as MMC5073)
COM	5093	Persuasion
COM	5133	Rhetorical Theory
COM	5141-3	Individual Study
COM	5313	Communications Criticism
COM	5403	Seminar in Communication (Special Topics)
COM	5713	Graphic Novel Seminar (cross listed as MMC5713)
IMD	5033	Digital Publishing
IMD	5053	Special Topics in Innovative Media
COM	5043	Media Law and Ethics
COM	5181	Independent Study
COM	5123	Advertising Principles and Practices
COM	5173	Nonfiction Comics
COM	5253	Magazine and Feature Writing
COM	5293	Creative Nonfiction
COM	5303	Digital Journalism
COM	5353	Special Topics
COM	5453	Seminar in Mass Media
COM	5493	Preproduction
COM	5503	Postproduction
ENG	5103	Shakespeare
ENG	5123	Renaissance Literature of England
ENG	5163	Modern Grammar
ENG	5193	Victorian Literature
ENG	5203	English Romantic Literature
ENG	5213	English and Its Development
ENG	5223	American Novel
ENG	5303	Literature of the American South
ENG	5353	Eighteenth-Century English Literature
ENG	5363	The Bible as Literature
ENG	5373	African American Literature
ENG	5383	Literature and Film
ENG	5403	Topics in Women's Literature

ENG	5453	Advanced Composition
ENG	5533	Romantic Movement in American Literature
ENG	5563	Literature for Adolescents and Young Adults
ENG	5593	English Novel: 1830-1950
ENG	5603	Contemporary Literature
ENG	5633	Introduction to Literary Criticism
ENG	5643	Rhetoric and Composition
ENG	5653	Medieval Literature
ENG	5663	Introduction to Linguistics
ENG	5673	English Novel to 1830
ENG	5963	Special Topics
ENG	5983	Advanced Creative Writing
ENG	6253	Problems in Interpretation
ENG	6273	Seminar in American Literature
ENG	6283	Seminar in English Literature
ENG	6433	Seminar in Comparative Literature
HIS	5003	Women in Europe from the Fall of Rome to the French Revolution
HIS	5153	The Rise of American Diversity
HIS	5163	The Age of Social Movements
HIS	5173	Rights, Freedoms and Justice (cross-listed as PSC5173)
HIS	5183	Early Modern Europe, 1350-1789: Ideas and Culture in a Changing World
HIS	5203	The New World: Cultural Encounters in Latin America and the Atlantic
HIS	5233	American Foreign Policy
HIS	5253	African Kingdoms
HIS	5263	Arkansas and the Southwest
HIS	5273	Islam and the West
HIS	5283	American Constitutional Development
HIS	5293	The Old South
HIS	5303	Sex and Gender in Africa
HIS	5333	American Women's History
HIS	5343	Africa in the American South
HIS	5373	The African American Experience
HIS	5443	Medieval Europe: The Age of Faith
HIS	5463	Renaissance & Reformation Europe
HIS	5503	History Internship
HIS	5603	Tudor and Stuart England: From Reformation to Revolution
HIS	5613	Tudors on Film: History from Source to Screen
HIS	5623	Modern German History
HIS	5643	French Revolution and Napoleon
HIS	5683	Modern Middle East
HIS	5693	African History: From Conquest to Independence, 1880 to the Present
HIS	5713	Social and Political Thought (cross-listed as PSC5073)
HIS	5723	The Paranormal and American Culture
HIS	5733	Religion in American Life

HIS	6563	Readings in History
HIS	6583	Research Seminar
HIS	6983	Special Topics in History
PHI	5003	Special Topics
PHI	5013	Philosophy of Mind
PHI	5043	Ancient Philosophy
PHI	5053	Modern Philosophy
PHI	5073	20 th Century Philosophy
PHI	5143	Logic II
PHI	5203	Asian Philosophy
PHI	5233	Philosophy of Science
PHI	5253	Existentialism
PSC	5053	American Constitutional Development (cross-listed as HIS5283)
PSC	5073	Social and Political Thought (cross-listed as HIS5073)
PSC	5093	International Relations
PSC	5103	American Foreign Policy
PSC	5133	Political Behavior
PSC	5163	Public Policy
PSC	5173	Rights, Freedoms, and Justice (cross-listed as HIS5173)
PSC	5203	Popular Culture and American Politics
PSC	5223	The American Presidency
PSC	5233	Comparative Politics in the Middle East
PSC	5243	Comparative Politics in Africa
PSC	5253	South Asian Politics
PSC	5303	Research Methods
PSC	6183	Seminar in Politics
PSC	6983	Special Topics in Political Science
SOC	5043	Sociology of Education
SOC	5063	World Cultures (cross-listed as ANT5053)
SOC	5163	Social Movements and Change
SOC	5183	Death and Dying
SOC	5223	Childhood Socialization
SOC	5253	Group Dynamics
SOC	5273	Community Services
SOC	5263	Stratification and Poverty
SOC	5293	Sex and Gender
SOC	5303	Urban Sociology
SOC	5603	Women and Law
GEO	5043	Geo-Political Economies
GEO	5213	Human Geography
LA	6303	Popular Culture
MUS	6103	Music and Culture
PSY	5353	Psychology in Literature
PSY	5723	Psychology of Religion
THA	5173	Theatre Dramaturgy

THA 5443 Theatre History I: Origins to 1800
 THA 5463 Theatre History II: 1800 to Present
 THA 5473 Women, Gender and Race in American Theatre

MLA DEGREE PLANS

* Denotes a required course

Art History

Semester		Hours	Semester		Hours
Fall, Year 1			Spring, Year 1		
LA6103*	TOB I: Texts and Ideas	3	LA6203*	TOB II: Research Seminar	3
ART5233*	History of American Art	3	ART5233*	Contemporary Art	3
Summer I, Year 1			Summer II, Year 1		
ART5103*	Art of the Non-Western World	3	*****	Track Elective	3
			LA6503*	Thesis/ Thesis Project I or capstone elective	3
Fall, Year 2			Spring, Year 2		
ART5783*	History of Photography	3	*****	Track Elective	3
ART6553*	Readings in Art History	3	LA6553*	Thesis/ Thesis Project II or capstone elective	3
*****	Track Elective	3			
Total Hours					36

English Literature

Semester		Hours	Semester		Hours
Fall, Year 1			Spring, Year 1		
LA6103*	TOB I: Texts and Ideas	3	LA6203*	TOB II: Research Seminar	3
ENG****	Track Elective	3	ENG****	Track Elective	3
Summer I, Year 1			Summer II, Year 1		
ENG****	Track Elective	3	*****	Non-track Elective	3
			LA6503*	Thesis/ Thesis Project I or capstone elective	3
Fall, Year 2			Spring, Year 2		
ENG****	Track Elective	3	ENG6273 or ENG6283 or ENG6433*	Seminar in American Literature OR Seminar in English Literature OR Seminar in Comparative Literature	3
*****	Track Elective	3	LA6553*	Thesis/ Thesis Project II or capstone elective	3
*****	Non-track Elective	3			
Total Hours					36

Gender Studies

Semester		Hours	Semester		Hours
Fall, Year 1			Spring, Year 1		
LA6103*	TOB I: Texts and Ideas	3	LA6203*	TOB II: Research Seminar	3
HIS5003*	Women in Europe from the Fall of Rome to the French Revolution	3	HIS5333*	American Women's History	3
Summer I, Year 1			Summer II, Year 1		
*****	Track Elective	3	*****	Track Elective	3
			LA6503*	Thesis / Thesis Project I or capstone elective	3
Fall, Year 2			Spring, Year 2		
SOC5603*	Women and Law	3	THA5473*	Women, Gender, and Race in American Theatre	3
*****	Track Elective	3	LA6553*	Thesis/ Thesis Project II or capstone elective	3
*****	Track Elective	3			
Total Hours					36

Media and Popular Culture

Semester		Hours	Semester		Hours
Fall, Year 1			Spring, Year 1		
LA6103*	TOB I: Texts and Ideas	3	LA6203*	TOB II: Research Seminar*	3
LA6303* OR *****	Popular Culture OR Track Elective	3	COM5043* OR COM5313*	Media Law & Ethics OR Communications Criticism	3
Summer I, Year 1			Summer II, Year 1		
*****	Track Elective	3	*****	Track Elective	3
			LA6503*	Thesis / Thesis Project I or capstone elective	3
Fall, Year 2			Spring, Year 2		
LA6303* or *****	Popular Culture OR Track Elective	3	*****	Track Elective	3
*****	Track Elective	3	LA6553*	Thesis/ Thesis Project II or capstone elective	3
*****	Track Elective	3			
Total Hours					36

Philosophy, Rhetoric & Composition, and Rhetoric & Philosophy Tracks

Semester		Hours	Semester		Hours
Fall, Year 1			Spring, Year 1		
LA6103*	TOB I: Texts and Ideas	3	LA6203*	TOB II: Research Seminar	3
*****	Track Elective	3	*****	Track Elective	3
Summer I, Year 1			Summer II, Year 1		
*****	Track Elective	3	*****	Non-track Elective	3
			LA6503*	Thesis/ Thesis Project I or capstone elective	3
Fall, Year 2			Spring, Year 2		
*****	Track Elective	3	ENG6493* or PHI6493*	Readings in Rhetoric and Composition (R&C track) or Readings in Philosophy (P&R track; Phil track)	3
*****	Track Elective	3	LA6553*	Thesis/ Thesis Project II or capstone elective	3
*****	Non-track Elective	3			
Total Hours					36

Social Sciences

Semester		Hours	Semester		Hours
Fall, Year 1			Spring, Year 1		
LA6103*	TOB I: Texts and Ideas	3	LA6203*	TOB II: Research Seminar	3
HIS6583* or PSC6183 or *****	History Research Seminar OR Seminar in Politics OR Track Elective	3	*****	Track Elective	3
Summer I, Year 1			Summer II, Year 1		
*****	Track Elective	3	*****	Non-track Elective	3
			LA6503*	Thesis / Thesis Project I or capstone elective	3
Fall, Year 2			Spring, Year 2		
HIS6583* or PSC6183 or *****	History Research Seminar OR Seminar in Politics OR Track Elective	3	*****	Track Elective	3
*****	Track Elective	3	LA6553*	Thesis/ Thesis Project II or capstone elective	3
*****	Non-track Elective	3			
Total Hours					36

Society and Identity

Semester		Hours	Semester		Hours
Fall, Year 1			Spring, Year 1		
LA6103*	TOB I: Texts and Ideas	3	LA6203*	TOB II: Research Seminar	3
*****	Track Elective	3	SOC5403*	Social Movements and Change	3
Summer I, Year 1			Summer II, Year 1		
*****	Track Elective	3	*****	Track Elective	3
			LA6503*	Thesis/ Thesis Project I or capstone elective	3
Fall, Year 2			Spring, Year 2		
*****	Track Elective	3	HIS/PSC 5173*	Rights, Freedom, and Justice	3
*****	Track Elective	3	LA6553*	Thesis/ Thesis Project II or capstone elective	3
*****	Track Elective	3			
Total Hours					36

MLA THESIS/THESIS PROJECT GUIDELINES

MLA Thesis / Thesis Project Prospectus

Statement of Topic

Identify, in brief, the interdisciplinary problem, issue, or topic that will be the subject of your thesis or will inform your thesis project. The Master of Liberal Arts is an interdisciplinary degree, and all theses and projects in the program must also be interdisciplinary in nature. (Creative projects are addressed at the end of this list.)

Rationale for the Topic

State the purpose of your project. What will it contribute to human knowledge and to your own development? Who might find the results of your project to be useful? How will your work go beyond what is already known on the topic? If a creative project, how will your work in this creative field contribute to the genre or medium? Just as research-driven work must engage with existing scholarship, so should creative projects operate by and/or build upon existing field standards.

Interdisciplinary Nature of the Topic

Explain how the topic involves materials, perspectives, or techniques from two or more disciplines.

Preliminary Literature Review

Before embarking on a major project, you should be sure that you are not replicating someone else's work; in other words, you want to take an original approach to your problem, with an eye to producing an original argument/outcome. If you are doing a creative project, ensure that you are not replicating existing work and that your contribution is not merely derivative). Work on similar or related topics may suggest to you steps, approaches, or points of view which can help you to improve or facilitate your project. In the body of your plan you should include a preliminary overview or summary of the existing scholarship on your topic. Mention what related topics have been studied, and how you have determined that you are offering an original contribution. Your committee members and the HSU librarians can help you conduct your literature search.

Plan of your Work

What steps will you take to study your topic? Your project may require you to use materials not commonly available: data, research subjects, instruments, reference books, rare books, archival material, and so on. If you plan to use such materials, then outline how you will get access to them.

Timeline

Indicate how you will organize your process, according to stages of work or by chapters, for example. Estimate a date by which you will complete each stage, as well as a date for completion of the entire project.

Bibliography

The bibliography is an important part of your plan, and your thesis committee chair will want to see that you have done some reading before agreeing to direct your thesis. As a guideline, two pages of up-to-date bibliographic references should show that you have studied what has been done in the field. This will also serve as a preliminary check against duplicating work already done elsewhere. This is the material that you will summarize in your Literature Review. If you are writing a research-driven thesis, you should normally include only peer-reviewed sources (i.e., articles from academic journals and/or books published by a reputable academic press).

Format

Note that you will format your thesis and bibliography in accordance with the requirements of the style guide most appropriate for you: the MLA (Modern Language Association) style, the APA (American Psychological Association) style, or the Chicago Manual of Style. Consider also using software that helps store, organize, and format bibliographic references.

MLA Creative Project

The Master of Liberal Arts program offers an unusual option to students, the opportunity to submit a creative work as a project. Almost any type of creative project is eligible: fiction, poetry, memoir, painting, music, documentary films, etc. Remember that the purpose of the creative project is not solely to document your skill as a writer or artist. One of the goals of the project is to demonstrate your ability to approach a problem from an interdisciplinary perspective. Historically, problems have often been addressed through the arts. If you have the creative skills to examine an interdisciplinary question in this way, we invite you to use this method.

You will submit documentation of your creative project through an appropriate medium; you and your committee chair will select the best documentation. Whatever the type of your documentation, however, you must also submit a narrative description of your creative project in which you will explain the interdisciplinary problem you are addressing and how the project speaks to that problem. The length of the narrative statement will vary depending on the type of project that you undertake. You will also submit both a bibliography and a review of literature on the problem you are examining.

Preparation of the MLA Thesis or Thesis Project

Introduction

The *thesis* is a formal research paper (90-100 pages) presented by the candidate to a committee of Graduate Faculty members, who certify that the work presented meets the professional standards of the student's academic discipline. Preparation for writing a thesis should include careful and wide reading of the professional journals and other appropriate texts of the particular discipline.

The *thesis project* should be a substantial work (if written, of comparable length to the thesis or longer), but it can be partly or mainly a creative work. It must be grounded in a discernible, relevant context, while also clearly engaged in interdisciplinarity; e.g., creative writing should speak to academically relevant scholarship and transcend the immediate art form.

Process

1. Thesis or Thesis Project Committee: The candidate will consult with the MLA director to discuss ideas for the thesis or thesis project. The candidate and director will then create a committee composed of a chair and at least two other graduate faculty members—one of whom may be from outside of the student's track or area of emphasis.
2. Prospectus: The candidate must prepare a prospectus (project plan) in consultation with his/her committee chair. The committee chair must approve the prospectus before the candidate forwards it to the remaining committee members. The candidate must have each member of the thesis committee sign a prospectus approval plan, which will then be forwarded for signature to both the MLA director and the Graduate School dean.
3. Thesis/Thesis Project: In consultation with his or her committee, the candidate will complete his or her thesis or thesis project. Once the committee chair is satisfied that the work is complete, the candidate should forward it to the other committee members and ask the MLA director to schedule a thesis/project defense.
4. Oral Defense: Each candidate undergoes a thesis or thesis project defense conducted by his or her committee. Candidates should allow committee members three weeks to read their complete submissions prior to the defense date. The thesis must be defended within sixty days of the commencement associated with the candidate's graduation date.
5. Public Presentation: Each candidate presents on his or her final project before a public audience; presentations are typically scheduled at the end of either the fall or the spring semester. Candidates can present, with the approval of the committee chair, prior to undergoing the oral defense. Presentations will be of approximately twenty minutes and candidates should make use of audio/visual equipment.
6. Corrections: Following a successful defense, the committee chair will forward all corrections to the candidate.
7. Thesis / Thesis Project Approval: Before a thesis/thesis project is reproduced in its final form, it must be approved, by signature on the approval/title page, by the thesis committee, MLA director, and Graduate School dean.

8. The candidate will submit two bound copies of the final thesis/project (as adjusted for project media): one to the MLA director and one to the Huie Library. The candidate will also submit electronic versions of the thesis both recipients.
9. Mechanical Details
 - a. The text of the submission must be word-processed in 12 point Times Roman font and printed on a high quality laser printer.
 - b. Format: The candidate will follow, without exception, formatting guidelines from a handbook appropriate to his or her major field of study (such as the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*, *The Chicago Manual of Style* or the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*) which incorporates the standards of publication in the student's major field.
 - When in question, the "book format" outlined in the style manual will always take precedence over the "submission format."
 - c. Corrections: There are to be no detectable errors in the thesis. There must be no after-printing corrections.
 - d. Every page of the bound work will be numbered, except the title/approval page.
 - Numbers should be considered part of the actual text, appearing as the first or last line of text allowed on each full page.
 - Preliminary pages are numbered with lower-case Roman numerals which are centered on the last line of text, one-half inch from the page bottom.
 - Pages in the body of the text are numbered with Arabic numerals.
 - Opening pages of chapters, appendices, tables, and addenda are numbered, centered, on the last line of text, one-half inch from page bottom.
 - All other Arabic numbers appear in the top right corner of the text, one-half inch from the top of the paper and one inch from the right edge of the paper. Numbers should not extend into the right margin space.
 - e. Lettering and drawing for charts, figures, tables, and exhibits must be computer-generated. Each graphic should be placed on a separate page immediately following the page on which it is first cited.
 - f. Photographs, drawings, pockets, or other illustrative materials should be either computer generated or otherwise scanned using a high-quality scanner.
 - g. The margins for each paper are to be as follows: left side, one and one-half inches; all other margins, one inch. New chapters and major divisions of the thesis will start with the heading one inch from the top edge of the paper. The left margin must be strictly observed. The right margin should not be justified.
 - h. The MLA director will print your title/approval page.
 - i. The date of the thesis on the title page must be the month and the year in which the degree is to be awarded.

- j. Material included in the thesis is to be double spaced except in those instances when single spacing is indicated by the approved manual.
- k. The format of footnotes, bibliographies, equations, graphs, tables, pagination, etc., shall be in accordance with the standards of the approved manual.
- l. The candidate is cautioned to follow carefully the rules of the manual about the location, underscoring order, and capitalization of, as well as the spacing between, chapter titles and the subheadings within the individual chapters.

Arrangement of Materials in the Thesis

The materials in the thesis should be arranged in the following order:

1. Blank Sheet
2. Title Page / Thesis Approval Signature Sheet
3. Acknowledgements (if any)
4. Table of Contents
5. List of Tables (if any)
6. List of Figures (if any)
7. Abstract (see below)
8. Body of Thesis
9. Bibliography
10. Appendix (if any)
11. Blank Sheet

A Note on the Abstract

The abstract is presented at the beginning of the thesis or creative project. It is a summary which presents all the major elements of your work in a condensed form. It often functions, together with the thesis title, as a stand-alone text, which can appear in bibliographic indexes. It should be of between 150 and 300 words.

- The structure of the abstract should mirror the structure of the whole work, with at least a sentence summarizing all constituent parts (e.g., thesis chapters)
- It should include your research questions. These should be presented near the beginning of the abstract.
- Approximately the last half of the abstract should be dedicated to summarizing and interpreting your results.

Thesis/Thesis Project Check List

- ✓ After the student has been admitted to candidacy for the degree, he/she meets with the MLA director to discuss the feasibility of his or her ideas for a thesis or thesis project.
- ✓ The MLA director, in consultation with the candidate, establishes a thesis/thesis project committee: a chair and at least two other graduate faculty members. The chair and at least one other committee member must work in the student's area of emphasis.
- ✓ The candidate consults the "Instructions for the Preparation of a Thesis or Thesis Project" in the MLA Handbook, registers for Thesis or Thesis Project I, and begins work on the prospectus.
- ✓ When the candidate has completed the prospectus to the satisfaction of the committee chair, he or she obtains signatures of approval as specified on the approval form.
- ✓ Student completes Thesis or Thesis Project I and registers for Thesis or Thesis Project II.
- ✓ Under the supervision of the committee, the candidate prepares the thesis or thesis project in accordance with the Instructions in the MLA Handbook.
- ✓ The candidate submits his or her completed thesis or thesis project to the committee.
- ✓ Once the completed work has been accepted by the committee chair, the student arranges to defend the thesis.
- ✓ The candidate presents publicly on his or thesis or thesis project, either before or after the defense date, as arranged by the MLA director.
- ✓ The candidate undergoes an oral defense of the thesis/thesis project with the committee.
- ✓ Following the (successful) defense, the committee chair and members sign two title pages/approval forms and the chair sends them to the MLA director. The MLA director and Graduate School dean sign the two forms and return them to the candidate.
- ✓ After the candidate has completed final corrections, he or she will produce two bound copies of the thesis or thesis project, each including all mandated materials (see above). The first copy of is for the library; the second is for the MLA director. Additionally, the student will submit electronic copies of the thesis or thesis project.

YOUR MLA PORTFOLIO

Each MLA candidate will complete a portfolio, to be displayed at the time of your (if you are completing a thesis or thesis project) or your cohort's (if you are completing an internship) public presentations. You should consider your portfolio as a project to itself, and thus feel free to use creativity in its delivery, whether in paper, digital, or other form; these are artifacts of your MLA experience/s, which hopefully will be useful and of personal value to you as you move forward in your education, career, and life. However, your portfolio must be accessible for assessment and, on one occasion at least, public observation.

While you are free to create your portfolio as a series of documents, it should be stored digitally; you have access to eportfolio through the university's Learning Management System (LMS), Canvas.

Your Portfolio will include the following:

- a short, self-reflective description of your purpose in entering the program, your academic goals, and your expectations of the program (2-3 pages).
- three or more substantial pieces of work produced for assessment during your time in the program;
- a descriptive display of your capstone work, which can take any number of forms (narrative, visual, musical, epistolary, or other), but should communicate your motivation in producing your capstone work, your evolving methodology, and your work's trajectory;
- an abstract of your thesis or thesis project; this will also be included in your final, bound, work;
- a final, narrative reflection of your study journey and experience of the program (5-6 pages).
 - This should in some way interact with your entry essay. (Did you achieve your goals? Did your goals change?)
 - This should include a description of your experience of interdisciplinarity.