

HUMANITIES PROGRAM



Majors, Minors and more

Fall 2020

KU THE UNIVERSITY OF
KANSAS

Table of Contents

| | |
|--------------------------------------|---------|
| Our Values..... | 3 |
| Humanities Major Maps..... | 4 - 7 |
| Humanities Minor Maps..... | 8 - 11 |
| Humanities Courses..... | 12 - 49 |
| Humanities Study Abroad Courses..... | 50 - 53 |
| Humanities Alumni Profiles..... | 54 - 57 |

Dear Students:

The University of Kansas Humanities Program has designed its curriculum around the idea that you must build skills that will allow you to be flexible in the workplace, while becoming individuals who are able to face the multiple challenges posed by your community and society.

Our students not only acquire the competencies needed to succeed in multiple professions, they also grapple with the humanistic values of equality, empathy, dignity, and justice. In all of our courses, we debate what it really means to “be human” and what responsibilities that entails.

Our diverse course offerings allow you to engage with everything from pregnancy in literature, to indigenous people’s food traditions, to aviation in American culture, to sex throughout history. You can venture outside the classroom and involve yourself directly with local non-profits in Kansas Today, or study Europe Today, and then – through the Humanities Study Abroad programs – explore global migration in Rome and walk the Camino de Santiago in northern Spain!

Taken as a whole, our courses are designed to teach you to think for yourself, to learn to articulate your ideas in front of your peers, to write clearly and compellingly, to engage with cultures other than your own, to understand how to improve your society, to learn how to ask the right questions and find answers where possible, and to engage in moral reasoning. We value the individual student and can tailor a course of study to meet your interests and desired outcomes. We work closely with KU’s Career Center to help you plan your future. The Humanities faculty are an eclectic bunch of professors who would love to help guide you through your adventure at KU. Join us!

Margot Versteeg
Director of the Humanities Program



Humanities Major

Global Humanities Track

Humanities Major

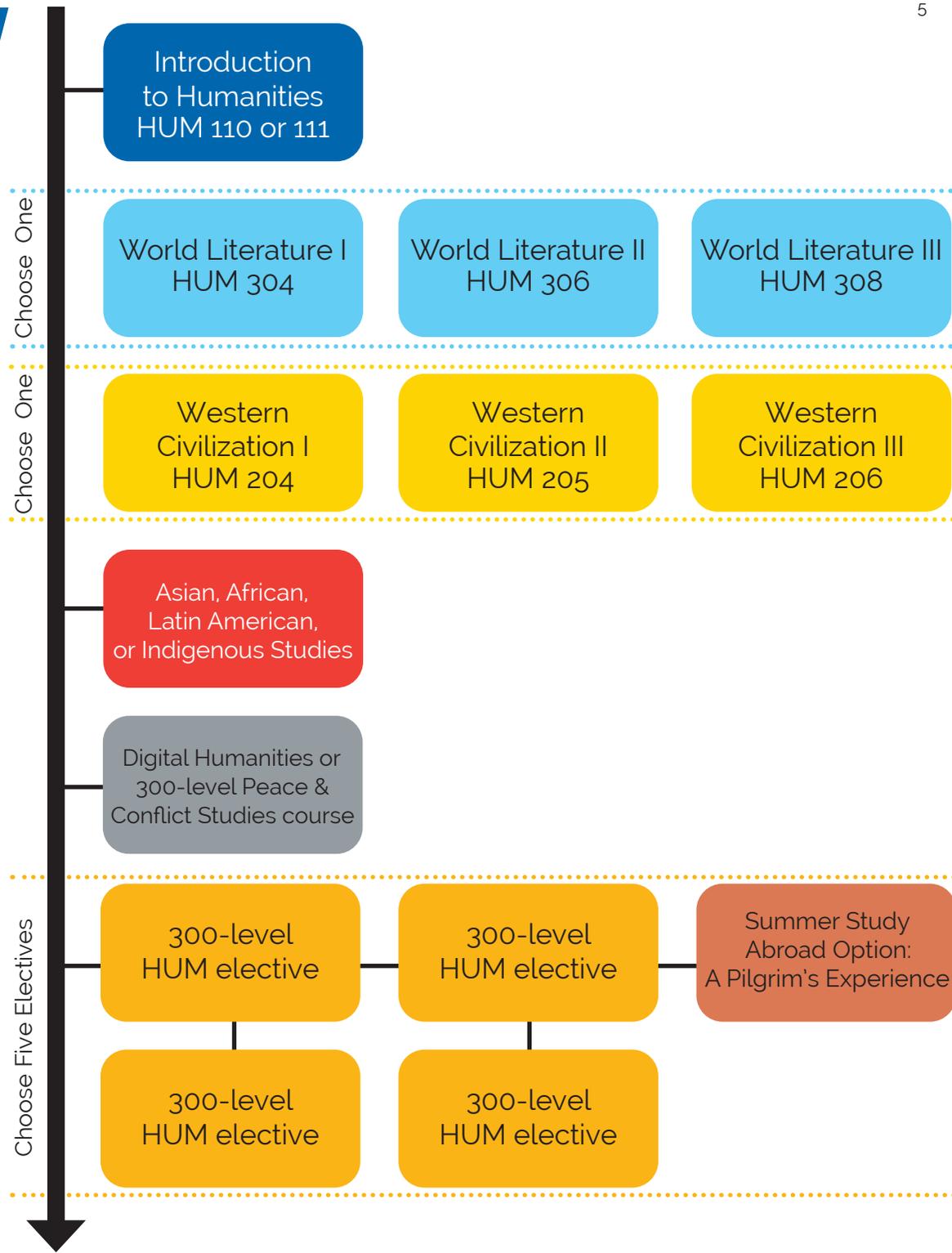
The B.A. in Humanities is an interdisciplinary major that allows students to examine key issues relating to human experiences and the human condition from a variety of perspectives, including philosophy, history, religion, literature, art and language. The Humanities Major provides a foundation in the liberal arts that prepares students to take part in the world around them and is basic for success in many fields, including business, medicine, law, marketing, sales, and social services.

Global Humanities Track

This track studies aspects of the cultures of Western civilization and of one non-Western civilization (e.g. Africa, Asia, the Middle East, or Latin America). It is designed to provide the student with knowledge of diverse civilizations and with methods for investigating their differences and commonalities.

Credit Requirements

The Humanities Major requires a total of 30 credit hours. Students must take courses in at least three humanities and/or social science departments or programs with a maximum of 15 hours from one department.



Humanities Major

Peace & Conflict Studies Track

Humanities Major

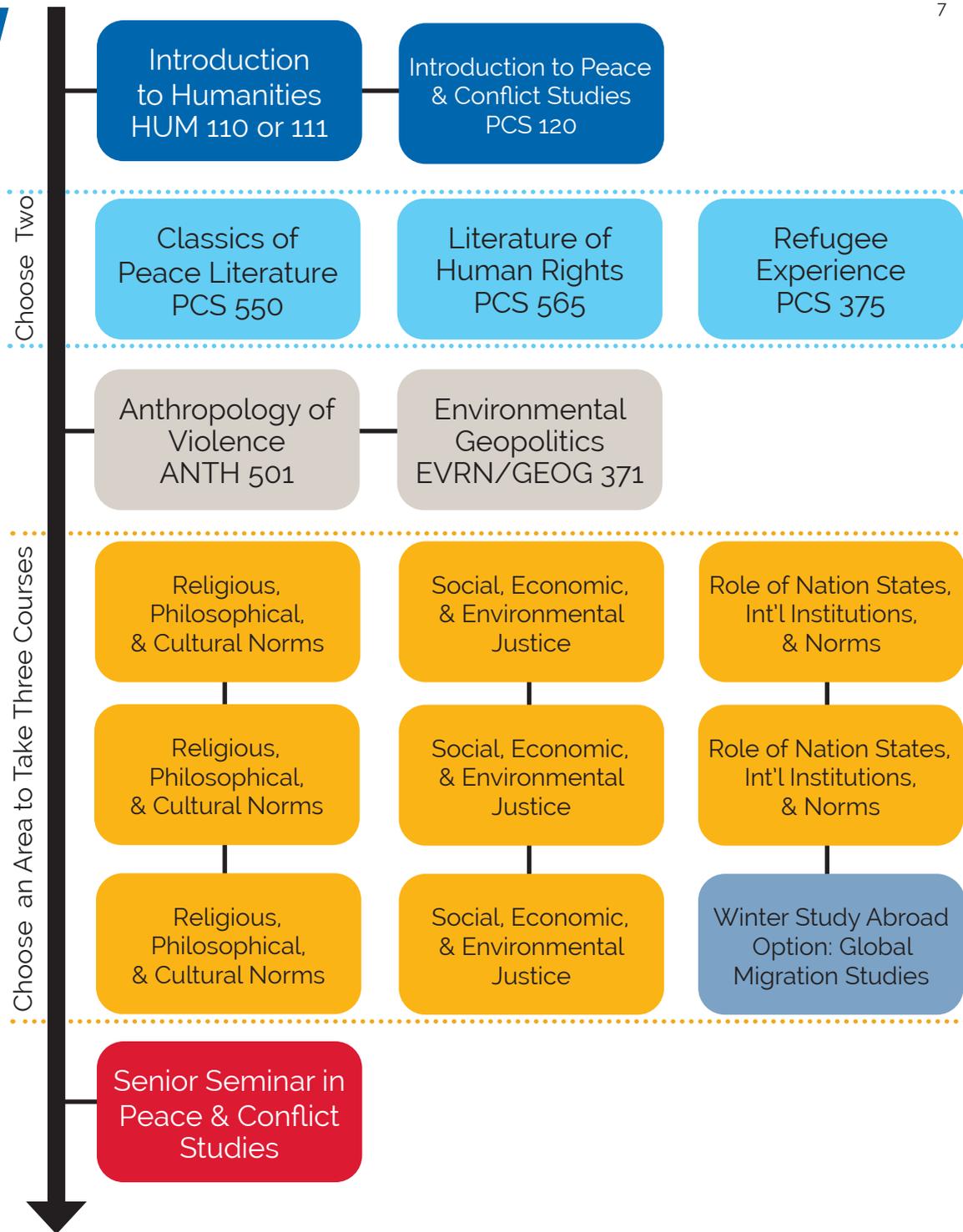
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Peace & Conflict Studies Track

This track provides students with opportunities to study issues of violence and methods of peace-making from an interdisciplinary humanities perspective. It is designed for students interested in careers in humanitarian aid, international relations, diplomacy, law, and mediation.

Credit Requirements

The Humanities Major requires a total of 30 credit hours. Students must take courses in at least three humanities and/or social science departments or programs with a maximum of 15 hours from one department.



Humanities Minor

Global Humanities Track

Humanities Minor

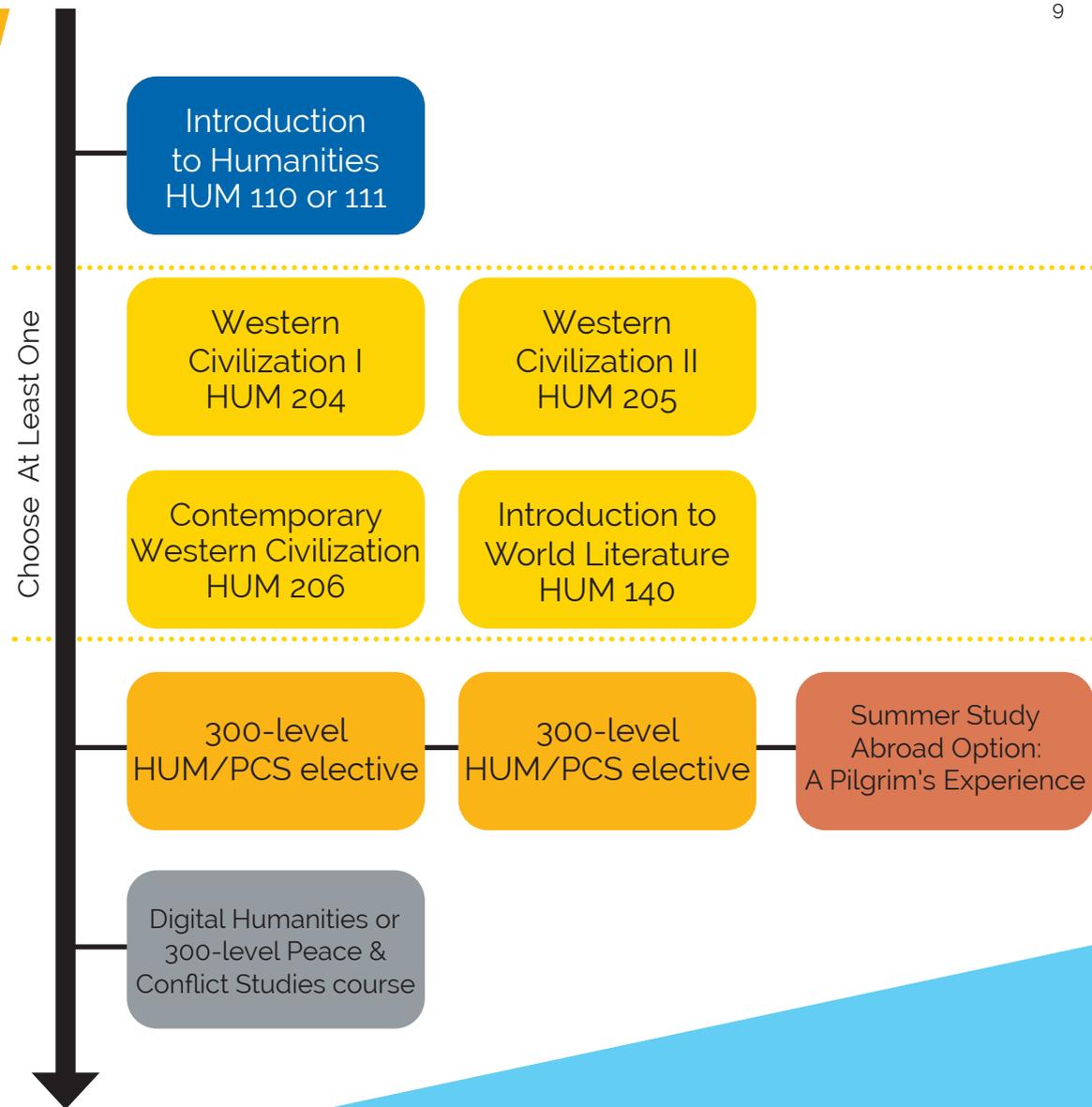
The Minor in Humanities is designed to provide students with interdisciplinary study within the humanities while enabling them to concentrate their upper-division coursework in the Minor on a specific theme. It recognizes that to function in an increasingly complex world, students need to be able to move comfortably among disciplines and employ distinct approaches to the variety of human experiences and human conditions.

Global Humanities Track

In combination with their major, this program of study provides a solid foundation for students interested in various careers, from education to law and medicine. It is also a solid preparation for graduate study.

Credit Requirements

The Humanities Minor requires a total of 18 credit hours.



EXAMPLE 300-LEVEL HUM ELECTIVE HUM 320 Being Human in the Workplace

A study of what it means to be human and humane in the workplace. Topics include the concepts of work, the worker, and the workplace; workers' rights; issues of discrimination; business ethics; privacy and confidentiality; bullying; whistle blowing; and workplace environment.



Humanities Minor

Peace & Conflict Studies Track

Humanities Minor

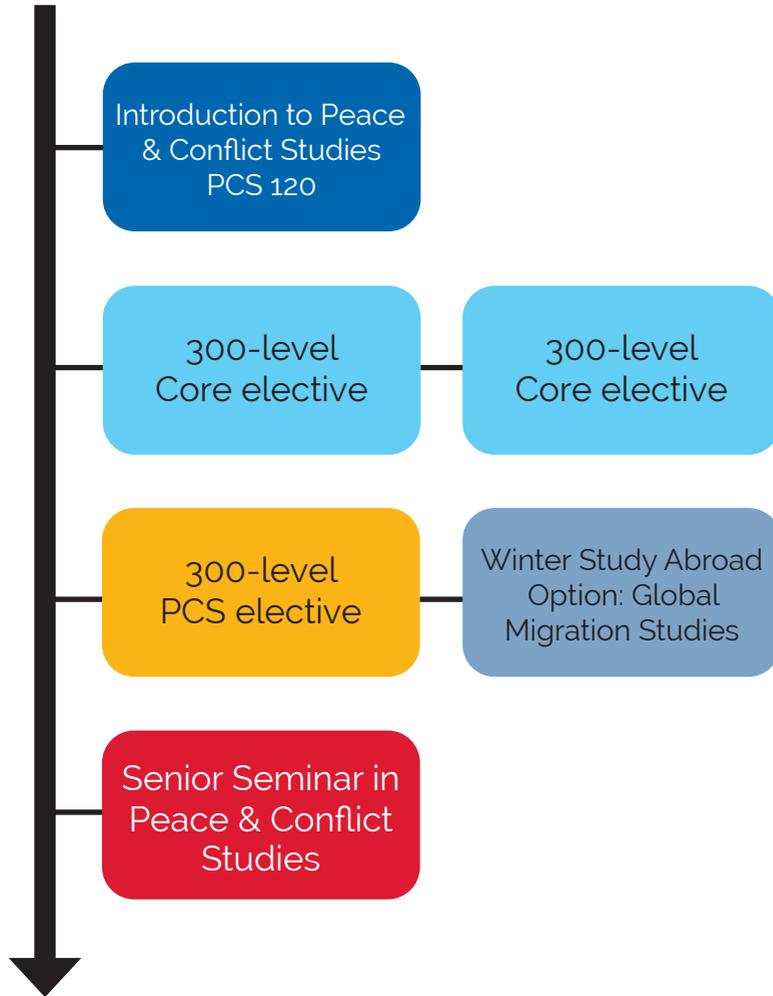
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Peace & Conflict Studies Track

Peace and Conflict Studies examines the origins and nature of conflict within and among societies and the various ways in which humans address conflict. It is designed for students interested in careers in humanitarian aid, international relations, diplomacy, law, and mediation. It is also a solid preparation for graduate study.

Credit Requirements

The Humanities Minor requires a total of 18 credit hours.



EXAMPLE 300-LEVEL PCS ELECTIVE PCS 375 The Refugee Experience: Stories of Statelessness and Citizenship

Literary texts, theoretical reflections, and historical studies on the subject of mass migration in Europe in the middle of the 20th-century will prepare for discussions of contemporary statelessness a global context.



Introduction to Humanities

HUM 110

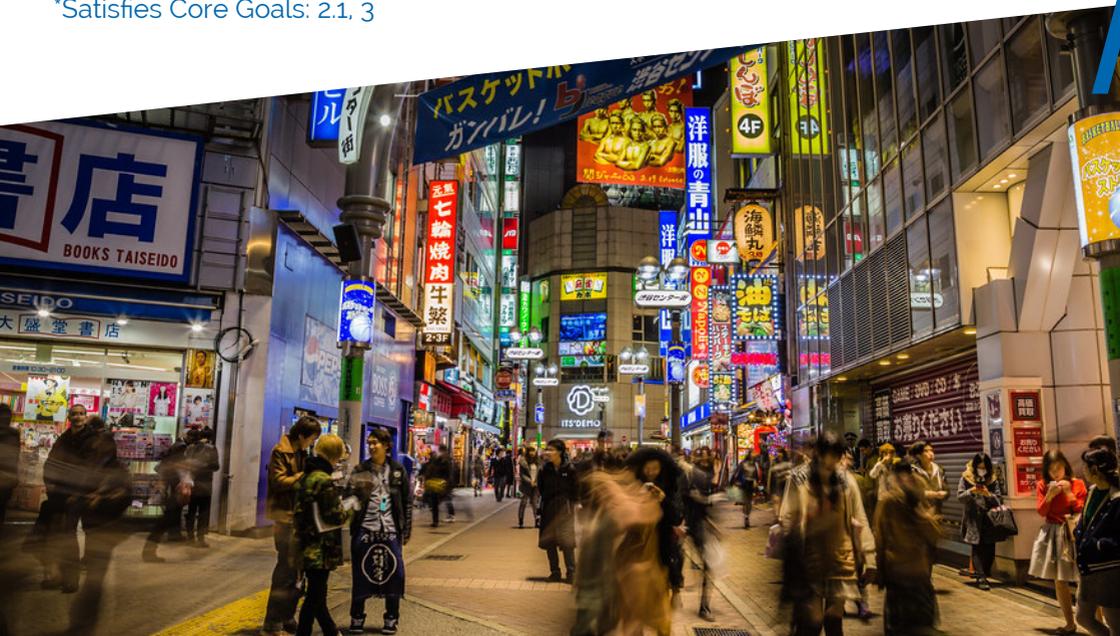
What does it mean to be human?

To create, to feel, to consume, to work, to inhabit a body, to play, to destroy, to love, to seduce, to develop consciousness, to communicate, to strive, to die?

What, if anything, makes the human species different from others?
What are our moral obligations to other animals and to each other?
What, if anything, makes us different from robots, cyborgs, and artificial intelligence?

What is it that we share with other humans cross-culturally? This course explores the experiences that define the human condition in all its current complexities.

*Satisfies Core Goals: 2.1, 3



13

How this course might help you in life:

Constructing a life that matters – a purpose-driven life – requires **purposely thinking about living**. Universities are great at giving students knowledge, but less great at considering why that knowledge matters, or how to use that knowledge to create meaning in our lives.

And that is what we do in this course! We will focus on skills central to the humanities classroom and to the workplace, such as thinking critically, reflecting, reading closely, dealing with diversity, and writing to learn. In other words, this course will help you become a better reader, writer, thinker, and communicator – and perhaps even a better human being. And if that's not enough, it will also provide a forum to consider some of the larger questions about the meaning of life.

TAUGHT BY VARIOUS FACULTY

Introduction to Peace & Conflict Studies

PCS 120

Why do humans both seek peace and love violence?

This course explores how thinkers and activists have come to understand what peace and violence are – and how we can work to create peace and stop violence.

We will study how drone strikes, patriarchy, and fast fashion are all violent in different ways and learn what foreign policy, gender equity, and income equality have to do with peace.

From Martin Luther King, Jr. to the #MeToo movement, we humans seem to be in a continual struggle to tame our selfish impulses and to tap into “the better angels of our nature.”

*Satisfies Core Goals: 1.1, 3



How this course might help you in life:

Want to learn how to protest against injustice and oppression effectively?

Want to see examples of successful social justice protests around the world?

This course gives you an opportunity to do that while learning what your core values are and developing the language to explain why you think the way you do.

You will better understand both why certain groups of people seek to transform society, and how they are using tactics to do so. You might even gain the tools to initiate social change on your own. You can learn to change your world!

About the Professor

Lara Giordano grew up in northern California and came to Lawrence via Nashville via Seattle via Walla Walla.

She spends a lot of time thinking about what the arts – and film, in particular – can tell us about our ethical and political commitments and about the power of thoughtful dialogue.

When not engaged in the sedentary life of the academic, she is usually walking with – or, more likely, chasing after – her two-year-old daughter, or trying out new recipes in the kitchen while listening to podcasts about politics. She also enjoys jogging and crossword puzzling.

First-Year Seminar

HUM 177

First-semester freshmen seminars address many topics and are taught by various instructors. They all delve into current issues in the Humanities and explore ways to understand contemporary experience. Here are two examples.

How WWII Changed the World

Instructor: Dale Urie

You may know that Kansas City is home to the nation's World War I museum. This class makes a trip to that moving site to try to understand the ways in which World War I is responsible for shaping the way we understand ourselves and creating the "modern" world we inhabit. The Great War accelerated changes in technology, transportation, art, fashion, food, science, religion, gender and social relations, leisure, and other aspects of everyday life in Europe and the United States.

The outcome of the war reshaped the map of Europe, created the modern Middle East and redefined the role of the United States in the world. And the War not only changed "the world," it greatly impacted the KU campus and many Jayhawks. From War Horse (Spielberg) to 1917 (Sam Mendes), even today, we find it necessary to make sense of this catastrophic event in modern history. This course will try to do just that.

*Satisfies Core Goal: 1.1

17

Reading and Writing Life Stories

Instructor: Antha Cotten-Spreckelmeyer

Did you ever think of narrating the impactful events in your life?

We often think of life-changing experiences such as entering adolescence, leaving home, and changing careers as agonizing and traumatic. This course tackles that assumption to demonstrate that transitions can be empowering and enjoyable as well as challenging.

We will read works by Mohja Kahf, Annie Dillard, and others as examples of change, transition, and coming of age that have been recorded "on paper" to find out how people of different cultures and contexts approach critical moments in their lives.

We will also listen to stories and watch films to help us create our own "lives on paper" through a portfolio of reflective writings designed to encourage critical thinking and problem-solving skills.

*Satisfies Core Goal: 1.1



Western Civilization I

Foundations of Citizenship

HUM 204

Throughout the history of the Western world, who have been the most influential writers, and what are the conflicts, ideas, and communication styles that made them so influential?

In this course, we will use readings and writing to explore and understand the record of Western Civilization from the ancient world through the early modern period.

This is a writing intensive and writing instructive course designed to expand critical thinking and global awareness through the medium of composition practice.

*Satisfies Core Goals: 1.1, 2.1, 4.2

19

How this course might help you in life:

Do you want to learn to be a more articulate and nuanced communicator?

By studying primary sources across the centuries, you will learn more about the diverse ways that information can be captured and expressed. As you compose pieces, you will practice the skill of communicating with clarity and critical thought.

Studying history also helps you develop the ability to analyze events from differing perspectives, and then convey your thoughts with precision. This is an essential skill, widely applicable in your professional, social, and romantic life.

TAUGHT BY VARIOUS FACULTY



Western Civilization II

Foundations of Citizenship

HUM 205

Are you interested in the origins of the ideas, institutions, norms, and laws that shape our society?

This course emphasizes the reading and discussion of some of the most influential writings and philosophies that comprise the intellectual and cultural heritage of the Western world. In addition to the past, we will also explore the present.

This gives us the ability to contrast modern cultures and styles of communication with those of centuries ago, and to identify the ancient ideas that crop up in ways we might otherwise miss.

*Satisfies Core Goals: 1.1, 4.2
Goal 2.1 Proposed

21

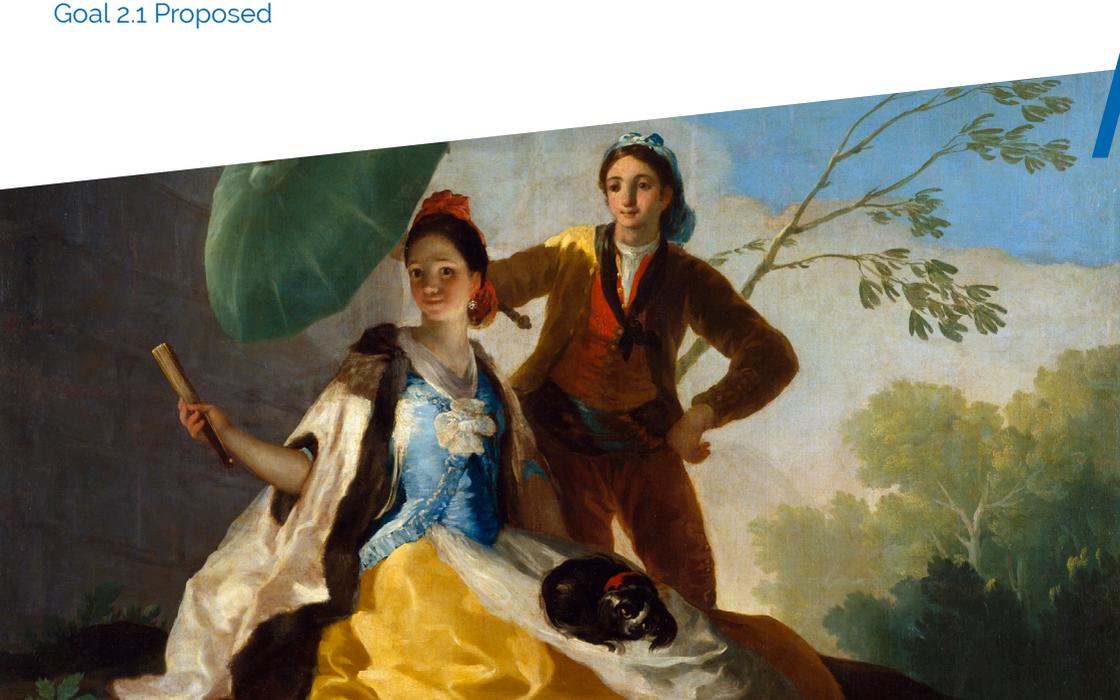
How this course might help you in life:

Are there elements of your society or community – be they good or bad – that make you curious about where they came from?

Human behavior is highly complex, but by looking through the lens of history we can better decipher it. Studying the way the past flows into the present gives important context for why our society functions the way it does.

You will gain insight into the diversity and evolution of intellectual thought across the ages. This will make you a wiser and more worldly individual. Philosophies are also "frames" to view everything from current events to individual decisions, which can encourage us to be more thoughtful actors.

TAUGHT BY VARIOUS FACULTY



Studies In: Philosophy & Film

HUM 300

The fun of this course is that we analyze certain movies from the perspective of philosophy.

Thinking philosophically stretches our brains – in a good way. We must learn how to be totally immersed in the experience of the film, yet simultaneously maintain a good degree of critical detachment and objectivity.

In some ways, this in a nutshell is the challenge of living. We want to enjoy ourselves and our lives and be critically objective enough to find the meaning in it all.

And did I mention movies?



23

How this course might help you in life:

Have you ever wondered how far down the rabbit hole goes?

Do you enjoy movies, especially when popcorn (sometimes) is provided? Then you may want to consider taking this course. Maybe you have had a fleeting thought that the world we think we know so well is a mere illusion, a manifestation of a reality that transcends mere appearances.

Through the movie, *The Matrix* – along with a series of readings from a text entitled, *The Matrix and Philosophy* – we will address this puzzle and a number of others. And this is just the beginning of our tour through a maze of philosophical quandaries. So, if you would like to hone your observational skills and improve your critical thinking abilities – both transferrable to many other areas – this course is for you!

About the Professor

Richard Botkin grew up in Northeast Kansas on the wrong side of the tracks. But, being the convinced moral relativist that he is, he now maintains that “right” and “wrong” are dependent on one’s perspective.

This recognition has stemmed from his career in philosophy, the origin of which he attributes to the time his mother stumped him by asking, “What would happen if an irresistible force met an unmovable object?” Ever since, Prof. Botkin has been negotiating the perilous waters of philosophical perplexity, and he invites you to join him in his quest.

Studies In: Kansas Today

HUM 300

Want to know more about the state you are living in?

This course looks beyond the past to explore the complexities of Kansas today. Kansas has a highly diverse population and an extremely varied landscape. It has a vibrant art, theater, and music scene. It has a rich and fascinating past in civil rights and education.

So, while Kansas today is rooted in its proud history as a "Free State" that opposed slavery and paid a price for its principled stand, it is much more.

Today, Kansas is home to many immigrant communities who have shaped the culture, religion, and food we enjoy. We will look at all of that and more in this course.



25

How this course might help you in life:

Have you ever heard people saying, "Think globally, act locally?"

This is a chance to get to know "the local" part of your current life better!

Learning to appreciate the many cultural and artistic sites and performances our area has to offer will help make you comfortable getting involved in whatever community you are a part of in your future life.

This course will include many visits outside of the classroom. There will also be opportunities for experiential and service-learning as volunteers in Kansas communities and non-profit organizations.

About the Professor

Antha Cotten-Spreckelmeyer was a KU student and has taught at the University of Kansas for over two decades.

She has an active interest in the KU-Lawrence community both past and present. And she is proud to be a descendant of original Jayhawkers – her great-great-grandfather moved across the Missouri "border" to northeast Kansas in 1859 to help with the free-state movement.

Prof. Cotten-Spreckelmeyer loves the outdoors and has biked or hiked across the state. She is also an avid cook and enjoys preparing food from local produce.

World Literature III

French & Francophone Women Writers in Translation

HUM 312

Inside/Outside, Us/Them, Same/Other. The French-speaking and -writing world has long been peopled with women engaged in cultural, social, and political forms of inquiry, dialogue, protest, and emancipation.

This course will examine a number of women writers of the French and Francophone modern world, exploring not only stories and themes about a woman's condition in society at large, but also theoretical questions of gender, identity, and discourse formation at work in acts of struggle, protest, and emancipation.

And, you get to read some really fabulous works of fiction and memoir from Simone de Beauvoir, Assia Djebar, Calixthe Beyala, Virginie Despentes, and others. You don't have to read or speak French to love this class!

*Satisfies Core Goal: 3



27

How this course might help you in life:

What are the messages we tell ourselves about the pressing issues of gender, ethnicity, racism, domestic violence, and political and economic oppression?

Our personal narratives are created or influenced by the greater societal narratives of our time. This class will help you uncover the multiple layers of discourse in the French-speaking world: French women in France, native women in former French colonies, and immigrant women now living in France.

The female experience is not monolithic. As we see in our own country, our situation in life has a great deal to do with our version of truth and reality. Seeing and understanding this in another culture might help us see it more clearly in our own.

About the Professor

Diane Fourny spent a year abroad in France after high school graduation, where she earned the French Baccalauréat. Afterwards, she returned ready to be a Philosophy major at the University of California, Berkeley. However, during her second semester of Logic, she realized Philosophy was not really her thing so switched to a French major where she could read to her hearts delight the literature and language she had come to love.

A native Californian, Prof. Fourny went on to get a Ph.D. at Stanford. She loves not only French literature, which she is eager to introduce to her students (in English or French), but has been known to cook some very delicious French food.

Being Human in the Workplace

HUM 320

Unless you are independently wealthy and never have to work, you need this course.

We will focus on a range of difficult issues that arise within the workplace, then consider various "moral systems" to find ways to resolve these dilemmas fairly.

The guiding principle of this course is that ethics are essential to the proper functioning of the business world and to the market.

Thus, we learn to ask three main questions of most situations. First, "Am I doing the right thing?" Next, "Am I doing it in the right way?" Finally, "Am I doing it for the right reasons?"

*Satisfies Core Goal: 5.1



29

How this course might help you in life:

Observation tells us how humans do behave, but our interest is in how humans ought to behave, especially in their professional lives.

How should you deal with workplace problems like bullying, whistleblowing, sexism, racism, and greed? How should resources be distributed fairly? Is a capitalist or socialist economy better suited to human nature – if there is a human nature? How is the technology of the workplace affecting the way we see ourselves?

Most of us spend the vast majority of our lives at work. It makes sense to give some thought to these questions.

About the Professor

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This recognition has stemmed from his career in philosophy, the origin of which he attributes to the time his mother stumped him by asking, "What would happen if an irresistible force met an unmovable object?"

Ever since, Prof. Botkin has been negotiating the perilous waters of philosophical perplexity, and he invites you to join in his quest.

American Indian and White Relations to 1865

HUM 348

Do you want to learn more about the first civilizations to inhabit North America?

We will conduct an intensive survey of the Indians of North America from Prehistory to 1865, and focus on ancient indigenous cultures, early European-Indian relations and the impact of European culture upon the indigenous peoples of North America.

This course provides an excellent opportunity to view American history from a new perspective, and practice critical thought regarding the past (and present) costs of US prosperity.

31

How this course might help you in life:

Contention between different peoples is not just history; it is a defining aspect of the modern world – on a scale that ranges from personal to global.

By analyzing the trajectory of American Indian civilization and its relations with a foreign people, you will better understand the ways that different cultures and nations affect each other – both positively and negatively.

This course is particularly relevant at a time when the influence and authority of international organizations is waning, and new rifts grow between countries in spite of ongoing cultural and economic exchange.

About the Professor

Devon Mihesuah, a citizen of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, has devoted her career to the empowerment and well-being of indigenous peoples. Her research, writing, and speaking focuses on decolonization strategies and she is one of the few indigenous published authors who writes non-fiction and fiction.

She has served as Editor of the *American Indian Quarterly* for nine years, and regularly speaks nationally and internationally about issues pertaining to empowerment of indigenous peoples. In her free time, she is an avid gardener and food photographer.



Pregnancy in Modern Literature

HUM 364

Pregnancy affects every single human being – we're all the result of one, after all – but most people know next to nothing about the history of pregnancy.

And while clones, designer babies, surrogacy, and in-vitro fertilization have only been biologically possible for a few decades, they've always been possible in fiction. This course looks at the history and literature of pregnancy from the last 120 years.

From individual experiences of birth-giving to political fights over birth control, abortion, reproductive technology, and eugenics, there is a lot to unpack about pregnancy!

*Satisfies Core Goal: 2.1



33

How this course might help you in life:

Pregnancy can be joyful, exciting, and astonishing – but it's just as likely to be strange, frustrating, painful, and everything else in between. Making sense of pregnancy's role in our lives is hard; reading what other people have to say about pregnancy makes it easier. We will consider questions of justice (who has the right to terminate a pregnancy?), economics (why do fertility treatments cost so dang much?), culture (why don't we talk about miscarriage more often?), and gender (what is the experience of pregnancy like for queer, trans, and non-binary people?).

By the end of the course you'll have a better understanding of how pop culture shapes your ideas of pregnancy, and how structural inequities affect access to the resources necessary to deliver a healthy baby and survive the process.

About the Professor

Aimee Wilson is a walking contradiction: born in Detroit to a family of mechanics and plumbers, she grew up hiking in the North Carolina mountains. Living in Spain taught her to appreciate the English language. Trained first as a journalist, she studied fiction with an eye for fact while earning her PhD in English Literature.

All these contradictions make her deeply curious about life, impatient with easy answers, and eager to wrestle with difficult questions. Students have said her courses are "more about learning than testing." When she's not teaching, she can most likely be found cooking, hiking, and reading murder mysteries.

Angry White Male Studies

HUM 365

Does it really matter who you are? Let's face it, we're all f***ing angry these days, or supposed to be, and encouraged on a daily basis to become angrier still. It's sometimes said that white men are the angriest of all – that they feel aggrieved and unable to adjust to changing realities of gender and race for fear of losing their privilege. This is said so often that "the angry white male" has emerged as a category and a stereotype. He is a prominent figure in our cultural imagination and thus a phenomenon worthy of study.

Where does he come from? What is he angry about? Is his anger misplaced? Is he blaming the right people? How long has this been going on? And how do we move forward? This course seeks to answer these and other questions by exploring the historical background to white male anger and how it is manifested in our world today.



35

How this course might help you in life:

This course explores the messy world we live in.

Through critical thinking and careful reading, you will work on your ability to entertain different points of view and discuss them in a civil manner. Heck, you might even learn a bit of empathy.

Above all, this course does not shrink from ambiguity and paradox. It resists the polarizing tendencies of so much that passes for "debate" these days and offers no easy answers. Can't deal with that? Then this course isn't for you.

About the Professor

Christopher Forth is white and male, but tries not to be angry. He brings to the course decades of experience researching and writing about masculinities, sexuality, the body, and modern culture – all of which have left him with more questions about the world than answers.

With broad interests in a variety of disciplines, many don't recognize him as the historian he technically is. And he's fine with that.

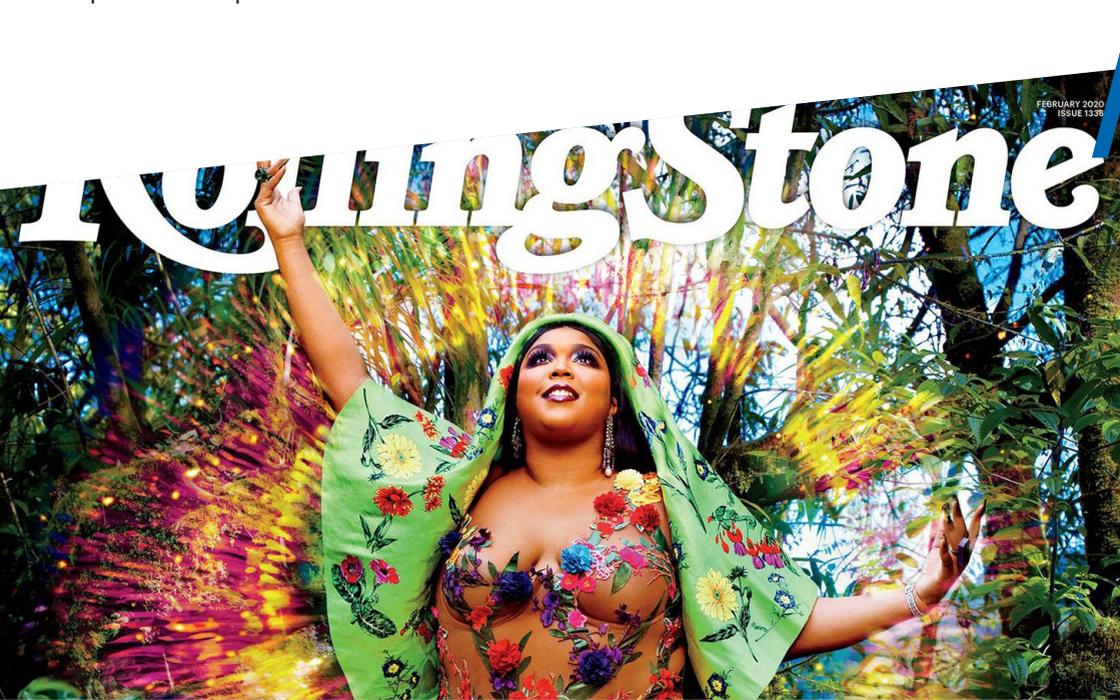
Fat, Food and the Body

HUM 366

This course brings together a number of interdisciplinary voices to examine fat and food as they relate to human embodiment in a variety of world locations. These disciplines include anthropology, fat studies, feminist theory, food studies, history, medicine, and psychology.

This course applies theories of culture and embodiment to select global case studies as a means of approaching the pleasures, anxieties, health implications, and symbolic functions of ingesting food and drink.

Join your peers in exploring, discussing, and debating these important topics!



37

How this course might help you in life:

Do you browse or post on social media? If so, you are probably familiar with the way food and the human body make up a substantive portion of photos, articles, and arguments. The millennial generation has helped to thrust these issues into mainstream American discourse, but these topics also appear across the world and across disciplines.

You will learn more about your health, and understand the role culture plays in self-image and culinary routines. We will explore the cultural and gender politics of fatness and thinness; anorexia and feederism; food, sex, and animality; vegetarianism, food scares and food purity movements; neoliberalism and the consuming body; and the material and symbolic aspects of fats and oils.

About the Professor

Christopher Forth brings decades of experience to this course with research and writing about food, nutrition, the body and modern culture. His broad interests and teaching span a variety of disciplines and pose many questions about the world around us.

He is especially concerned with how perceptions and experiences of the body are situated in different social and cultural locations, and has become increasingly interested in exploring embodiment, materiality, and the senses in historical context.

Aviation in American Culture

HUM 373

Whether discovering bargain tickets or being forced to board last, Americans are often familiar with the promise and peril of aviation – on a personal level.

Yet, from the pioneering work of the Wright brothers, to the use of strategic bombing in WWII, to the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, there can be no doubt that the airplane has played a major role in shaping the society, economy, and military of the last century.

In this course we will discuss how and why different groups within the United States projected their hopes and fears onto the airplane, how those ideas manifested in reality, and what they tell us about the American experience.

*Satisfies Core Goal: 4.1



39

How this course might help you in life:

The good news is that by focusing on aviation within American culture, we begin to see clearly the ways new technologies can solidify existing systems of racial, gender, and economic inequity.

Armed with what you learn in this course, you will be better prepared to engage in current debates over the place of artificial intelligence, nanotech, and other disruptive technologies in the United States and the world.

About the Professor

Sean Seyer has passions for aviation, technology, and gaming. His research and teaching revolve around the interaction between human beings and the devices and systems they create to relate with each other and the world around them.

When not engaged in scholarly activity, he enjoys having fun with his five cats, painting miniatures, and playing tabletop board games with his partner, Carol.

The Refugee Experience

HUM 375

"No one leaves home unless home is the mouth of a shark."

- Warsan Shire, *Home*

Right now, there are more people fleeing their homes than at any time since the end of World War II.

In this course, we study the kinds of journeys these people brave to leave homes that have become too dangerous to live in and read the stories they and others write about them.

Finally, we learn why people who have fled their homes might not get the help they need.



41

How this course might help you in life:

The refugee issue is one of the world's greatest challenges. Is there a difference between an "immigrant," an "economic migrant," and a "refugee"?

Do nations have different legal and moral obligations to each different category?

This course can help you think through what our responsibility is as a nation, and what your responsibility is as a citizen.

It seems certain that there will be a rise in refugees across the world and that this will have consequences for the professional path you choose.

About the Professor

Marike Janzen grew up in Kansas, loves learning languages, and has lived in Germany, Brazil, and South Africa.

She studies global literature because she is curious about how people in very different parts of the world use the arts to critique injustice.

When she isn't doing professor work, she likes spending time with her family, walking her pup while listening to audiobooks and political commentary podcasts, and hopes that someday she really will take up playing violin again.

Europe Today

HUM 505

What in the world is going on with Europe?

The European Union has been enlarging and was considered a pretty exclusive club to join. And yet Great Britain is tearing itself apart to get out and reclaim its "lost glory." Hungary and Poland are telling the EU to mind its own business after taking billions of dollars from them.

Right-wing and left-wing Populist parties have come to power all over Europe and are challenging the very ideas that drew the Union together after World War II. And the immigration situation in Europe makes the American "immigration crisis" seem almost uncomplicated. So, what in the world is going on in Europe? This course will try to figure it out.

*Satisfies Core Goal: 4.2



43

How this course might help you in life:

You will make a habit of reading international newspapers to keep up with events and become a more sophisticated observer of (and hopefully participant in) global affairs.

Educated people don't have all the answers, but they know which questions to ask and how to find out what they need to know. This course will practice that skill – and we don't just talk about "seeing things from other people's perspectives."

You will actually take on the task of becoming a policy advisor to a European Populist party of your choosing. Whether you love or hate their ideas, you will come to understand the reasons for their popularity.

About the Professor

Dale Urie grew up in Florida as part of a family that traveled to Egypt, Jordan, Israel, and many areas of Europe. A family vacation as a teenager launched her interest in understanding the connections between the past and present, between peoples of one region and another, and between religions.

As a modern European historian, she has taught courses on the development of ideas and cultures which influence the rules and attitudes we accept and live by. The question of "what it is to be human" is one that intrigues her from a personal perspective. Urie greatly enjoys discussing these topics with the students in her courses.

Foodways of Latin America

HUM 552

Everyone loves food! Latin America has provided the world with ingredients that are indispensable to dishes made around the world.

Can you name them? The countries south of the border are home to 2000 types of potatoes and numerous kinds of corn, beans, squashes, and peppers – in addition to kitchen staples vanilla and cacao, and favorites quinoa, avocado, tomatoes, chia seeds, agave nectar and tequila.

Unlike generic Taco Bell and Tex Mex meals, these foods – and the way they are prepared – have meaning for families and the broader culture. Unfortunately, many of these foods are in peril from deforestation, global warming, ranching, and unfair market practices.

45

How this course might help you in life:

Real food is not created in a lab, nor in the back rooms of grocery stores. How can you be sure you're buying authentic foods? Are you consuming pure vanilla, or imitations that come from the castor sacs of beavers? Do you eat cacao, or milk chocolate that is mainly sugar and milk? If you have tasted tequila, was it the genuine variety that is only made in Tequila, Mexico?

This course explains the connection between good health, food security, and how we care for the natural world. It will make clear what happens when we treat plants, animals, and water only as commodities. Perhaps by exploring local grocery stores and farmers markets for Latin foods, you'll discover a new frontier of delicious dishes and will develop respect for people who have depended on these foods – and have cared for the earth – for millennia.

About the Professor

Devon Mihesuah, an avid gardener and enthusiastic foodie, is a former DI athlete, martial artist, musher, and the Cora Lee Beers Price Teaching Professor in International Cultural Understanding.

She is an award-winning author of many books about Indigenous history and culture, including *Recovering Our Ancestors' Gardens: Indigenous Recipes and Guide to Diet and Fitness* and the co-edited volume, *Indigenous Food Sovereignty in the U.S.: Restoring Cultural Knowledge, Protecting Environments, and Regaining Health*. She also manages the site "American Indian Health and Diet Project" and the Facebook page "Indigenous Eating."



Literature of Human Rights

PCS 565

Did you know that some of the framers of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* thought that the novel *Robinson Crusoe* – about a man shipwrecked on a tropical island – offered a useful model for making sense of humans' basic capabilities, needs, and rights?

In this course, we explore how the idea of "human rights" grew out of specific literary traditions, and move on to study how these texts tell stories of rights violations. In doing so, we learn from and about literary texts that have informed the world of events such as the Holocaust, civil wars in Central America, the Rwandan genocide, and contemporary refugee flows.

Finally, we apply what we've learned to telling stories about human rights issues in the Lawrence community.

*Satisfies Core Goal: 3



47

How this course might help you in life:

You hear about "human rights" all the time. But what are your human rights? Are the "rights" humans enjoy in Lawrence, KS the same ones granted to humans all over the world?

We will learn why stories about human suffering are so important in helping us define what it means to be human. This course does that not only by reading these stories, but by living the human experience through community service at local non-profit organizations.

The service-learning component allows us to both learn about human rights issues close to home and put in practice our considerations about how we tell these stories.

About the Professor

Marike Janzen grew up in Kansas, loves learning languages, and has lived in Germany, Brazil, and South Africa.

She has a degree in comparative literature, and her scholarship and teaching focus primarily on the way that literature shapes and challenges our conceptions of human rights.

When she isn't doing professor work, she likes spending time with her family, walking her pup while listening to audiobooks and political commentary podcasts, and hopes that someday she really will take up playing violin again.

Senior Seminar in Peace and Conflict Studies

PCS 650

This capstone seminar provides a sustained and in-depth study of a particular topic in Peace and Conflict Studies, to be chosen by the instructor.

This course is required for the minor and students need at least nine minor hours to enroll.

Each student is required to carry out a substantive research project to produce a term paper or comparable work. Students work closely with the instructor to define areas of interest and develop points of view.

*Satisfies Core Goal: 6.1

49

How this course might help you in life:

You will draw on all of the academic skills you have acquired thus far to complete an independent semester-long research project.

You will also improve your existing skills and gain new ones as you iterate the project. This means working with your instructor to critique the different drafts. In doing so, you will become aware of flaws and consciously address them.

Instead of submitting a final paper and never seeing your professor's comments, here you will receive in-depth feedback during the different stages of your study. Thus, you will maintain unprecedented levels of ownership and responsibility for your work. This provides essential practice for the professional world.



TAUGHT BY VARIOUS FACULTY

A Pilgrim's Experience:

Art, History & Landscapes on the Camino de Santiago

Summer Study Abroad / HUM 300

Since the Middle Ages, the Camino de Santiago has seen an endless flow of travelers from all over the world.

While we don't know what motivated them all, we know this is a gorgeous walk rich with cultural and historical meaning. We have developed a two-week program that takes students along the most popular pilgrimage route – the Camino Francés – to experience this journey through art, architecture, history, and diverse landscapes.

This study abroad program examines why the act of pilgrimage matters. And in the process makes clear the many ways pilgrimage was a conduit for cultural and economic exchange throughout Europe.

How this course might help you in life:

This is experiential learning at its best! You will experience first-hand the cultural highlights, local festivities, and traditional gastronomy of the Camino. Through the act of walking, journaling, and participating in various cultural activities you will get a taste of the culture and history of this historic pilgrimage route. Our journey will begin in Paris, France where students will tour the Louvre and other Parisian sites (the famous Tour St. Jacques where many French pilgrims started). We will then begin our pilgrimage from St. Jean Pied de Port to Santiago de Compostela, continuing on to Finisterre, before travelling to Madrid where we will conclude our trip with a visit to the Prado museum.

Since the best way to experience the Camino is on foot, we will walk some of the most scenic portions of the route (including the Pyrenees and the rich landscapes of Galicia). Other parts of the tour will be done by bus. During the walks students will have the occasion to meet with pilgrims from all over the world.

About the Professor

Margot Versteeg was born and raised in the Netherlands. She still has a fun accent and she speaks with her hands. Margot studied at the University of Amsterdam. In search of adventure and a permanent job she went on the US job market and landed in Kansas.

At KU Margot teaches courses on 19th century Spanish literature and the literature and memory of the 1936-39 Spanish Civil War (a few Kansans and KU students participated as volunteers). Margot is very proud to be the Director of KU's wonderful Humanities Program. She is the mother of an American citizen ("one of my best achievements") and lives in Lawrence with her Dutch husband.



Global Migration Studies:

Understanding the European Migrant Crisis

Winter Study Abroad HUM 300

What moral and legal obligations do sovereign nations have to welcome refugees fleeing crises in their own countries?

Global migration is one of the toughest problems the world faces. The 2015 refugee crisis in Europe really forced the continent to consider its policies of multiculturalism vs. assimilation and to face issues surrounding tolerance vs. racism.

Spending a few weeks in Rome – one of the epicenters of the crisis – will help this class understand the complexities of the situation. We will see firsthand successful and unsuccessful ways of dealing with diversity.

*Tentatively approved for Core Goal: 5.2

53

How this course might help you in life:

This is *experiential learning at its best!* Through a series of experiential learning opportunities – including workshops with filmmakers, journalists, activists, and leaders of non-governmental organizations as well as site visits to neighborhood initiatives, housing projects, local cooperatives, and alternative museums – we will explore the ethical implications that migration entails.

By the end of this class, you will be able to understand the main issues at stake in the European migration crisis and their ethical implications and apply that to the migration crisis facing Americans.

Plus, you will spend a few weeks eating Italian food. In Rome. Need we say more?



TAUGHT BY VARIOUS FACULTY

Experiences in the Humanities Program

One of my favorite things about the Humanities Program at KU was the wide range of course offerings across multiple disciplines. The flexible course offerings and requirements allowed me to take advantage of many departments in the university and to broaden my understanding of subjects from different points of view.

I also found the instructors very caring and helpful. The Humanities faculty were always willing to listen to my ideas and provide sound guidance and additional resources to push me forward and help me take advantage of all the opportunities at KU.

Most Impactful Courses

Several of the most helpful courses that still inspire me today were the Peace and Conflict Studies courses. These include the Introduction to Peace and Conflict Studies and the Literature of Human Rights course. These classes were discussion-based (my favorite) and really allowed me and my fellow students to think out loud and work through our understanding of the material together.

Completing a service project for Literature of Human Rights also helped me to reflect on the community support models that we implement in the United States and their efficacy and humanity. I still think back to the readings from these courses in my studies as a graduate student and find myself having new thoughts on them to this day.

Future Plans

The Humanities Program greatly influenced my future plans. I knew I wanted to work in a field related to international relations and also knew this would likely require graduate school. What I did not know was that I would end up applying to political science PhD programs to study international relations. Now, I am a PhD student in political science at the University of Chicago.

My interdisciplinary Humanities degree really helped me to stand out among a large pool of applicants. Many graduate programs value an interdisciplinary major as these students have a broad and unique way of approaching problems in scholarship and in everyday life.



Experiences in the Humanities Program

I found that the Humanities Program was very unique in that it allowed a very broad spectrum of departments and classes to count towards my Bachelors degree. Various departments including philosophy; women, gender and sexuality studies; humanities; peace and conflict studies; environmental studies; biology; and an honors seminar.

This ultimately gave me the chance to get the more all-encompassing education during my undergraduate career that I had been looking for.

Most Impactful Courses

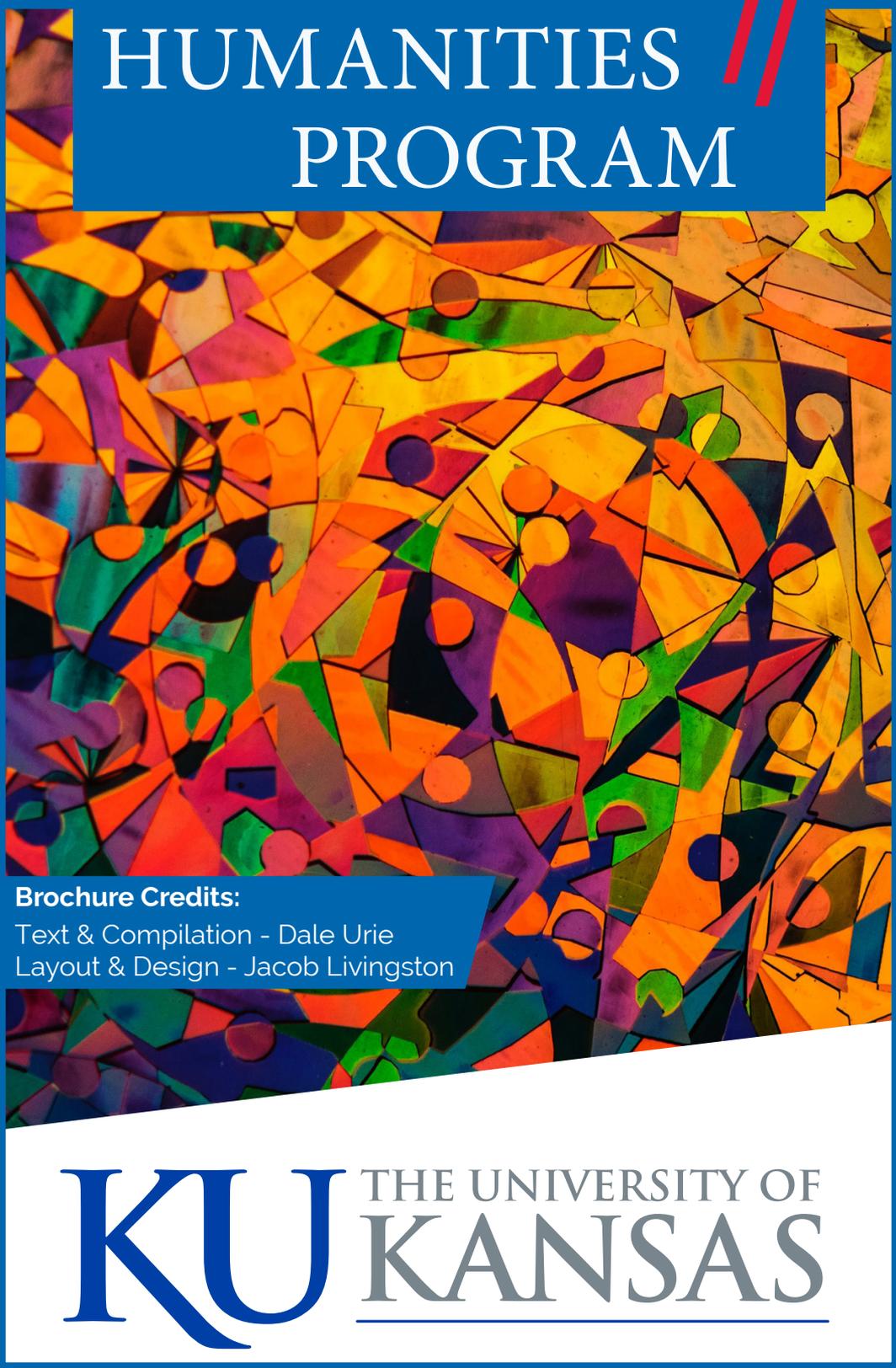
The class that most significantly impacted me was Dr. Marike Janzen's The Literature of Human Rights (PCS 565). Dr. Janzen's classwork and discussions led me to critically analyze the human rights that we claim, along with what it truly means to be human. PCS 565 also incorporated a service learning element in which we dedicated at least twenty hours of volunteer service at a local organization and kept a detailed journal of our observations and experiences.

At the end of the semester, we tied our service learning in with our class's content and analyzed critical questions based off of our personal experiences. These are all elements that I have applied beyond this class; from my leadership roles in student organizations, to my hopeful future in health care now as a graduate.

Future Plans

The Humanities Program definitely reaffirmed my decision to work closely with other people in the future, specifically in the health field. There is genuinely nothing else that holds a stronger purpose for me than helping others in ways I can.



The background of the entire page is a vibrant, abstract geometric pattern. It consists of numerous overlapping shapes, including triangles, circles, and polygons, in a wide array of colors such as orange, yellow, green, purple, blue, and red. The pattern is dense and dynamic, creating a sense of movement and complexity. At the top, there is a solid blue horizontal band containing the title text.

HUMANITIES PROGRAM

Brochure Credits:

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