

The background of the entire page is a monochromatic orange-tinted photograph. It depicts a large, gnarled tree in the foreground, with its branches spreading across the frame. In the background, a building with classical architectural features, including columns and arches, is visible. The text is overlaid on this image in a clean, white, sans-serif font.

# School of Humanities

# Student Handbook

2024–25

# Undergraduate Advising

The Humanities Undergraduate Advising Handbook is designed to help potential and current Humanities majors and minors craft their courses of study. While this handbook cannot trace every possible route through the rich and varied terrain of the humanities, it can serve as starting point, and may also encourage you to broaden your mind, ambitions, and experiences. Enclosed are resources that speak to the particulars of all our school's scholarly and creative offerings, useful contacts and resources, information on humanities research opportunities, internships and practica and other ways to stay in touch with what our school has to offer. Although we have worked hard to make this handbook as accurate as possible, the information in the General Announcements (GA) is the final authority on degree requirements and academic regulations at Rice. If there are discrepancies between this booklet and the GA ([ga.rice.edu](http://ga.rice.edu)), the GA is correct.

Given this is an evolving document, envisioned to be a resource for you, don't hesitate to reach out should you have ideas on how to make this resource better. Please send your suggestions to [humanties@rice.edu](mailto:humanties@rice.edu).

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# Want to Change the World?

## Study the Humanities

Speaking at Fortune magazine's recent summit, "Future of Finance: Technology and Transformation," Robert Goldstein, the chief operating officer of the asset management firm BlackRock, signaled changing views toward job candidates with degrees in the humanities and the arts. "We have more and more conviction that we need people who majored in history, in English, and things that have nothing to do with finance or technology," he said. "It's that diversity of thinking and diversity of people and diversity of looking at different ways to solve a problem that really fuels innovation." Employers' desire for candidates with a liberal arts education, according to Fortune, is fueled in part by the rise of AI, which is creating a demand for the very skills developed and honed by studying the humanities and the arts: questioning, creativity and critical thinking, among others.

In our humanities courses at Rice, students become writers, artists, historians, philosophers. They learn languages, engage cultures, analyze, interpret and compare evidence, they ask big questions in their written work and oral presentations, and they learn languages, study art history, classics, literature and film at Rice and in courses offered abroad. Students from all of the schools at Rice work with our prize-winning faculty to interpret, critique and debate the crucial issues facing the world today.

Today in the School of Humanities, we are leading innovations in health care and addressing health and social inequities and disparities through our popular Medical Humanities program; preparing students as leaders in the fields of climate change and sustainability through the study of environmental justice, and of human causes and consequences of climate crisis, through our Center for Environmental Studies; and training students for careers in law, international politics and public policy through our popular minor in Politics, Law and Social Thought. We are also pioneering responsible AI by developing curricular offerings on the topics of tech ethics, AI ethics, and technology, ethics and values; and examining the ongoing crisis of democracy by connecting the study of global and local world histories, cultures and languages, and offering a curriculum that reaches from ancient times to new ways of thinking about our future.

There has never been a better time to study the humanities and the arts at Rice.

Warmest congratulations on your acceptance and welcome!

**Kathleen Canning**

Dean, School of Humanities

Andrew W. Mellon Professor of History

# Why the Humanities?

The humanities examine, with rigor and self-awareness, all the dimensions of what it is and means to be human. Our research and teaching span millennia, reaching from ancient times to imaginings for the future. Our school encompasses 8 departments, 6 centers, 9 programs and offers instruction in 11 foreign languages. Each discipline and interdisciplinary area of study prepares students to interpret and reflect upon human action in all its variations. This pursuit necessitates putting human activity within broader social, cultural, political, economic, or historical contexts. Developing the ability to see these larger contexts at work gives humanities students a great advantage in innovative thinking. Our coursework trains students to analyze evidence, interrogate presumptions, craft compelling arguments, master creative expression, all while challenging the status quo. These capacities are vital, not only for a wide range of careers, but key to cultivating a lifelong engagement with the world as citizens and leaders and are critical for addressing the challenges and seizing the opportunities that await you no matter what future you seek.

You can, and arguably should, investigate practically any subject through a humanities lens, even those outside of our school. For example, while medical school trains individuals in surgeries and therapies, the medical humanities teaches the social, cultural, ethical, and historical dimensions of how doctors, patients, and communities understand the lived experience of health and disease. Our Medical Humanities program is a critical place to think through how and where health care happens, what it can look like, and the role human beings play in it.

Humanities scholars and students are creators of new knowledge and custodians of rich, global heritages. Humanities and arts scholarship manifests in a kaleidoscope of forms, from the textual to the visual and everything in between. Becoming versed in various ways and forms of making and thinking creates agency and enables self-expression, essential tools for navigating today's world. The research, teaching, and events that happen within our school are pieces of the vast, vitally important conversation, both within and beyond academia, about our past, present and future.

# Navigating Advising and Terms to Know

## How to connect with an advisor

Face to face contact and conversation are a hallmark of our school and key in determining what's right for you during your time as an undergraduate. Use this handbook as a way to the excellent faculty who can help you think through a plan of study that best fits all interests and your ambitions. There are many people here to help you along the way including:

- **Divisional Advisor (DA)** – your assigned faculty advisor at the college level who serves as your first academic advising contact until you declare your major(s) and minor(s). Note that your college DA may or may not come from a humanities department you're interested in, however they can still be resource for all humanities majors to help get you connected with an advisor specific to your interests.
- **Director of Undergraduate Studies (DUS)** – the faculty member whom a department, center, or program has designated as academic advisor for students in that major or minor. The DUS is key to getting you answers to specific questions about the major or minor they represent. They have the most up to date and detailed information.
- **[Peer Academic Advisors \(PAAs\)](#)** – these are student advisors in the colleges who are there to help assist with course planning and navigating the registration process.
- **[Academic Fellows](#) (in some colleges also known as Mentors)** – another set of college-based student advisors who are able to assist more with coursework. These fellows operate more like tutors.
- **Office of Academic Advising (OAA) Advisors** – this office is happy to help with additional, more broad-based advising via one-on-one appointments
- A note on student advising: Getting the perspective of more experienced students is important as you plan your major or minor, however make sure to engage a student experienced in the area of study you're



interested in. It can sometimes be difficult for Humanities students to find Humanities PAAs and fellows in their own college. Just because non-Humanities PAAs and Fellows have completed Distribution 1 credit courses does not mean they are familiar with the whole school of humanities curriculum. We recommend that you seek Humanities PAAs or Fellows outside your college as needed.

- Every college has some humanities advisors who serve during O-week so you have some place to start. Each college prints out a poster of all the advisors with their respective majors and minors and places this in their commons for the rest of the year. This is a simple way for students to start to plug into the humanities network.

### Don't forget to consult the General Announcements

Rice's General Announcements, also known as the GA, includes all the graduation and degree requirements for any major or minor you might wish to pursue. You will find direct links to every Humanities major and minor GA page later in this book. Remember that you can follow the annual edition of the GA, starting with the year you matriculated at Rice, or any edition of the GA in the years following.

### Abbreviations to know

Rice loves its acronyms. This can be a little overwhelming at times. Here are some to help you begin to navigate. Also note that many, if not all, Rice departments, programs, and centers are often referenced by their acronym. All Humanities department, center, and program acronyms are listed on their respective pages in this handbook.

- **HUMA** = Humanities
- **AD** = Analyzing Diversity Requirement
- **D1, D2, D3** = Distribution I (Humanities, Architecture and Music courses), II (Social Sciences courses), and III (Natural Sciences and Engineering courses) Requirements
- **FWIS** = First Year Writing Intensive Seminar
- **LPAP** = Lifetime Physical Activity Program Requirement
- **CCL** = Center for Civic Leadership
- **CCD** = Center for Career Development
- **OTR** = Office of the Registrar
- **OURI** = Office of Undergraduate Research and Inquiry

## Websites you will use often

There are many campus resources available to you. This is not meant to be a comprehensive list but can help you get started.

**Office of the Registrar:** [registrar.rice.edu](https://registrar.rice.edu)

For questions regarding academic policy, registration and transfer credit

**Office of Academic Advising:** [oaa.rice.edu](https://oaa.rice.edu)

For questions regarding your advising network, academic planning, specialized advising and tutoring

**Course schedule:** [courses.rice.edu](https://courses.rice.edu)

Used to look up the course schedule for a given semester as well as the course catalog to access all courses offered at Rice

**Esther:** [esther.rice.edu](https://esther.rice.edu)

Where you will register for classes, find forms for declaring a major, minor or certificate, read course and instructor evaluations, and access Degree Works

**Degree Works** (accessed [via Esther](#) above)

Where you can check your grades, course history, and current academic standing. Degree Works is your tool to tracking the completion of your major, minor and university requirements.

**Canvas:** [canvas-login.rice.edu/canvas](https://canvas-login.rice.edu/canvas)

Canvas is Rice's system for all course-related curriculum needs. Many of your professors will ask you to use this as a course resource on the regular. If you're unfamiliar with Canvas, there is a Quickstart Guide you can access [here](#). Don't forget there is also a Canvas app you can download.

# Studying the Humanities at Rice

## Great gateways to understanding the Humanities

Take a Humanities Big Questions course if you're humanities curious. These special topics courses revolve around explicit questions critical to the human experience and our time. They are distinguished by innovative assignments and experiential learning designed to deepen an understanding of the question at hand while building intellectual and social community among students. All Big Questions classes carry D1 Distribution Credit and are taught by some of our most innovative School of Humanities faculty. For more information, see [humanities.rice.edu/big-questions](https://humanities.rice.edu/big-questions).

## How can I learn more about Humanities majors, minors, and courses offered?

This handbook gives you a sense of how our various humanities areas of study define and envision themselves, and what opportunities await you, from coursework to study abroad, internships, and extracurriculars. In addition to registering for courses that interest you, we encourage you to attend Humanities events - lectures, workshops, art openings; join humanities-focused student clubs; connect with other HUMA students and HUMA faculty to get a better sense of what a program of study is all about. Take advantage of humanities advising sessions when offered. Keep a special eye out for our Humanities Hangout course preview, a school-wide event in the fall and spring semesters that showcases all our departments, programs, and centers. Typically held the week ahead of course registration, this event gives you the chance to meet with faculty, students, and staff to get a sense of what courses and opportunities are available in the upcoming semester.



How do I select courses for my HUMA major or minor and who can help?

To get started, take a look at the General Announcements as the official guide for all major and minor requirements. The faculty Directors of Undergraduate Studies (DUS) are your best resource for determining what you need to take and when. A complete list of DUSs can be found at the end of this handbook. Once you have a good idea of what major or minor you want to pursue, you should meet with the respective DUS to get a better sense of how to plan out your schedule to meet all requirements over the next four years. Additionally, humanities upperclassmen can be a great resource. They often have helpful recommendations for courses and can help you figure out which courses satisfy interdisciplinary program requirements.

How do I officially declare my HUMA major or minor?

The DUS will help you declare your major or minor by signing off on your official declaration form which can be found in Esther under Student Services and Account Information > Degrees, Majors, and Minors Declared > UG Declaration and Change of Major Form.

Four-Year Planning

Most Humanities majors require 10-12 courses total specific to the major in addition to university-wide requirements. Most HUMA minors require 6 courses specific to the minor degree. Both are relatively reasonable course loads that offer much flexibility in being paired with a major or minor elsewhere on campus if desired. Students have an incredible amount of flexibility when planning their HUMA course of study. There are many options for what courses to take and in what sequence. This level of choice can sometimes feel daunting for students who are just starting out down a humanities path. From a different perspective, however, they provide an opportunity for a highly personalized program of study, fine-tuned to a student's ambitions and interests. There are many guides, from fellow HUMA students to faculty, who can help you craft a four-year plan that is balanced, vibrant, challenging and fruitful. When building your plan, consider what your major(s) and minor(s) require, and keep an eye on meeting your distribution and other university requirements. Remember to being at Rice is not just about your classes. There are other aspects to being a humanities student: student organizations, internships or paid jobs, leadership programs, and travel; all of which are mind expanding, pivotal pieces of your Rice experience.

## Other things to note

Be aware that not every course in the course catalog is offered every year - a particular course might not even be offered during your time at Rice in some instances. New faculty are often joining the ranks and bringing with them their own exciting areas of scholarship. To help understand what courses are available to you, ask the DUS of that department, center, or program you are interested in.

Try to keep your semester reasonable in terms of course hours. Taking a heavy course load does not mean you are smarter or more diligent than your peers. Instead, you may be overbooked and too tired to do your best work and engage fully in campus and academic life. Students typically take between 12 and 18 credit hours per semester with the average being 15 credit hours (5 courses per semester). The national standard for a full-time course load is 12 credit hours, or generally 4 courses, and this can be more than enough.

Consider how you make choices among the disciplinary and interdisciplinary areas of study offered. If you feel that you have “done” a subject in high school, perhaps by having taken an AP test in it, consider first that high school courses have different formats, expectations, and outcomes than similar-sounding courses at Rice. At the college level, these subjects are no longer just assignments to be mastered, but rather areas of study to think through. Also, remember the college classroom can be a far freer environment for subject matter and debate than high school. For highly politicized subject matter, college-level study can be a revelation.

Think about your semester, considering how courses can work together to complement and expand upon each other. While offering students deep, disciplinary knowledge, the humanities also live and thrive in new spaces beyond the disciplines in collaborative and interdisciplinary centers, programs and minors. These form the foundation for a more fully integrated and “connective humanities” we seek to expand here at Rice. If you have a sense of your desired goals, and/or the big overarching questions you wish to pursue, this can help you plan a host of courses in a given semester that fully address these intentions from multiple angles, making for a richer, more integrated plan of study.

## The Big Picture

The strongest skills and capacities of humanities students tend to be those that cannot be picked up overnight, such as fluent writing, the ability to foresee complexities in the research process, the ability to analyze others' work with incisive questions and critique, and the ability to read, write, and speak a language other than English in an academic or workplace setting, to name a few. Start thinking beyond your requirements: What do you want to have experienced or accomplished by the time you leave Rice? How do you want to set yourself apart? Defining your own criteria can be a challenge, but it is worth it. Communicating these criteria can be important for your future employer or postgraduate admissions committee, or simply for your own reflection and growth.

## Get Connected

Sign up for the Humanities Digest [here](#) - a Humanities newsletter geared towards undergraduates - to stay in the loop on all humanities events, internships, research and funding opportunities.

Follow us on Instagram [@ricehumanities](#).



# Requirements for Bachelor's Degrees

## Overview

Below is a checklist of key requirements for earning a bachelor's degree from Rice that apply to ALL. Refer to the GA for more details and additional requirements under the Undergraduate Students tab. Degree requirements are specified by the university including number of credit hours, distribution requirements, etc.

Major and minor Humanities requirements are specified by the respective department, program or center they are attached to. You can find the representative GA link for each HUMA major and minor offered in the pages that follow.

## General Rice Degree Requirements

In order to graduate with a bachelor's degree from Rice University you must:

- ☐ Be registered at Rice full time for at least four semesters (fall and/or spring, and up to one summer semester)
- ☐ Complete the requirements of at least one major and degree program
- ☐ Complete at least 120 semester credit hours (please note some degree programs require more than 120 hours)
- ☐ Complete at least 60 semester credit hours at Rice University
- ☐ Complete at least 48 semester credit hours in upper-level coursework (courses at the 300 level or above)
- ☐ Complete more than half of the upper-level coursework at Rice University

- ☐ Complete more than half of the upper-level coursework required by your declared major(s) at Rice (as designated by the department or program, some may specify a higher proportion)
- ☐ Complete all Rice coursework with a cumulative grade point average of least 1.67 or higher
- ☐ Complete all Rice coursework that satisfy major, minor and/or certificate requirements with a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.00 or higher
- ☐ Complete the Writing and Communication Requirement (FWIS)\*
- ☐ Complete the Lifetime Physical Activity Program Requirement (LPAP)
- ☐ Complete courses that satisfy the Distributions Requirements\*
- ☐ Complete the Analyzing Diversity Requirement (AD)\*

#### Writing and Communication Requirement

You will take your First-Year Writing Intensive Seminar (FWIS) in either your first or your second semester at Rice. To facilitate success in meeting this requirement, all students must complete the First-Year Writing Assessment prior to matriculating. Based on their results on the assessment, students may be placed into either FWIS 100 Introduction to Academic Writing or FWIS 100-299 (various topics). For further information about the FWIS requirements, please visit [pwc.rice.edu](http://pwc.rice.edu).

#### Analyzing Diversity Requirement

You must complete and pass one course of three or more credit hours in the area of Analyzing Diversity. Such courses primarily focus on how difference is understood across human societies, on how those understandings have changed over time, and on the consequences of those understandings for human development. Courses meeting this requirement equip students with foundational know-how in the critical study of matters related to diversity, and prepare them to apply such knowledge in other areas of study as they advance at the university.

Distribution  
Requirements  
(Group I, II, and III)

Rice requires all undergraduates to take a total of 9 distribution courses, divided evenly among 3 categories – D1, D2 and D3. Distribution I courses are in the humanities, architecture and music. Distribution II courses are in the social sciences. Distribution III courses are in natural sciences and engineering. Distribution courses introduce the knowledge, intellectual skills and habits of thought characteristic of disciplines or of inquiry across disciplines. They are broad-based, accessible to non-majors, and provide a foundation that enables students to integrate knowledge from multiple perspectives.

Please note that only a subset of the curriculum is designated as distribution courses in each of Rice's 6 schools . A course must be listed as a distribution course at the time that you take it in order to satisfy this requirement. The course description in either the course schedule or the course catalog will tell you if it counts to Distribution, as will Degree Works. You will not be able to petition later that a course you took that was not a distribution course should have been. As a Humanities major, it is likely that you will get some of your D1 courses from your major requirements. However, also note that you need to take distribution courses from two different course codes to complete the requirements within each of the 3 categories of distribution courses.



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# Humanities Research

Humanities research experiences set you apart because this research is unique to you. With independent research or creative work, you are no longer completing an assignment; you are creating your own work and scholarship by following self-identified paths of inquiry. This open-endedness is both a challenge and an incredible opportunity.

Given the humanities encompasses a wide variety of disciplines, including creative practices, your research may take various forms. It could be a scholarly paper, a body of creative work such as an exhibition, film, or performance, a work of fiction, or a digital humanities project like a website, podcast or oral histories archive, to name a few. A well-executed research project of any kind showcases several key skills: the crafting of an articulate and individualized voice, clarity of ideas, and the ability to orchestrate, manage, and accomplish goals of your own making.

Often, though not always, you will do advanced research on your own, without the support or predefining structures of a classroom, a lab group, or team leader that natural science, social science, or engineering students may be more used to. A project may originate from a course assignment, or collaborative work with other researchers, such as with a Houston Action Research Team (HART), organized at the [Center for Civic Leadership](#) (CCL), or out of an internship or practicum but then takes off from there. Your research project might be executed in the context of a semester-long or year-long independent study, a summer project, or over a year-long course sequence, as are many honors theses and the [Health, Humanism, and Society Scholars](#) (HHASS) practicum.

With independent research, you will pose and answer a research question or set an artistic intention. The most fruitful and interesting projects start with a question to which the initiator does not already know the answer.

Humanities research can be difficult for some students to visualize, partly because it can take so many forms, and partly because it is never truly done. In humanities research, questions are often explored over a long arc. Good research questions can be pursued indefinitely, and part of the challenge is

to figure out how to carve a coherent project out of larger possibilities and uncertainties. One important insight you will gain from doing research is that “textbook” knowledge, which many take for granted, is often itself the outcome of others’ inevitably limited efforts. Engaging in research first-hand is likely to give you greater respect for researchers who came before you, and also a healthy skepticism about the finality of their work.

As you think through what humanities research might look like for you, consider the following:

- What can research accomplish for you specifically? Will it move a past assignment or activity in a direction that interests you more or to a deeper level? Will it allow you to use a language you have been studying? Will it permit you to learn more about a group or place firsthand you wish to focus on?
- Creative practices often require extensive research. This can manifest as following an idea and/or can develop through exploration and experimentation with materials and processes.
- When choosing a topic, consider starting with a general area or context, and then look for a problem or question within that area that your research will seek to address. Sooner or later, research will become more specific. Do not worry about researching what seems like a very narrow question. Once you decide something like “I want to find out...” or “I want to prove that...” or “I want to use X materials...” then you will have usefully narrowed down your options. A question that is too broad can often not be researched convincingly.
- Undergraduate research in the form of an honors thesis is possible in almost all our majors and some minors. Typically, application to an honors thesis program is required. Talk to the respective area of study DUS for more information.
- A note on university-wide Distinction in Research and Creative Works – This distinction is not limited to those who are in honors thesis programs; any worthy research or creative project can be considered for distinction.

### How to choose a faculty mentor

It is not always obvious which faculty are willing to mentor a research project or invite students to help with their own research. Take the initiative by approaching faculty you know or those with whom you share general interests. Approach faculty and initiate these conversations early as faculty often plan out commitments a year or semester ahead. A simple conversation can open up options for you regarding mentorship or connect

you to the right person to advise. Once determined, your faculty mentor will work with you in the context of a regular course they are teaching, in an independent study course, or as your individual research mentor in support of your work done in a course that has its own instructor, such as a departmental thesis writers' seminar or the Rice-wide [Rice Undergraduate Scholars Program](#) (RUSP).

#### Other resources available

- Fondren Library, the Interlibrary Loan program, and the Woodson can support a vast range of research projects. Other institutions in Houston also have a wealth of material for you. Ask your mentor to help get connected to resources outside Rice.
- Often travel will be an important part of your research. Ask your department, center, or program if there is funding available for research travel. It is best to plan travel for the summertime, when it will not conflict with your other courses. For that reason too, research is best planned at least a semester in advance. You may conduct research in the context of a summer internship, for which funding may also be available. Contact [Andrew Steff](#), Lead Academic Administrator in the School of Humanities for more information.
- Check out also the [Humanities Research Center](#) for undergraduate research opportunities for engagement and funding.

#### Moody Research Fellows

##### Cultivating intellectual curiosity & creative expression

The School of Humanities invites humanities majors to apply to join the cohort of Moody Research Fellows, a group dedicated to pursuing critical humanities-based research and innovative creative work. With generous funding from the Moody Foundation, the competitive Elizabeth Lee Moody Undergraduate Research Fellowships in the Humanities and the Arts provide a summer stipend of \$3,500, enabling fellows to pursue a research project or internship of their own choosing.

Beyond tools, resources and opportunities affording undergraduates the experience to conduct humanities research in a wide array of disciplinary and interdisciplinary pursuits, this group fosters a vibrant undergraduate community through monthly meetings with faculty, workshops and interactions with visiting academics and artists.

To learn more and apply, visit [humanities.rice.edu/moody-undergraduate-research-fellowship](https://humanities.rice.edu/moody-undergraduate-research-fellowship)

# Internships and Practica

The School of Humanities offers a variety of internships and practica. These terms “internship” and “practicum” refer to research experiences that occur during the summer, a semester or throughout an academic year. While “internship” is a more commonly known term, a “practicum” emphasizes an academic component and carries course credit. Practica require an application and selection process in advance of preregistration to ensure each student is matched with a site supervisor. A Rice faculty member serves as an instructor for the practicum course.

School of Humanities internships and practica typically offer academic credit, funding, or both. Funding can cover expenses such as transportation to the off-campus site or offset lost earnings due to choosing an unpaid internship.

Humanities students have successfully secured internships and derived great benefits from them. To get started, explore available resources and start the conversation. The School of Humanities website offers information on current internship and practicum opportunities under the Students > Undergraduate Students menu tabs. A few to note:

- [HEDGE](#): This is a summer internship fund to support workplace experiences without an accompanying course.
- [Health, Humanism and Society Scholars \(HHASS\)](#): This 1- and 2-semester practicum offers research opportunities with organizations in the Texas Medical Center.
- [Legal and Judicial Practica](#): These are 1-semester law-related research and professional opportunities with various agencies and courts within Houston.

Additional opportunities are offered at the department, center or program level. University-wide resources, like the [Center for Career Development](#) (CCD) and listings on [12twenty](#), offer humanities students helpful resources and preparation regardless of major or career interest. Not sure where to start? Set up a [30-minute career counseling appointment](#) with a CCD advisor and check out the School of Humanities websites above. There is no one right way to find an internship or research opportunity, and no matter your interests, there's one out there for you!

International students, please note that special attention is required when planning an internship or practicum to preserve your visa status. Visit the [Office of International Students and Scholars](#) page for more information.



# After Graduation

## Careers in the Humanities

Most majors and minors in the School of Humanities are not designed as vocational preparation for a specific job. This is advantageous because while you only go to college once, you are likely to have several different jobs throughout your lifetime.

Employers do rely on the long-term skills and capacities you develop over four years of undergraduate study. These include:

- An ability to clearly communicate (written, oral, visual)
- A problem-solving orientation and an ability to analyze problems
- An appreciation of contestation and diversity of opinion; the ability to listen to opposing views
- Sensitivity of culture, difference, and how the past informs the present
- Attention to detail
- Visual acuity and digital literacy

All these skills are valuable in any field and in any kind of organization. If you have done well in humanities courses, you have developed skills.

Employers and others love to hear about your passion for your major and minor because that helps them figure out what kind of colleague you would be. Be prepared to answer why you chose your area(s) of study. Humanities students are engaged in discovering, preserving and communicating the past and present to more deeply understand society. Leverage this by connecting how your interests and education have prepared you to succeed in the position you seek.

Below are some further considerations, organized by type of advanced degree.

### **PhD and MFA programs: humanities and the arts**

If you plan to go to graduate school, try to complete an honors thesis or senior capstone project in that discipline. You will be glad you did, as it is a good foretaste of what graduate school is like, and you will be a stronger candidate.

If you choose to take a gap year before applying to a program, explain why and what you gained from it. Taking time off to develop skills and perspectives in a non-academic context between undergraduate and graduate education can often be beneficial. If you choose to pursue this option, avoid thinking of a gap year as a break. Think of it as doing something that is worthwhile and making yourself a more competitive candidate overall.

Ideally you should not have to pay for a PhD or MFA; the program should pay you a fellowship stipend covering all or most of the program (5-7 years for PhDs, 2-3 years for MFAs). Consider applying to a host of programs to give yourself choices. Take advantage of your Rice professors' expertise—consult them about the reputation of the institutions and specific degree programs you are considering.

Many masters programs generally do not offer fellowships or stipends but may offer residencies and scholarships. You are expected to pay tuition and your living expenses, which can be expensive. If you are at all interested in pursuing a PhD rather than an MA, consider applying to PhD programs from the outset.

### **Law school: JD, or “Juris Doctor”**

All students who aspire to law school are encouraged to meet with a pre-law advisor in the Office of Academic Advising (OAA). OAA sponsors events with law programs and alumni and arranges workshops to help with applications. Join the Pre-Law mailing list by emailing [prelaw@rice.edu](mailto:prelaw@rice.edu).

[The Program in Politics, Law and Social Thought website](#) lists courses, practica, events and contact information for advisors who can speak more about humanities-related activities for students interested in law school.

Law schools are open-minded about the major or the type of courses a student has taken as long as the student can show coursework with advanced reading and writing. They seek a diverse pool of applicants, including a variety of majors. A few law schools offer a joint JD/PhD program. This is closer to the experience of a humanities PhD program than to earning the JD alone and is relevant primarily to an academic career.

### **Business school: Masters of Business Administration (MBA), Masters of Accounting (MAcc)**

As with law, no pre-defined majors or types of courses lead to a career in business. Here, too, postgraduate degree-granting schools are interested in applicants with a wide range of undergraduate majors and interests. Humanities students interested in business often take additional majors or minors offered by Rice's Jones Graduate School of Business, the Managerial Studies major offered by Rice's School of Social Sciences, or the Financial Computational and Modeling minor offered by Rice's Wiess School of Natural Sciences. Students can also prepare themselves by completing individual business-related courses - additional majors and minors are not required.

[Rice's Jones School of Business](#) offers a Masters of Accounting (MAcc) that a number of Rice humanities graduates have completed with success and a 98% placement rate before graduation. Accounting is about telling the story of a business, and humanities students are well equipped to do that at a high level.

### **Advanced Degrees in the Health Professions**

- Medical School: Medicine Doctor or Doctor of Medicine (MD), Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (DO)
- Dental School: Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS), Doctor of Medicine in Dentistry (DMD)
- Nursing School: Registered Nurse (RN)
- Public Health: Masters in Public Health (MPH), Masters of Science in Public Health (MSPH)

All students who aspire to attend medical, dental, nursing or other graduate programs are encouraged to meet with a pre-health advisor in OAA. OAA offers admission guides, workshops, and information about scholarships. To join their Pre-Health mailing list, email [hpa@rice.edu](mailto:hpa@rice.edu).

[The Program in Medical Humanities website](#) lists courses, practica, events, and contact information for advisers who can speak more about humanities-related activities for students interested in medical school.

Medical schools are increasingly looking for humanities students - for their creative thinking, well-informed cultural understanding, and reflectiveness - qualities recognized as critical for success in health professions. The [Rice and UT Health's McGovern School of Medicine Partnership](#) is a facilitated admissions program. McGovern reserves up to eight spots in each admissions cohort for Rice humanities majors. Students apply in the fall of their junior year. For more information, email [Kirsten Ostherr](#), director of the

Program in Medical Humanities and [Melissa Bailar](#), associate director.

Speak with an OAA advisor about requirements, which typically include a curriculum of 13-14 courses that can be added to a humanities schedule. Here is a suggested four-year plan for a student with no AP credit, and a humanities major requiring 10-12 courses. CHEM 123 and 124 are 1-credit courses.

Semester 1	Semester 2	Semester 3	Semester 4
FWIS/Major req	FWIS/Major req	Major req	Major req
PSYC/ SOCI (D2)	Major req	Major req	EBIO 202
CHEM 121	CHEM 122	PSYC/ SOCI (D2)	CHEM 215
CHEM 123	CHEM 124	CHEM 211	CHEM 212
BIOC 201	BIOC 211/ EBIO 213	PHYS 125	PHYS 126
Semester 5	Semester 6	Semester 7	Semester 8
Major req	Major req	Major req	Major req
Open	Open	Major req?	Major req?
MATH 101	Approved STAT	LPAP	Open
BIOC 301	PHYS 126	Open	Open
BIO elective	BIO elective	Open	Open

\*Be sure to confirm that one of your courses also fulfills the AD requirement.

# Dean of Humanities

## Undergraduate Advisory Council

### Introduction

Established in 2018, the Dean of Humanities Undergraduate Advisory Council is a group of humanities dedicated students who serve as a consulting body on a wide range of topics, including advising, programming and events for the undergraduate student body, curricular matters and community building to name a few. Envisioned as an advisory council representing as many majors and minors in the School of Humanities as possible, this group creates a critical space for direct dialogue between humanities undergraduates, school leadership, and additional faculty and staff on School of Humanities-wide matters. Advisory Council members additionally are excellent guides for undergraduates who are interested in majoring or minoring in a humanities field.

Don't hesitate to reach out to one of the council members in the directory that follows should you have any humanities related questions. For more information about the council or how to get involved, contact Associate Dean of Humanities [Natasha Bowdoin](#).





**Daniela Bonscher**  
(she/her)  
Lovett College  
[dcb12@rice.edu](mailto:dcb12@rice.edu)

Daniela Bonscher is a senior majoring in History and Latin American & Latinx Studies with a minor in Museums & Cultural Heritage. Growing up in the border city of El Paso, TX has been an inspiration for her studies and a gateway for exploring her Mexican American identity at Rice. Passionate about reevaluating historical narratives in education, she plans to apply to doctoral programs in History and/or Latin American Studies after she graduates. Daniela's interests range from histories of public memory to analyzing Latine stereotypes in movies (ask her about her Star Wars article!). In her free time, she enjoys writing poetry, drawing, and reading. If she's not listening to Hamilton, she's playing the violin or singing with the Low Keys, Rice's all-female a cappella group.

**Humanities research interests:** Social history & historiography in the Americas, historical archaeology, border studies, site & artifact preservation, minority representation in film



**Lucy Bozinov**  
(she/her)  
Wiess College  
[leb13@rice.edu](mailto:leb13@rice.edu)

Hello! I'm Lucy Bozinov, and I am a senior studying History at Rice University with minors in German and Politics, Law, & Social Thought (PLST). I have many interests broadly pertaining to the humanities, including art, philosophy, and language studies, with my primary area of study being social and political thought, as well as gender and women's history. I am currently pursuing an honors thesis in History, and, under the direction of Dr. Lora Wildenthal, I am researching gender politics in Germany post-WWII. My topic pertains specifically to the ideological motivations behind political and media discussions (or lack thereof) of sexual assault committed against German women by occupying soldiers. As a Humanities Moody Research Fellow, I am also conducting a research project on Houston's protest culture with Dr. Liam Mayes's support. I am attempting to uncover a comprehensive understanding of the material conditions that impact resistance movements in our city. Outside of these areas of research, I am very interested in languages, philosophy, and art.



Muyao Huang is a senior History student at Rice. She is on the pre-law track and intends to go to law school in 2025. As an international student from China, she is also working as Chinese language consultant and is excited to be learning German in the School of Humanities CLIC program.

**Muyao Huang**  
(she/her)  
McMurtry College  
[mh103@rice.edu](mailto:mh103@rice.edu)



Bruce Hurley is a rising sophomore from Houston, Texas, majoring in English and minoring in Art History and Environmental Studies. Aside from academics, he works as an Owl Guide, a barista at Rice Coffeehouse, and interns at the Baker Institute for Public Policy. Bruce loves to give back to the Rice community, which is why he is involved in the Student Association as the chief of staff, University Court as the secretary, and is a member of the DEI Commission. At Lovett, he serves as an associate justice, a DOERR ambassador, and a member of the Activities Committee.

**Bruce Hurley**  
(he/him)  
Lovett College  
[bh63@rice.edu](mailto:bh63@rice.edu)



Ishani Kaul is a senior at McMurtry College, double majoring in Health Sciences and History. The History Department at Rice has introduced her to a number of opportunities including the Fondren Fellowship where she conducts archival research for the School of Natural Sciences. She also completed the Gilder Lehrman Institute College Fellowship researching the history of the American Women's Suffrage Movement from a journalistic lens. Ishani is interested in the intersection of science and policy, conducting research at the Baker Institute for Public Policy and serving on the board of the Rice Journal of Public Policy. Additionally, she serves as a member of the duty crew for Rice EMS. She hopes to use her experiences to attend law school in the future and enter the healthcare law field. In her free time, Ishani DJs for 96.1 KTRU and enjoys playing basketball.

**Ishani Kaul**  
(she/her)  
McMurtry College  
[ik17@rice.edu](mailto:ik17@rice.edu)

**Humanities research interests:** Archival research, legal history, healthcare policy



**Mariam Khan**  
(she/her)  
Wiess College  
[mk155@rice.edu](mailto:mk155@rice.edu)

Mariam Khan is a sophomore English and Mathematical Economic Analysis major at Rice University. When she's not toeing the lines between literature and calculus, she's sharpening her language skills through the Center for Languages and Intercultural Communication's Arabic and French offerings. Following graduation, Mariam intends to attend law school and specialize in immigration law, where she can apply all the languages she stumbles through.

**Humanities research interests:** Literary representations of women in the Global South, gendered spheres of power in South Asia postcolonial literature and colonial languages



**Grace Kwon**  
(she/her)  
Sid Richardson College  
[jk95@rice.edu](mailto:jk95@rice.edu)

Grace is a senior from Illinois studying English and Psychology. Her current research interests include contemporary literature, Asian American literature, and the dystopian genre. She also enjoys creative writing and serves as a section editor for R2, Rice's literary magazine. In her free time, she enjoys taking walks, adding books to her Goodreads, and listening to her friends' playlists to discover new music.

**Humanities research interests:** cultural relativism, heroism, radicalism, decision making, the relationship between individuals and space, information design/communication



**Kyra McKauffley**  
(she/her)  
Martel College  
[mckauffley@rice.edu](mailto:mckauffley@rice.edu)

Kyra McKauffley is a junior at Rice University majoring in English. She is interested in researching American literature from the latter half of the twentieth century. She is also interested in literary theory and film and television studies. In her free time, she enjoys participating in student theater productions as an actor or a costume designer. She is also an editor for R2, Rice's literary magazine.

**Humanities research Interests:** American literature, postmodern literature, film and television, psychoanalytic theory, Marxist theory, feminist theory, queer theory





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# Art

## Department Description

The Department of Art (ART) prioritizes flexibility, accommodating many different paths through the major. Students might specialize early, pursuing their area of concentration in depth, or they might choose to work across many disciplines. Courses span a range of media, including drawing, painting, sculpture, comix, photography, film, ceramics and performance. The department supplements course work with an annual trip for majors, distinguished speakers, visiting artists, exhibitions, film series and performances for and by students. The faculty are active in their art practices and professions on local, national and international levels. The curriculum engages Houston's art scene as an extension of the classroom. The result is a dynamic environment encouraging students to mesh their art interests with other fields of study, in the belief that connections between disciplines can produce richer and more collaborative artwork. Art majors pursue a variety of careers—in the arts, engineering, law, medicine and more.

## Weblinks

Visit the Department of Art website for more information:  
[art.rice.edu](http://art.rice.edu)

Art major requirements can be found in the General Announcements: [ga.rice.edu](http://ga.rice.edu)

## Frank Advice

Art courses are often overenrolled. If a course is closed, if you don't know what to expect, or if you have complicated circumstances, email the course instructor or our Director of Undergraduate Studies early in the enrollment period. We'll try our best to work it out.

## Internships

Internship opportunities can be found on the Art Department website: [art.rice.edu](http://art.rice.edu)

## Study Abroad

Some study abroad opportunities are tailored for Art majors, such as our partnership with the Film and TV School of the Academy of Performing Arts (FAMU) in Prague. Up to two transfer credit courses can, with approval from the DUS, be applied toward the major.

The Junior Field Trip, taken the same semester as ARTS 387, is an optional opportunity for all Art majors. Past destinations include New York City, Los Angeles, Mexico City and Marfa, Texas. Travel takes place during one of the university's official recess periods. The department also awards two traveling fellowships annually. Learn more on our website: [art.rice.edu](http://art.rice.edu)

## Research

The work that Art students produce in Senior Studio is research. The same is true of independent or collaborative work in several other Art courses. You will produce your own independent work in Senior Studio, which becomes the culmination of what your other classes have given you.

## Intro Courses for Major

Any Art course from the first group of Core Requirements, or any Art course without prerequisites, is a viable gateway. Students enter the major according to their own interests. Popular starting points include Beginning Sculpture (ARTS 165), Beginning Drawing (ARTS 225), Introduction to Photography (FOTO 205), Filmmaking I (FILM 328), Beginning Painting (ARTS 301) and Documentary Production (FILM 327).

## Interesting Courses for Non-Majors

Sculpture and Performance (ARTS 160), Beginning Digital Photography (FOTO 210), Beginning Drawing (ARTS 225), Comics and Sequential Art (ARTS 230), Film Genre: Science Fiction (FILM 433)

## Degree Requirements

**For the major**—A total of 13 courses are required, at least 6 of which must be taken at the upper (300+) level. Please note some beginner courses are listed as 300-level; the distinction between lower- and upper-level courses is less important than selecting the right number of courses from the right groups, as specified in the General Announcements.

## Is there an honors option?

In the Department of Art, honors are often conferred as prizes and exhibition opportunities. Students may also earn graduation with distinction.

## What if I want to go to grad school?

Majors gain admission to top graduate schools in their areas. Talk to the DUS to learn more.

## Contacts

Director of Undergraduate Studies:  
[Associate Teaching Professor Josh Bernstein](#)

## Four-Year Planning

- Senior Studio (ARTS 499) or its equivalent, Interdisciplinary Studio (ARTS 498), is required both semesters of your senior year. It's a good idea, though not required, to take several studio courses and the art history requirement before senior year; Senior Studio is more productive when you already have some studio experience and art historical context.
- All majors, even those who prefer to specialize and find their area of concentration early, will have to take some art courses in media or subjects they're unfamiliar with. When taken as an opportunity to expand your perspective, to gain a greater understanding of your social context and the world around you, these electives can serve to deepen and enhance your practice.

## Four-Year Planning (cont.)

- Introductory courses are offered most semesters. Second-level or advanced courses may not be available as frequently! Take advantage of the advanced course you're interested in as soon as it is offered, in case you don't have another chance.
- ARTS 387 and 388 are required for all Art majors. It is highly recommended that these both be taken in your junior year, as it is a great way to get to know your cohort before Senior Studio.

Semester 1	Semester 2	Semester 3	Semester 4
ARTS/FILM/FOTO Core (Beginning)	ARTS/FILM/FOTO Core (Beginning)	ARTS/FILM/FOTO Core (Beginning)	ARTS/FILM/FOTO Core (Beginning)
D2	HART Elective	ARTS/FILM/FOTO Elective	ARTS/FILM/FOTO Core (Intermediate)
FWIS/ Open	D3	D2	D3
Open	FWIS/ Open	Open	Open
Open	Open	Open	Open
Semester 5	Semester 6	Semester 7	Semester 8
ARTS 388	ARTS 387	ARTS 499	ARTS 499
ARTS/FILM/FOTO Core (Intermediate)	ARTS/FILM/FOTO Elective	LPAP	Open
D2	D3	Open	Open
Open	Open	Open	Open
Open	Open	Open	Open

\*Be sure to confirm that one of your courses also fulfills the AD requirement.

# Art History

## Department Description

The Department of Art History (HART) offers a wide range of courses in European, American, Asian, African Diaspora, and Middle Eastern/Islamic art history from antiquity to contemporary times. Additional strengths include architectural history and film and media studies. It is a methodologically and theoretically diverse department, with core faculty often joined by visiting professors, including museum curators.

Students in Art History pursue various careers, ranging from art conservation and diplomacy to curation and medicine. They become lawyers, gallery managers, professors, cultural managers, and everything in between. Many also go on to attend excellent graduate schools.

## Weblinks

Visit the Department of Art History website for more information: [arthistory.rice.edu](http://arthistory.rice.edu)

Art History major, minor, and honors requirements can be found in the General Announcements: [ga.rice.edu](http://ga.rice.edu)

## Frank Advice

Engage with art and explore art-related careers outside the classroom through the department's wide-ranging museum fellowship opportunities, trips, and on-site learning experiences. If you're interested in graduate school in art history, remember to start learning a foreign language early.



## Internships

Art History offers a number of generously funded internships at local museums, including the Museum of Fine Arts, the Menil Collection, the Museum of Contemporary Arts, and others.

## Study Abroad

HART offers a summer study abroad course every other May in a globally significant, cultural metropolis. The course follows a required campus-based seminar in the spring semester. Past locations have included Istanbul, Rome, Rio de Janeiro and London. The department also offers multiple summer courses in Paris through the Rice Paris Global Center. Additionally, majors and minors may participate in a spring break trip to New York City or Paris, respectively offered every other year. Students may also apply for a self-guided summer travel research fellowship in the United States or abroad. Together, with the departmental course offerings, these travel opportunities offer students a phenomenal set of artistic and intellectual experiences.

## Intro Courses for Major & Minor

All of the department's 100 and 200-level courses are designed as introductory gateway courses. While 100-level courses are very broad in their coverage, such as HART 101 (Intro to History of Art), our 200-level courses offer a more focused geographical, cultural, or historical perspective, such as HART 221 (Introduction to Islamic Art).

## Interesting Courses for Non-Majors

Our 100 and 200-level courses are particularly suitable for non-majors.

## Degree Requirements

**For the major**—A total of 10 courses are required, 5 of which must be taken at the upper (300+) level. Students can choose to pursue either the regular History of Art major or a major with a specialization in the History of Architecture.

**For the minor**—A total of 6 courses are required, 3 of which must be taken at the upper (300+) level.

Is there an honors option?

Yes, students who choose this option complete an additional two courses and write a thesis in their senior year.

What if I want to go to grad school?

Identify an area of interest within the discipline, while also ensuring a broad familiarity with the field through diverse coursework. Explore related classes in other departments/disciplines to gain a a more complete view of your specialty. Consider starting or continuing language studies to enhance your academic preparation.

Contacts

Director of Undergraduate Studies: [Joseph Manca](#)

## Four-Year Planning

- Students should take HART 101 and HART 102 or HART 115 their first year.
- It is recommended that you take 1 or 2 additional 200- level courses before jumping into upper-level coursework.
- Students are encouraged to engage with art and curatorial careers outside of their coursework, through department-coordinated internships and fellowships with museums and through department trips and seminars. This is a major best absorbed through experiences beyond the classroom as well as in it.
- To plan for honors, shift your electives around and be more strategic with your choices of electives. Talk to the DUS for specifics about planning honors. Honors students should try to choose courses that will complement the subject matter of their future thesis.

Semester 1	Semester 2	Semester 3	Semester 4
HART 101	Hart 102	HART area elective	HART area elective
D2	D3	HART area elective	D3
FWIS/open	FWIS/open	D2	open
Open	Open	Open	open
Open	Open	Open	open
Semester 5	Semester 6	Semester 7	Semester 8
HART area elective	HART seminar	HART elective	HART elective
HART seminar	D3	LPAP	HART (honors)
D2	open	HART (honors)	open
Open	open	Open	open
Open	open	Open	open

\*Be sure to confirm that one of your courses also fulfills the AD requirement.

# English

## Department Description

The Department of English (ENGL) integrates creative and critical practice through training in close reading, analytical writing, cultural history and craft/form. Our faculty research and pedagogy cover the breadth of the study of British and American literatures and cultures, ranging from the medieval era to the present. The curriculum emphasizes literature and literary history, race and ethnicity studies, feminist and gender studies, queer theory and the history of sexuality, visual culture and comparative media studies, and the Anglophone literature of the postcolonial world. Faculty have particular strengths in the newer interdisciplinary areas of medical humanities, public humanities, ecocriticism, posthumanism and environmental humanities. The Department of English is also home to a vibrant creative writing concentration offering a range of courses in fiction, poetry and creative nonfiction.

## Weblinks

Visit the Department of English website for more information:  
[english.rice.edu](http://english.rice.edu)

English major and minor requirements can be found in the General Announcements: [ga.rice.edu](http://ga.rice.edu)

## Research

Beyond coursework, there are research opportunities in the summer through the Minter Summer Scholar Program, which provides travel funds for students to complete an analytical or creative project of any sort related to English.

## Study Abroad

The department offers a study abroad program with Exeter University in the UK. Majors go in the spring semester of their junior year. If you take the suggested courses there, the transfer credit is pre-approved through a special arrangement between Exeter and Rice. Students should complete ENGL 200 and 300 before going and can complete field requirements with the department's pre-approval. Visit [english.rice.edu](http://english.rice.edu) for more information.

## Student Organizations & Publications

Rice's award-winning undergraduate literary magazine [R2](#) is housed in the Department of English. Students are also invited to get involved in public writing through the student-led blog, [The Wild Grain](#).

The [English Undergraduate Association](#) hosts several events throughout the year for students, including academic and joint study sessions as well as movie nights and group excursions. They also function as a communicative link between the department and the student body. New students can get involved by being College Ambassadors to their residential colleges, or simply by coming to events and meeting other English majors.

## Degree Requirements

**For the major**—A total of 11 courses are required, 7 of which must be taken at the upper (300+) level.

**For the minor**—A total of 6 courses are required, 3 of which must be taken at the upper (300+) level.

Students are allowed to transfer up to two courses from another institution for credit toward the major or minor. Requests for credit will be considered by the DUS.

### Intro Courses for Major & Minor

ENGL 200 (Gateways to Literary Study) is offered every semester. If you encounter a closed section, faculty are willing to help future English majors, so contact the instructor right away.

### Frank Advice

Many students grapple with deciding whether to take ENGL 300 (Practices of Literary Study: Reading Methods) in the first year. The course involves heavy reading and writing on disciplinary and interdisciplinary methods. Taking ENGL 300 early can give you a solid theoretical foundation to get more out of later classes. Taking it later, however, may help you understand the course itself better. Consider the rest of your workload that semester.

### Interesting Courses for Non-Majors

ENGL 101 (What is a Fact?), a popular course that trains students to identify and think critically about facts; ENGL 113 and 114 (Introduction to the Literary Editing and Publishing) a course sequence offers students an opportunity to develop their understanding of genre and the landscape of contemporary literature through work on the Rice undergraduate literary magazine, R2; ENGL 150 (Houston Out on the Town), through the study of Houston-based literature and art, this course introduces the skills of close reading, critical analysis, and place-based literacy.

### Is there an honors option?

No. Our program is designed so that all students take ENGL 410 (Senior Seminar) and 411 (Research Workshop) in their senior year. The collective experience of this course often feels like an honors seminar and each student completes a substantial project advised by faculty and suited to their interests and futures. Students may apply for the Rice-wide designation of Distinction in Research and Creative Work.

## What if I want to go to grad school?

Seek advising from a faculty member or the DUS so you pursue a course of study particular to your interests but also advantageous for graduate school applications. Focus on opportunities for longer papers (including during the Senior Seminar and Research Workshop) and courses that are theoretically informed. For students interested in advanced Creative Writing work, consult with the Creative Writing faculty.

## Contacts

Director of Undergraduate Studies:

[Professor Betty Joseph](#)

Affiliated faculty: Ian Schimmel (Creative Writing), HUMA Divisional Advisor at Duncan College

## Four-Year Planning

- Take English 200 (Gateways to Literary Study) in the first or second year. English 300 (Practices of Literary Study: Reading Methods) is to be taken after English 200, ideally in the spring of the first year or in the second year. You can reference [ga.rice.edu](http://ga.rice.edu) for more information on all requirements and sequencing.

Semester 1	Semester 2	Semester 3	Semester 4
ENGL 200	ENGL 300	Div Trad elective	Spec/Conc #2
D2	Pre-1800 elective	Spec/Conc #1	Pre-1900 elective
FWIS/ Open	D3	D2	D3
Open	FWIS/ Open	Open	Open
Open	Open	Open	Open
Semester 5	Semester 6	Semester 7	Semester 8
Pre-1800 elective	Spec/Conc #3	ENGL 410	ENGL 411
D2	D3	LPAP	Open
Open	Open	Open	Open
Open	Open	Open	Open
Open	Open	Open	Open

\*Be sure to confirm that one of your courses also fulfills the AD requirement.



# Creative Writing

## Minor Description

The Department of English offers a Creative Writing minor (CREW) as well as the English major. The Creative Writing minor is a course of study that allows students to focus on creative writing craft, genre-training, editorial technique, close reading and creative process. All minors will be expected to produce original creative works, including but not limited to: fictional prose, literary essays, cultural criticism, poetry, plays, translation, screenplays and other media.

## Weblinks

Visit the Department of English website for more information about Creative Writing: [english.rice.edu](http://english.rice.edu)

CREW minor requirements can be found in the General Announcements: [ga.rice.edu](http://ga.rice.edu)

## Frank Advice

The Creative Writing minor is open to any undergraduate student regardless of their intended major(s) or post-degree plans. All students who have declared the Creative Writing minor are eligible to register for reserved seating in Creative Writing classes. Please contact the Department of English's DUS for Creative Writing with questions or to begin the declaration process.

## Research

Beyond coursework, there are research opportunities in the summer through the Minter Summer Scholar Program, which provides travel funds for students to complete an analytical or creative project of any sort related to English.

## Student Organizations & Publications

Rice's award-winning undergraduate literary magazine [R2](#) is housed in the Department of English. Students are also invited to get involved in public writing through the student-led blog, [The Wild Grain](#).

The [English Undergraduate Association](#) hosts several events throughout the year for students, including academic and joint study sessions as well as movie nights and group excursions. They also function as a communicative link between the department and the student body. New students can get involved by being College Ambassadors to their residential colleges, or simply by coming to events and meeting other English majors.

## Intro Courses for Minor

One of the following: ENGL 201 (Introduction to Creative Writing), ENGL 205 (Writers on Writing), ENGL 113 (Introduction to Literary Editing and Publishing), ENGL 114 (Introduction to Literary Editing and Publishing), ENGL 301 (Introduction to Fiction Writing), ENGL 304 (Introduction to Poetry Writing), ENGL 305 (Introduction to Creative Nonfiction Writing)

## Degree Requirements

**For the minor**—A total of 6 courses are required, 3 of which must be taken at the upper (300+) level.

## What should I look out for?

No more than 2 courses (6 credit hours) of transfer credit from U.S. or international universities of similar standing as Rice may apply towards the minor. Any requests for such transfer credits will be considered on a case-by-case basis by the Creative Writing DUS.

## Contacts

Director of Undergraduate Studies:  
[Associate Professor Lacy M. Johnson](#)

Affiliated faculty: Ian Schimmel (Creative Writing), HUMA Divisional Advisor at Jones College

# History

## Department Description

History (HIST) is one of the largest Humanities Departments and supports an Honors Program, a Major, a Major with and International Concentration, and a Minor. It offers extensive research opportunities and classes are taught by faculty who have won university-wide, national, and international prizes for their research and teaching. Exciting courses explore the human experience from ancient times to the twenty-first century around the globe and thematic fields in the history of science, technology and medicine, law and politics, international relations, and human rights. The department sponsors a peer-reviewed journal, the *Rice Historical Review*, and awards many undergraduate internships, prizes, travel awards, paid research and teaching opportunities, and research funds each year. After graduation, historians pursue careers in law, business, education, technology, medicine, museums, archives and libraries, politics, arts and entertainment, media and more.

## Weblinks

Visit the Department of History website for more information:  
[history.rice.edu](http://history.rice.edu)

History major and minor requirements can be found in the General Announcements: [ga.rice.edu](http://ga.rice.edu)

## Frank Advice

Courses do not build sequentially; take classes that interest you when they are offered. Course levels reflect the amount of work involved. Students could take 200-level classes in their first semester and 300-level in their first year. Majors should wait until their 4th semester to take 400-level classes.

## Internships & Research

The [Pyke Prize](#) offers funding for internships at archives, libraries, museums and other historical institutions. The Gruber Prize provides [research funding](#) which may be used domestically or internationally. [Honors](#) students apply to the Gruber Fund to conduct independent research for their dissertations and receive University awards of Distinction in Research upon graduation. The Garside Prize is a major travel award for majors and minors. History professors employ majors as [Research Assistants and Teaching Assistants](#). Undergraduates also work on digital humanities projects in history, particularly [slavevoyages.org](#) and [imagerio.org](#).

## Study Abroad

The [International Concentration](#) foregrounds study abroad and the use of a language other than English for historical research. The Study Abroad Office offers a variety of high-quality programs. You can use up to 4 history courses taken abroad towards your history major. Many History majors study abroad during their time at Rice and it is highly recommended.

## Professional Organizations & Student Clubs

The [Rice Historical Review](#) is a student-run undergraduate research journal that many history students work on for course credit, for an experiential learning experience, and to connect with other majors. The department employs two majors as Social Media Officers. Follow us on [Instagram](#) and join our [listserv](#) for events, talks, announcements.

## Interesting Courses for Non-Majors

Everything has a history. Go everywhere and meet everyone in the department's large number of D1 courses, which are suitable for non-majors (as well as majors) in that they require no previous knowledge.

## Intro Courses for Major & Minor

HIST 217 (History: The Workshop) is highly recommended for prospective majors. There is no official introductory course. 100-level surveys may serve this function: HIST 101 (Modern Europe, 1500-1789), 102 (Democracy, Power, and Industry in Modern Europe since the French Revolution), 108 (World History since 1492), 117 (Early America to the Civil War), 118 (The United States since the Civil War), 120 (Medieval Civilizations).

## Degree Requirements

**For the major**—A total of 10 classes are required, 4 of which must be taken at the upper (300+) level and 2 of which must be 400-level research seminars. These 10 classes must include: 1 from the Pre-Modern field; 1 from the Thematic Field; 3 from 7 different Geographic Fields (Europe, North America, Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, Middle East, Transnational/ Comparative/ World). Please note 1 single course may be used to fulfill 2 field requirements.

**For the minor**—A total of 6 classes are required, 3 of which must be taken at the upper (300+) level. These 6 classes must include: 1 from the Pre-Modern field; 1 from the Pre-Modern Field; 1 from the Thematic Field; 1 from 2 different Geographic Fields (Europe, North America, Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, Middle East, Transnational/ Comparative/ World). Please note 1 single course may be used to fulfill 2 field requirements.

See the General Announcements for a list of which classes qualify as Field Requirements: [ga.rice.edu](http://ga.rice.edu)

## International Concentration

Major + study abroad in non-English speaking location + demonstrated facility in language other than English + use of language for historical research. Visit the General Announcements for more information: [ga.rice.edu](http://ga.rice.edu)

Is there an honors option?

Yes, the Honors Program involves writing an independent 60 to 80-page research thesis in your senior year, in addition to meeting all the major requirements plus HIST 403 and 404.

What if I want to go to grad school?

Learning a language relevant to the area you are interested in will be important for doing research in graduate school. Take language classes at Rice and consider studying abroad in your region of interest. The Department of History has sponsored summer programs for students who need to develop skills in languages not taught at Rice or only taught at the elementary level. The International Concentration in the major will allow you to demonstrate your language ability. Definitely apply to the Honors Program and the Pyke Prize to get work experience at an archive, library or museum.

Contacts

Director of Undergraduate Studies:

[Associate Professor Aysha Pollnitz](#) or [histdus@rice.edu](mailto:histdus@rice.edu)

Affiliated faculty:

Baker: Dr. Aysha Pollnitz (former Divisional Advisor and RA) and Dr. Luis Campos (Baker Professor)

Brown: Dr. Laura Correa Ochoa (Divisional Advisor)

Duncan: Dr. Caleb McDaniel (former Magister)

Jones: Dr. Fay Yarbrough (Divisional Advisor)

Lovett: Dr. Anne Chao (Divisional Advisor)

Martel: Dr. Daniel Domingues (Magister)

McMurtry: Dr. Lisa Balibanlilar (former HRF) and Dr. Daniel Cohen (former RA)

Wiess: Dr. Alex Byrd (former Magister)

Will Rice: Dr. Lora Wildenthal (Divisional Advisor)

## Four-Year Planning

Semester 1	Semester 2	Semester 3	Semester 4
HIST Pre-Modern Field e.g. 101, 120	HIST Geographic Field e.g. Africa 222, 223	HIST Geographic Field e.g. Latin America 312, 354	HIST Geographic Field e.g. Asia 368, 384
D2	HIST 217	D2	D3
FWIS/ Open	D3	Open	Open
Open	FWIS/ Open	Open	Open
Open	Open	Open	Open
Semester 5	Semester 6	Semester 7	Semester 8
HIST 400 seminar e.g. 405, 428	HIST Thematic Field e.g. 260, 261	HIST 400 seminar e.g. 412, 426	HIST 300 level elective e.g. 351, 356
D2	HIST 300 level elective e.g. 314, 321	LPAP	Open
Open	D3	Open	Open
Open	Open	Open	Open
Open	Open	Open	Open

\*Be sure to confirm that one of your courses also fulfills the AD requirement.



# Modern and Classical Literatures and Cultures

## Department Description

Modern and Classical Literatures and Cultures (MCLC) is an intellectually vibrant, student-friendly, and research-centered department that is home to six programs: Classical Studies, European Studies, French Studies, German Studies, Latin American Studies, and Spanish and Portuguese. Each of these programs offers a major that will lead to a B.A., and additionally we also offer six distinct minors: Classical Civilizations, Greek Language and Literature, Latin Language and Literature, French Studies, German Studies, and Spanish and Portuguese.

## Weblinks

Visit the Department of Modern and Classical Literatures and Cultures website for more information: [cultures.rice.edu](https://cultures.rice.edu)

# Classical Civilizations

## Program Description

The minor in Classical Civilizations (CLAS) is offered through the Program in Classical Studies, part of the Department of Modern and Classical Literatures and Cultures. This minor is an opportunity for students who are not able to major in Classical Studies to pursue a comparable course of study that is coherent and well-defined, even though it is less broad in scope than the major. The minor does not have a language requirement.

## Weblinks

Visit the Department of Modern and Classical Literatures and Cultures website for more information about this minor:

[cultures.rice.edu](http://cultures.rice.edu)

Requirements for the CLAS minor can be found in the General Announcements: [ga.rice.edu](http://ga.rice.edu)

## Frank Advice

Classical Civilizations courses are offered every semester, but not all of them are 300-level. It is a good idea to complete the advanced level course requirements as soon as you can.

Intro Courses for Minor	CLAS 107 (Greek Civilization and its Legacy), CLAS 108 (Roman Civilization and its Legacy), CLAS 235 (Classical Mythology), LATI 101 (Elementary Latin I), GREE 101 (Elementary Greek I)
Interesting Courses for Non-Minors	CLAS 107 (Greek Civilization and its Legacy), CLAS 108 (Roman Civilization and its Legacy), CLAS 235 (Classical Mythology), LATI 101 (Elementary Latin I)
Professional Organizations & Student Clubs	National Junior Classical League Texas Junior Classical League Society for Classical Studies
Degree Requirements	<b>For the minor</b> —A total of 6 courses are required, 3 of which must be taken at the upper (300+) level.
What should I look out for?	Students must take two of the following courses: CLAS 107 (Greek Civilization and Its Legacy), CLAS 108 (Roman Civilization and Its Legacy), CLAS 235 (Classical Mythology), or CLAS 336 (Introduction to Proto-Indo-European).
Contacts	Director of Undergraduate Studies (Program Advisor): <a href="#">Associate Professor Hilary Mackie</a>

# Classical Studies

## Program Description

The Classical Studies (CLAS) major offers instruction in the Greek and Latin languages, in Greek and Roman literature (studied in the original and in translation), in the classical civilizations, and in particular themes, genres, and periods of classical culture and its influence through subsequent ages. Students come to the study of ancient Greece and Rome with a whole spectrum of interests. Some wish to concentrate on learning Greek and Latin and reading classical texts in the original languages. Others seek a broader introduction to the cultures of Greece and Rome and their legacy. For this reason, the Program in Classical Studies offers two specializations to satisfy the requirements for a BA. The Classical Languages minor emphasizes Greek and Latin and reading classical texts in the original languages. The Classical Civilizations minor allows for a broader set of approaches and does not include a language requirement.

## Weblinks

Visit the Department of Modern and Classical Literatures and Cultures website for more information about the Program in Classical Studies: [cultures.rice.edu](http://cultures.rice.edu)

CLAS major requirements can be found in the General Announcements: [ga.rice.edu](http://ga.rice.edu)

## Frank Advice

If you plan to specialize in Classical Languages and have not previously studied Greek or Latin, it is best to take Greek 101 (Elementary Greek I) and Latin 101 (Elementary Latin I) as soon as possible. These courses are offered once a year, in the fall. It is fine to take both in the same semester.

## Study Abroad

A common study abroad option for Classical Studies majors is the Intercollegiate Center for Classical Studies in Rome. Students can visit Rome for a semester or full year and study ancient history, archaeology, Greek and Latin literature, and ancient art, while learning outside the classroom about the classical world and working on their languages.

## Professional Organizations & Student Clubs

The Texas Classical League, a set of classics competitions for high school students, holds a Certamen at Rice each January. Students interested in classics, whether they are majors or not, can get involved with planning, writing questions and scoring the competition.

National Junior Classical League  
Texas Junior Classical League  
Society for Classical Studies

## Intro Courses for Major

CLAS 107 (Greek Civilization and its Legacy), CLAS 108 (Roman Civilization and its Legacy), CLAS 235 (Classical Mythology), CLAS 336 (Intro to Indo-European), LATI 101 (Elementary Latin I), GREE 101 (Elementary Greek I)

## Interesting Courses for Non-Majors

CLAS 107 (Greek Civilization and its Legacy), CLAS 108 (Roman Civilization and its Legacy), CLAS 235 (Classical Mythology), LATI 101 (Elementary Latin I)

Degree Requirements	For the major—A total of 10 courses are required, 2 courses at the (300+) upper-level.
What if I want to go to grad school?	It is best to select the Classical Languages specialization and write an honors thesis. Be aware that a reading knowledge of French and German is important for studying classics at the graduate level, as much of the scholarship in this field has been produced by French- and German- speaking scholars. Proficiency in these languages will enable you to read a wider range of classics scholarship during your graduate studies.
What should I look out for?	Students must select either Classical Languages or Classical Civilizations as a specialization. The former requires upper-level language competency in Greek or Latin.
Contacts	Director of Undergraduate Studies (Program Advisor): <a href="#">Associate Professor Hilary Mackie</a>

## Four-Year Planning

- This sample schedule assumes a lack of language proficiency upon entry. A student with AP Latin will likely be able to move faster. However, even students with no prior knowledge of Latin or Greek can embark on this major and continue their coursework in either specialization. Majors must complete 200-level language courses in both Latin and Greek, and one 300-level course in either Latin or Greek. Therefore, any need to gain such language competence would add to the time necessary to complete the major.
- This four-year plan shows the Classical Languages specialization. However, adapting to a Classical Civilizations specialization is easy: substitute electives for the specific Latin and Greek courses.

## Four-Year Planning (cont.)

- While the major can be taken in almost any order, the introduction and core courses really are foundational for majors. CLAS 107 and CLAS 108 are each offered once per year, in alternating semesters. CLAS 235 is offered every year, while CLAS 336 is offered every other year. Since students must take at least two of these courses, you have some flexibility and choice.
- If there isn't a course you are interested in taking, you can ask a professor to supervise an independent research and study course.
- Classical Studies majors use independent study options to prepare for a thesis or to write it. In this major, students and faculty often work in pairs.

Semester 1	Semester 2	Semester 3	Semester 4
CLAS core	CLAS core	GREE 101	GREE 102
LATI 101	LATI 102	D2	D3
D2	D3	Open	Open
FWIS/ Open	FWIS/ Open	Open	Open
Open	Open	Open	Open
Semester 5	Semester 6	Semester 7	Semester 8
GREE 200	LATI 200	GREE/ LATI 300	CLAS elective
D2	D3	LPAP	Open
Open	Open	Open	Open
Open	Open	Open	Open
Open	Open	Open	Open

\*Be sure to confirm that one of your courses also fulfills the AD requirement.



# French Studies

## Program Description

The French Studies (FREN) program is interdisciplinary, focused on great teaching and offering courses on the broad interests of the faculty concerning France and the Francophone world, such as the legacy of courtly literature, French philosophy since the Enlightenment, women in the 19th-century literary imagination and socio-political issues in contemporary France. The program engages students not just in literature and language, but also in gender and race, film and visual art, history and medicine, postcolonialism and critical theory, for example. Students may pursue the BA degree with a major or a minor in French Studies. The majority of courses are offered entirely in French but some courses are offered in English in order to share the richness of French and global Francophone traditions with the wider Rice student body.

## Weblinks

Visit the Department of Modern and Classical Literatures and Cultures website to learn more about the Program in French Studies: [cultures.rice.edu](http://cultures.rice.edu)

FREN major and minor requirements can be found in the General Announcements: [ga.rice.edu](http://ga.rice.edu)

## Frank Advice

A 300-level class in French is the equivalent of a 100-level class in other areas of study, because of the language ability required. Don't be intimidated. Taking safe classes beneath your level wastes your time. Instead, advance your French to the next level by taking classes that excite you.

## Internships

French Studies students pursue independent internships in Houston and while studying abroad, in fields such as business, medical research and diplomacy. Our faculty have much experience in French-speaking countries and can help individuals find positions. Sign up for the French Studies listserve to receive announcements.

## Study Abroad

The faculty enthusiastically encourages students to study in a French-speaking country. Many of our students study in France, Madagascar, and Senegal, to name a few. We offer the Bull Fellowship: up to \$24,000 to cover expenses. Study abroad is typically a life-changing experience for students and one that propels them to fluency. For more details, please visit [cultures.rice.edu](https://cultures.rice.edu)

## Student Organizations

French Club is a student-run group that organizes activities and outings focused on French and Francophone culture on campus and in the Houston metropolis. As an example in 2024 the club offered a series of subsidized activities surrounding the play *Les Misérables*, and they run the weekly table française for casual lunchtime conversation.

## Intro Courses for Major & Minor

These courses fulfill core requirements for the French Studies major and minor: FREN 302 (Writing Workshop), FREN 311 (Middle Ages to Enlightenment), FREN 312 (The French Revolution to World War II), FREN 313 (The Francophone World), FREN 314 (Contemporary French Society)

## Interesting Courses for Non-Majors

This sample of interesting courses for non-majors is offered in Fall 2024: **In French**—FREN 322 (French Comics), **In English**—FREN 308 (Beauty and the Beasts), FREN 324 (From Decolonization to Globalization), FWIS 153 (Body Politics in French Fictions)

## Degree Requirements

**For the major**—A total of 10 courses are required, 8 of which must be taken at the upper (300+) level. The upper-level requirements include three core courses: FREN 302 and any two of FREN 311, FREN 312, FREN 313, or FREN 314 and two 400-level courses. The major can be completed with electives and study abroad credit.

**For the minor**—A total of 6 courses are required, 4 of which must be taken at the upper (300+) level, including three core courses: FREN 302 and any two of FREN 311, FREN 312, FREN 313, or FREN 314. The minor can be completed with electives and study abroad credit. No courses in English can be applied to a minor. 400-level courses are not required but minors are welcome to take them.

## More on Intro Courses

Students who have taken two or more years of high-school French can start with any FREN course on the 300 level. Students may wish to start with one of the core requirements noted above. Students with no prior French, or with limited French, should enroll in either first year French language (FREN 141/142) or second-year French language (FREN 263/264). They should take the French Placement Exam to determine their level. Consult the DUS (or program advisor) in French Studies, or any French Studies faculty member with questions.

## Is there an honors option?

Yes, students write a Senior Honors Thesis with a chosen faculty member on a topic of student's interest.

## What if I want to go to grad school?

Write a senior thesis and engage in research in French as much as possible.

## Contacts

Director of Undergraduate Studies (Program Advisor):  
[Assistant Professor Linsey Sainte-Claire](#)

# German Studies

## Program Description

German Studies (GERM) is a research-centered and student-friendly program with a challenging curriculum taught by internationally renowned faculty. The program covers the entire tradition of German culture, history, and politics within a global context, from early modern times to the present. Particular strengths of the department are in 18th- to 20th-century literature and culture, media and film studies, modern intellectual history and political thought, and philosophy. Students in the program may pursue the BA degree with a major or minor in German Studies. The close connection between research and teaching lies at the heart of the major's curriculum and enables students to develop original contributions at an early stage. Students gain intellectual and social qualities that are highly valued in a global knowledge society: logical reasoning, critical thinking, linguistic skills and cultural competence.

## Weblinks

Visit the Department of Modern and Classical Literatures and Cultures website for more information about the Program in German Studies: [cultures.rice.edu](http://cultures.rice.edu)

German Studies major and minor requirements can be found in the General Announcements: [ga.rice.edu](http://ga.rice.edu)

## Frank Advice

If you're worried about being a beginner in the language and completing the major, consider study abroad immersion programs such as the summer Rice in Germany course offered by the Center for Languages and Intercultural Communication. In one academic year and the first part of the following summer, you can complete two years' worth of German study with strong fluency, through the in-country experience.

## Research

Research in German Studies can take multiple forms. Often, faculty members will hold independent study courses in which students can co-design the course and pursue their own interests.

## Internships

The School of Humanities Office of the Dean and relevant faculty from German Studies match students individually with one of a variety of projects in the areas of diplomacy, engineering, pedagogy and public culture. Students conduct research or related activities under the guidance of an on-site supervisor and the instructor on record.

## Student Organizations & Activities

Rice University's German Club, led by advanced German students, hosts diverse events like movie and game nights each academic year. The club fosters a welcoming, fun, and engaging environment for learners, speakers and enthusiasts to explore the language and cultures of German-speaking countries while enriching Rice University's community. The Center for Languages and Intercultural Communication and the Program in German Studies host weekly German table lunches and a weekly coffee hour, where students are encouraged to come practice their German outside the classroom with other students of all levels.

## Study Abroad

One of the stand-out capacities of the German Studies program is its focus on studying abroad in German-speaking countries. We strongly encourage students to study abroad. We offer a series of endowed fellowships for intensive summer language courses at the University of Leipzig's renowned Herder Institute. 6 credit hours (2 courses) can be earned over the summer in a Rice-sponsored program with the University of Leipzig. Students in the Leipzig program typically have completed their second year and will consolidate their language over the summer in a language and culture program. In some cases, students will go to Leipzig after their third year of language for an independent study program. Students can also apply to the Berlin Consortium for an intensive, full semester in Germany. The Berlin Consortium includes all the major Berlin universities. For more information about these opportunities, see the department website.

## Intro Courses for Major & Minor

GERM 263 (Second Year German I), GERM 264 (Second Year German II), GERM 301 (Third Year German I), GERM 302 (Third Year German II), depending on proficiency. Students should take the placement test; those with advanced proficiency should talk to the Director of Undergraduate Studies.

## Interesting Courses for Non-Majors

Selected courses for non-majors include GERM 352 (Politics of the Flesh in German Literature, Thought and Film), GERM 363 (The Weimar Republic, 1919-1933), GERM 402 (German Translation), GERM 411 (The Poetics of Justice in German Literature, Thought and Film), and GERM 420 (German Politics/Culture After 1945)



## Degree Requirements

**For the major**—A total of 10 courses are required (8 if you need to take GERM 263/264), 8 of which must be taken at the upper (300+) level. Please note it is possible to pursue a German Studies major with no prior knowledge of German; doing so will require 2 additional courses.

**For the minor**—A total of 6 courses are required, 4 of which must be taken at the upper (300+) level.

No more than 2 courses (6 credit hours) from study abroad or transfer credit can count towards the minor, nor can any courses be taken in English to fulfill minor requirements.

## What if I want to go to grad school?

Work with German-language primary and secondary sources to solidify your mastery of the language and further improve your analytical skills. Consider German-related courses in other departments, especially Art History, History and Philosophy.

## Contacts

Director of Undergraduate Studies (Program Advisor):  
[Associate Professor Astrid Oesmann](#)

## Four-Year Planning

- This sample schedule assumes a lack of German proficiency upon entry.
- A student who places into upper-level German would be able to bypass the lower-level German language courses. If you are coming in with proficiency in German and can move to the 300 level right away, simply shift electives from semesters 5-8 into the spaces where language classes are in semesters 1-4. It would be wise to rearrange distribution courses accordingly.
- Since up to two courses for the German Studies major can be taken in English, it is beneficial to take these courses while still at the lower levels of language learning.
- You will see more courses taught in English in German Studies than in, for example, French Studies. Courses taught in German can be less numerous than those taught in English. Take advantage of study abroad over the summer (or during a semester or academic year) to supplement your coursework in German.

Semester 1	Semester 2	Semester 3	Semester 4
GERM 141	GERM 142	GERM 263	GERM 264
D2	D3	GERM elective in English	GERM elective in English
FWIS/ Open	FWIS/ Open	D3	D2
Open	Open	Open	D3
Open	Open	Open	Open
Semester 5	Semester 6	Semester 7	Semester 8
GERM 301	GERM 302	GERM 400+	GERM 400+
GERM 400+	GERM elective	GERM elective	GERM elective
D2	D3	D2	Open
Open	Open	LPAP	Open
Open	Open	Open	Open

\*Be sure to confirm that one of your courses also fulfills the AD requirement.

# Greek Language and Literature

## Program Description

The minor in Greek Language and Literature (GREE) is offered through the Program in Classical Studies. It offers students an exciting entry point into the classical world through the study of ancient Greek.

## Weblinks

Visit the Department of Modern and Classical Literatures and Cultures website for more information about the Greek Language and Literature minor: [cultures.rice.edu](http://cultures.rice.edu)

Requirements for the Greek Language and Literature minor can be found in the General Announcements: [ga.rice.edu](http://ga.rice.edu)

## Frank Advice

If you have not previously studied Greek, it is best to start as soon as possible. Greek 101 is offered once a year, in the fall.

## Professional Organizations & Student Clubs

National Junior Classical League  
Texas Junior Classical League  
Society for Classical Studies

Intro Courses for Minor	CLAS 107 (Greek Civilization and its Legacy), CLAS 108 (Roman Civilization and its Legacy), CLAS 235 (Classical Mythology), LATI 101 (Elementary Latin I), GREE 101 (Elementary Greek I)
Interesting Courses for Non-Minors	CLAS 107 (Greek Civilization and its Legacy), CLAS 108 (Roman Civilization and its Legacy), CLAS 235 (Classical Mythology), LATI 101 (Elementary Latin I)
Degree Requirements	<b>For the minor</b> —A total of 6 courses are required, 2 of which must be taken at the upper (300+) level.
What should I look out for?	The minor requires five GREE courses in addition to CLAS 107, but CLAS 336 may be substituted for one of the GREE courses. No more than 2 courses (6 credit hours) from study abroad or transfer credit to count towards the minor.
Contacts	Director of Undergraduate Studies (Program Advisor): <a href="#">Associate Professor Hilary Mackie</a>

# Latin American and Latinx Studies

## Program Description

Latin American and Latinx Studies (LALX) is an interdisciplinary program designed to enable students to think critically and creatively about the problems and opportunities facing Latinos/as/es and Latin America. It introduces and deepens student knowledge of Latin American (including Caribbean) and U.S. Latinx/e cultures, histories and politics. The major and minor engage students in research and creative works related to Latin American and Latinx experiences, so they can contribute to our collective knowledge and understanding of the region and community. The program draws from courses and faculty across a wide range of departments and programs, including Anthropology, Architecture, Art History, English, French Studies, History, Spanish and Portuguese, Political Science and Sociology. Housed in the Department of Modern and Classical Literatures and Cultures (MCLC), this program provides an enriching context for students to develop core skills in global studies, area studies, ethnic studies, communication, and interdisciplinary research methodologies.

## Weblinks

Visit the Department of Modern and Classical Literatures and Cultures website for more information about the Program in Latin American and Latinx Studies: [cultures.rice.edu](http://cultures.rice.edu)

LALX major and minor requirements can be found in the General Announcements: [ga.rice.edu](http://ga.rice.edu)

Frank Advice	This program is highly flexible and tailored to your interests and language proficiency. Be sure to take LALX 158 (Introduction to Latin American Studies) early, ideally in your first or second year. This course is a requirement and provides an excellent introduction to the major/minor and you do not want to take it as a senior.
Practica or Research	Houston organizations, museums and alternative spring break programs offer great opportunities for hands-on experience in various areas of interest, such as migration, community health, the publishing industry, and art. Internship opportunities at Rice's new Center for Latin American and Latinx Studies (starting in 2025).
Study Abroad	Studying abroad will make your experience even more meaningful. The spring course on Cuba, which includes a short study abroad trip to Cuba, is very popular. Programs in Chile, Brazil, Argentina, Mexico and Costa Rica are also available options.
Intro Courses for Major & Minor	LALX 158 (Introduction to Latin American Studies) and LALX 378 (Latin American Political Thought: Identity, Modernity, Liberation)
Interesting Courses for Non-Majors	LALX 158 (Introduction to Latin American Studies), LALX 330 (Subversive Storytelling in Latinx TV and Film), LALX 332 (Writing to Heal. U.S. Latin Narratives on Mental Health), LALX 378 (Latin American Political Thought: Identity, Modernity, Liberation)
Degree Requirements	<p><b>For the major</b>—A total of 10 courses are required, with at least 6 at the upper (300+) level.</p> <p><b>For the minor</b>—A total of 6 courses are required, with at least 2 at the upper (300+) level.</p>

### What should I look out for?

The LALX major and minor no longer have mandatory study abroad or language requirements, but both are highly encouraged. Note that courses with a SPAN, FREN or PORT code are taught in Spanish, French or Portuguese.

### Four-Year Planning

- If you are proficient in Spanish, Portuguese or French at the 300-level, you will have even more options (taking electives with a SPAN, PORT or FREN code). If you are not proficient in Spanish, we highly encourage you to build your skills by taking SPAN courses at the 100 and 200-level during your first two years.
- LALX courses are usually taught in English (unless otherwise noted; bilingual assignment options can be discussed with the instructor).

Semester 1	Semester 2	Semester 3	Semester 4
LALX 158	LALX Elective	LALX Elective (D2?)	LALX Elective
SPAN 141	SPAN 142	LALX Elective	SPAN 264
D2	D3	SPAN 263	D3
Open	FWIS/ Open	Open	Open
Open	Open	Open	Open
Semester 5	Semester 6 (abroad?)	Semester 7	Semester 8
LALX Elective (D2?)	LALX Elective	LALX 491	LALX Elective
LALX Elective	LALX Elective	D3	Open
D3	Open	LPAP	Open
Open	Open	Open	Open
Open	Open	Open	Open

\*Be sure to confirm that one of your courses also fulfills the AD requirement.



# Latin Language and Literature

## Program Description

This minor in Latin Language and Literature (LATI) is offered through the Program in Classical Studies. It offers students an exciting entry point into the classical world through the study of Latin. Few students might be aware of this, but knowledge of Latin, for instance, is an extremely helpful preparation for a career in law and medicine.

## Weblinks

Visit the Department of Modern and Classical Literatures and Cultures website for more information about the Latin Language and Literature minor: [cultures.rice.edu](http://cultures.rice.edu)

Latin Language and Literature minor requirements can be found in the General Announcements: [ga.rice.edu](http://ga.rice.edu)

## Frank Advice

If you have not previously studied Latin, it is best to start as soon as possible. Latin 101 (Elementary Latin I) is offered once a year, in the fall.

## Professional Organizations & Student Clubs

National Junior Classical League  
Texas Junior Classical League  
Society for Classical Studies

<b>Intro Courses for Minor</b>	CLAS 107 (Greek Civilization and its Legacy), CLAS 108 (Roman Civilization and its Legacy), CLAS 235 (Classical Mythology), LATI 101 (Elementary Latin I), GREE 101 (Elementary Greek I)
<b>Interesting Courses for Non-Minors</b>	CLAS 107 (Greek Civilization and its Legacy), CLAS 108 (Roman Civilization and its Legacy), CLAS 235 (Classical Mythology), LATI 101 (Elementary Latin I)
<b>Degree Requirements</b>	<b>For the minor</b> —A total of 6 courses are required, 2 of which must be taken at the upper (300+) level.
<b>What should I look out for?</b>	The minor requires five LATI courses in addition to CLAS 108 (Roman Civilization and its Legacy), but CLAS 336 (Intro to Indo-European) may be substituted for one of the LATI courses. No more than 2 courses (6 credit hours) from study abroad or transfer credit to count toward the minor.
<b>Contacts</b>	Director of Undergraduate Studies (Program Advisor): <a href="#">Associate Professor Hilary Mackie</a>

# Spanish and Portuguese

## Program Description

The Program in Spanish and Portuguese (SPAN) is dedicated to the research and teaching of the literatures, cultures and languages of the Spanish- and Portuguese-speaking worlds. The program offers a full range of undergraduate courses in one major and one minor in Spanish and Portuguese. Faculty research and teaching interests span from the medieval period to contemporary literature and theater, from visual culture to environmental policies, and from colonial and postcolonial studies to language policies. The program offers these innovative curricular options: spring and summer opportunities for studying abroad (currently Cuba and Madrid), faculty-guided independent research, experiential learning opportunities and guided creative writing.

## Weblinks

Visit the Department of Modern and Classical Literatures and Cultures website to learn more about the Program in Spanish and Portuguese: [cultures.rice.edu](http://cultures.rice.edu)

SPAN major and minor requirements can be found in the General Announcements: [ga.rice.edu](http://ga.rice.edu)

## Frank Advice

It is possible to start without previous language knowledge, but that will require at least 6 additional courses. If you need to start from first-year Spanish or Portuguese, plan to move English-taught electives into early elective slots and take language courses in the open spaces. Granted, this would require you to take most of your core classes in your final semesters. Consider also study abroad immersion programs such as the summer Rice in Country programs (e.g., Rice in Spain with a medical focus). In one academic year and the first part of the following summer, you can complete two years' worth of Spanish study with strong fluency.

## Research

Research in Spanish and Portuguese can take multiple forms. Often, faculty members will hold independent study courses in which students can co-design the course and pursue their own interests. If you are interested in Spanish or Portuguese studies for graduate school, it's best to have an immersive experience in a country where that language is spoken to improve fluency. Try to write a thesis — that kind of independent research is the best way to test out whether graduate school is right for you.

## Internships

The School of Humanities Office of the Dean and relevant faculty from Spanish and Portuguese match students individually with one of a variety of projects in areas such as visual culture, environmental policies, postcolonial studies and language policies. Students conduct research or related activities under the guidance of an on-site supervisor and the instructor on record.

## Student Organizations

Join the Spanish Language Table or the Spanish Coffee Time or get involved with HACER, the Hispanic Association for Cultural Enrichment at Rice.

## Study Abroad

Spanish and Portuguese offers summer 2 summer courses in Madrid, Spain (not transfer credit, but rather Rice credit): SPAN 393 (Contemporary Spanish Culture and Society) and SPAN 492 (summer internship in Madrid). Students must take them concurrently, during the summer session. Another opportunity to study abroad for Rice credit is SPAN 392 (Trends in Cuban Culture), which is taught at Rice in the spring semester and includes a week-long trip to Cuba over spring break. The trip does require a program fee, but the cost is subsidized, especially for financial aid recipients. You can also consult the options offered to study in Spanish- and Portuguese-speaking countries by the Office of Study Abroad.

## Intro Courses for Major and Minor

SPAN 263 (Second year Spanish I), SPAN 264 (Second year Spanish II,) SPAN 303 (Spanish for Heritage Students III), SPAN 321 (Special Topics: Advanced Spanish I), SPAN 322 (Special Topics: Advanced Spanish II). You must first take introductory language classes in Spanish and/or Portuguese or else you must have passed the prerequisite placement test. The exception is if you are already fluent in Spanish. If in doubt, consult with the DUS.

## Interesting Courses for Non-Majors

SPAN 356 (Understanding Central America), SPAN 390 (Hispanic Cinema), SPAN 396 (Chicano/a Literature)

## Degree Requirements

**For the major**—A total of 11 courses are required, 8 of which must be taken at the upper (300+ level). A maximum of 4 courses from study abroad or transfer credit may be applied.

**For the minor**—A total of 6 courses are required, all of which must be taken at the upper (300+ level).

What if I want to go to grad school?

If you are interested in Spanish or Portuguese studies for graduate school, it's best to have an immersive experience in a country where that language is spoken to improve fluency. Definitely write a thesis — that kind of independent research is the best way to test out whether graduate school is right for you.

What should I look out for?

While it is challenging, it is possible to enter the major without prior language knowledge, as most coursework for the major is conducted in the target language. The Center for Languages and Intercultural Communication's Rice in Spain summer immersion program focuses on advanced Spanish in a medical setting. CLIC offers Portuguese instruction every year. If you are interested in the Portuguese option, talk to the Department Chair or Director of Undergraduate Studies.

Contacts

Director of Undergraduate Studies (Program Advisor):  
[Professor M. Rafael Salaberry](#)

## Four-Year Planning

- Since the major and minor offers a great deal of flexibility in terms of which order you take the courses, focus on setting up a healthy, workable schedule. Seminars require lots of attention in and out of class, for example. Internships and other opportunities to use your language off campus are good to consider, and they do take extra time. Focus on the best way to arrange your schedule rather than worrying about the exact ordering of courses.

Semester 1	Semester 2	Semester 3	Semester 4
SPAN 330/331	SPAN 332	SPAN Linguistics	SPAN Survey
D2	D3	D2	SPAN Advanced
FWIS/ Open	FWIS/ Open	Open	D3
Open	Open	Open	Open
Open	Open	Open	Open
Semester 5	Semester 6	Semester 7	Semester 8
SPAN Advanced	SPAN Seminar	SPAN Seminar	SPAN Elective
SPAN Survey	D3	LPAP	Open
D2	Open	Open	Open
Open	Open	Open	Open
Open	Open	Open	Open

\*Be sure to confirm that one of your courses also fulfills the AD requirement.



# Philosophy

## Department Description

Philosophy teaches us to think rigorously about a wide range of fundamental questions. These include issues about how we should live, organize our politics and evaluate our art; about the nature of knowledge, truth and evidence; and about causation, time, mind and freedom. Learning how to address these questions enriches one's understanding of every subject, and many Philosophy majors and minors also specialize in other fields, as diverse as Cognitive Science, English and Engineering.

The Department of Philosophy's (PHIL) major requires 10 courses in the discipline. Seven are open to the student's choice, as long as they accord with certain rules about level and distribution. The minor requires 6 PHIL courses, whose selection is guided by similar rules. The minor is an excellent addition to any major in the humanities, social sciences, engineering, or the natural sciences.

To learn to think philosophically is to develop skills in thinking critically, creatively and independently about abstract issues — skills valuable in many careers. Students who major in Philosophy are among the highest scoring on graduate school admission tests. It is an excellent pre-law choice.

## Weblinks

Visit the Department of Philosophy website for more information: [philosophy.rice.edu](http://philosophy.rice.edu)

Philosophy major and minor requirements can be found in the General Announcements: [ga.rice.edu](http://ga.rice.edu)

## Frank Advice

The order in which you take PHIL courses for the major or minor is flexible. This facilitates double majoring/minoring. However, not all courses can be offered with great regularity. You may wish to consult with the DUS or Department Chair about the likelihood a given course will be taught.

## Research

Students are doing research in most PHIL courses from the start insofar as most assign essays that demand, at some level, the kind of writing that constitutes philosophical research. Advanced research papers are typically required in 400-level classes. Students also have the opportunity to propose independent research for a semester under a professor's direction as soon as they feel ready. Majors can do a senior thesis project over two semesters. Interested students can reach out to professors who have similar research interests and may be willing to act as mentors.

## Student Organizations

There is a student-run Rice Philosophy Club. Regular meetings are organized around a topic for discussion, with presentations by invited speakers.

## Intro Courses for Major & Minor

Any 100- or 200-level PHIL course could provide a good initial sense of how philosophy is done and serve as a suitable gateway for majors or minors, as long as students have an interest in its specific topic. Historically oriented courses are likely to cover a broader variety of issues. If you already know you want to major, then PHIL 210 (Logic) and PHIL 281 (History of Philosophy I) should be some of the courses you take first.

### Interesting Courses for Non-Majors

Because Philosophy touches on so many fields, and speaks to general intellectual interests, virtually every PHIL course promises something to non-majors. Perhaps of particular note are courses that address philosophical issues growing from other interests (e.g., Philosophy of Law, or Philosophy of Science, Philosophy of Mind, Philosophy of Art, Social and Political Philosophy); courses that examine ethical issues pertaining to particular areas of study or work (e.g., Medical Ethics, Business Ethics); and courses with a historical orientation (e.g., Ancient Philosophy, Chinese Philosophy).

### Degree Requirements

**For the major**—A total of 10 courses are required, 6 of which must be taken at the upper (300+) level.

**For the minor**—A total of 6 courses are required, 3 of which must be taken at the upper (300+) level.

### Is there an honors option?

Yes, students can choose to write a thesis their senior year. Honors can be earned when a student meets a slightly earlier deadline for completion of the thesis, applies to the honors program, and completes work at the required level. You should talk well in advance of your senior year with a potential faculty mentor to figure out what will work for you.

### What if I want to go to grad school?

Take more 300- and 400-level philosophy courses, and fearlessly follow whatever topics inspire you. “Have the courage to know and to use your reason” is the unofficial motto of all philosophy. There is no coursework path to graduate studies in philosophy: you just need to be passionately devoted to learning everything you can. Take advantage of your electives, free space and relationships with professors to develop the particular interests you may have, especially if you are interested in graduate school. Your professors can offer more specific guidance as you progress.

## What should I look out for?

Not every course will be offered every semester or even once a year. Check with the DUS or the Department Chair to learn when a class you're interested in will likely be offered again.

## Contacts

Director of Undergraduate Studies: [Professor Charles Siewert](#)

## Four-Year Planning

- The arrangement and distribution of this schedule is just a sample; electives and core major requirements can be arranged as desired. For instance, a student could choose to take PHIL 210 (Logic) and PHIL 283 (History of Philosophy II) at the same time.
- Students interested in Philosophy may take the introductory survey course, PHIL 100 (Introduction to Philosophy), but it is not compulsory, and students should feel comfortable starting with any of the 100- or 200-level courses, as philosophy is a broad field that is hard to capture in a single course.
- Note that the logic courses PHIL 210 (Logic) and PHIL 310 (Mathematical Logic), of which you will take one, are D3 credit — so you will have one less D3 course to take.
- Taking PHIL 281 (History of Philosophy I) and PHIL 283 (History of Philosophy II) in sequence is recommended. It is also recommended that a student take PHIL 283 before taking other history courses covering more recent time periods, or before taking history courses at higher levels.
- Overall, it is better to get PHIL 210 (or 310) and the history sequence (281-283) completed early, since logic is a foundational skill and the history of philosophy is a constant touchstone in modern philosophy.
- A student's work for the thesis comprises 2 courses that are done in addition to the 10 courses required for the major. You apply to do a thesis in the spring of your junior year, and the thesis is done over the senior year.

## Four-Year Planning (cont.)

Semester 1	Semester 2	Semester 3	Semester 4
PHIL 281	PHIL 283	PHIL 210 (D3)	PHIL Group 1 or 2 requirement
D2	PHIL Group 1 or 2 requirement	D2	D3
FWIS/ Open	FWIS/ Open	Open	Open
Open	Open	Open	Open
Open	Open	Open	Open
Semester 5	Semester 6	Semester 7	Semester 8
PHIL elective	PHIL elective	PHIL elective	PHIL elective
PHIL elective	D3	LPAP	Open
D2	Open	Open	Open
Open	Open	Open	Open
Open	Open	Open	Open

\*Be sure to confirm that one of your courses also fulfills the AD requirement.

# Religion

## Department Description

“Unconventional Wisdom” is Rice’s motto. Studying religion at Rice means challenging the status quo, investigating origins, and reimagining what was, is, and can be in human history and present reality. A Religion major or minor, offered by the Department of Religion (RELI), prepares students for academic careers, while providing an intellectual foundation across fields of medicine, law, journalism, politics, public policy and education. Engineering and science students are also prepared to understand human histories and the ethical stakes of their practical endeavors. Students are trained in the analytical skills of close reading, argument construction and critical dialogue. Majors and minors engage questions of human diversity, culture, purpose, and meaning in a diverse and complex world, while taking seriously religious pluralism, the modern reality of religious diversity, and assisting in building understanding across the lines of religious difference and their socio-political effects.

## Weblinks

Visit the Department of Religion website for more information:  
[reli.rice.edu](http://reli.rice.edu)

Religion major and minor requirements can be found in the General Announcements: [ga.rice.edu](http://ga.rice.edu)

## Research

Students have the freedom to pursue their original research, which can take the form of a paper or their own independent study course, as soon as they feel ready. The Department of Religion houses three scholarly journals edited by faculty members; it may be possible to work with one of these professors.

## Frank Advice

Religion at Rice welcomes double majors and minors. We strongly encourage STEM students to consider our programs in medical humanities, in ethical use of and sustainable development of resources, as well in psychology of Religion. We have many courses overlapping with the Center for African and African American Studies as well as Transnational Asian Studies. For those seeking language and interdisciplinary skills, we offer a number of smaller language classes, including those in Tibetan, Coptic, Arabic, Biblical Hebrew and medieval Latin.

## Awards

Our department award, the Saba Award, is given to the undergraduate major whose academic work and personal development stand out as exemplary at the end of each school year. The prize is \$1,500.

## Internships

For our majors we offer internships to our in-house journal, *Religious Studies Review* (RSR). Individual professors may offer research internships for undergraduates, depending upon financial availability.

## Intro Courses for Major & Minor

RELI 101 (What is Religion?)

## Interesting Courses for Non-Majors

RELI 250 (Science and Religion); RELI 142 (Colors of Life)

## Degree Requirements

**For the major**—A total of 10 courses are required, 6 of which must be taken at the upper (300+) level.

**For the minor**—A total of 6 courses are required, 3 of which must be taken at the upper (300+) level.



## Study Abroad

While study abroad is not required for the RELI major and minor, it is strongly encouraged. Learning religions in key universities and regions of the world is something that the department facilitates, and language study is greatly enhanced by a semester/year or a summer abroad. Consider taking time to explore religious sites and historically relevant places, or travel and study abroad for linguistic acquisition and personal growth.

## Is there an honors option?

The department does not have an honors program, but the year-long Senior Projects are typically of a caliber that the students receive the Rice-wide Distinction in Research and Creative Works.

## What should I look out for?

Like a number of other majors in the School of Humanities, the Religion major provides a great deal of flexibility — meaning you get to explore the questions and contexts that matter to you most. Students are guided by faculty mentors to forge concentrations and theses around their specific interests, and they also benefit from a community of undergraduate and graduate students with whom they can discuss interests.

## What if I want to go to grad school?

Definitely try to write a thesis because you can work with world-class experts on original research. Depending on the type of graduate work you want to pursue, you might pursue languages (Tibetan, Latin, Hebrew, Arabic, Coptic) applicable to your area of interest.

## Contacts

Director of Undergraduate Studies: [Professor David Cook](#)

## Four-Year Planning

- Take an interesting upper-level course when you find it offered, as it may not be offered in the next few years. Even if you are an incoming student, consider taking any 300-level seminar that interests you.
- No study abroad or transfer credit is accepted for the minor. However, it is possible that a Rice course not listed in the GA as part of the minor could be counted; talk to the DUS.
- All majors enroll in a 400-level course to write a senior project, either a 400-level seminar for which the final paper counts as the culminating while or the thesis courses, RELI 403 (Fall) and RELI 404 (Spring) for a year-long guided research intensive. These students work closely with a faculty advisor of their choosing on a year-long research project, which involves support from relevant faculty and the DUS.

Semester 1	Semester 2	Semester 3	Semester 4
RELI elective	RELI 101	RELI major req	RELI elective
D2	RELI major req	D2	D3
FWIS/ Open	FWIS/ Open	D3	Open
Open	Open	Open	Open
Open	Open	Open	Open
Semester 5	Semester 6	Semester 7	Semester 8
RELI elective	RELI seminar	RELI seminar	RELI elective
RELI elective	D3	LPAP	Open
D2	Open	Open	Open
Open	Open	Open	Open
Open	Open	Open	Open

\*Be sure to confirm that one of your courses also fulfills the AD requirement.

# Transnational Asian Studies

## Department Description

The Department of Transnational Asian Studies (TAS) offers two major concentrations as well as a minor in Asian Studies. Students choose the path that best suits their interests. The Major Concentration in Transnational Asian Studies emphasizes research, focusing on the people, ideas, practices and cultures of Asia and the diaspora, culminating in a capstone project, ASIA 495. A second Major Concentration, in Asian Language, emphasizes language acquisition. Students pursue advanced studies in Arabic, Chinese, Japanese and/or Korean. Remaining credits are taken in the Department of Transnational Asian Studies, offering cultural context for scholars developing advanced language studies.

Both major concentrations are well-suited for careers in the foreign service, law, NGOs, business or as preparation for graduate school. They equip students to live and work in the dynamic cultures of Asian communities worldwide. Additionally, Asian Studies complements other majors, enhancing and expanding career prospects.

## Weblinks

Visit the Department of Transnational Asian Studies website for more information: [asianstudies.rice.edu](http://asianstudies.rice.edu)

Major and minor degree requirements can be found in the General Announcements: [ga.rice.edu](http://ga.rice.edu)

### Frank Advice

Apart from language classes, Asian Studies classes do not have prerequisites, though starting your coursework at the 200-level is recommended. Given the flexibility of the majors, it's important to try a variety of electives to both support your individual interests and build cultural and linguistic competency.

### Research and Internships

All completing a concentration in Transnational Asia Studies do independent research in ASIA 495 (Asian Studies Research Seminar), which encompasses a thesis-like final project. Outstanding work may be nominated for university-wide Distinction in Research and Creative Work. Students may submit their research for publication in the department's student journal, the *Rice Asian Studies Review*. All majors can apply to the Chao Center for Asian Studies for funding to support research, both locally and in Asian countries. Additionally, there are internship opportunities available in Houston, such as at the Chao Center's Houston Asian American Archive, which focuses on oral history projects.

### Study Abroad

Students who want to improve their language fluency and/or gain a new, immersive experience should explore study abroad opportunities. The Center for Languages and Intercultural Communication (CLIC) works closely with Asian Studies majors and minors to offer a variety of Rice in Country programs.

### Professional Organizations & Student Clubs

Asian Studies undergraduates run the Rice Asian Studies Organization and produce the *Rice Asian Studies Review*.

### Intro Courses for Major & Minor

ASIA 295 (Introduction to Transnational Asian Studies) is required for both major concentrations and the minor in Asian Studies.

### Interesting Courses for Non-Majors

The department offers classes in a variety of disciplines, including history and art history, anthropology, religion and medical humanities. Our faculty often teach FWIS courses as well, including “Medicine and Disease in Transnational Asia: A Historical Perspective” in Fall 2024.

### Degree Requirements

**For the major**—A total of 10 courses are required, 4 of which must be taken at the upper (300+) level.

**For the minor**—A total of 6 courses are required, 3 of which must be taken at the upper (300+) level. Please note - There is no language requirement for the minor.

### What if I want to go to grad school?

Become as proficient as possible in your target language and take advantage of faculty advising and Chao Center for Asian Studies contacts and guest speakers.

### Contacts

Director of Undergraduate Studies: [Professor Sonia Ryang](#)

Affiliated faculty: Anne Chao (History), HUMA Divisional Advisor at Lovett College

### Other Considerations

The option of a Major Concentration in Transnational Asian Studies allows up to four language classes to be taken for the major. The option of a Major Concentration in Asian Language allows between four and seven language classes. Students majoring in Asian Studies must show proficiency in an Asian language. The remaining coursework for both concentrations is taken in the Department of Transnational Asian Studies.

The concentration in Asian Language requires at least three of the language classes to be taken at the 300-level or above, reflecting advanced studies in an Asian language. No more than two languages may be included in the coursework for this major concentration.

### Other Considerations (cont.)

ASIA 295 (Introduction to Transnational Asian Studies), is required for both concentrations, whereas the research capstone, ASIA 495, is required only for the Major Concentration in Transnational Asian Studies. Apart from that and other core courses, you will take a number of electives to complete the major. In addition to courses with the ASIA course code, selected courses in other departments may count towards the major, according to the discretion of the Director of Undergraduate Studies.

### Four-Year Planning

- The Asian Studies major draws upon both the humanities and the social sciences, so you may be able to fulfill some D2 as well as D1 requirements as you complete the major.
- This sample schedule below assumes a lack of language proficiency upon entry. It is beneficial for both concentrations to start taking language classes as soon as possible, which is why the language courses are slotted from the first semester. If necessary, the language component of the Major Concentration in Transnational Asian Studies can be moved to later semesters. If you already have language proficiency that meets the requirement for that concentration, you can treat these courses as additional electives.
- Most students take their language courses in a continuous sequence, without interruption. In addition, there are opportunities for summer language study in the US and abroad. Talk to the director of the Center for Languages and Intercultural Communication for information and support regarding upper-level language learning. The director may be able to match you with a summer program, or a language consultant who will help you continue your language study, with or without credit.

## Four-Year Planning (cont.)

### 1) Asian Studies major with a Concentration in Transnational Asian Studies

Semester 1	Semester 2	Semester 3	Semester 4
ASIA Language	ASIA Language	ASIA Language	ASIA Language
D2	ASIA 295	D2	D3
FWIS/ Open	FWIS/ Open	D3	Open
Open	Open	Open	Open
Open	Open	Open	Open
Semester 5	Semester 6	Semester 7	Semester 8
ASIA Elective	ASIA Elective	ASIA Elective	ASIA 495
ASIA Elective	D3	LPAP	Open
D2	Open	Open	Open
Open	Open	Open	Open
Open	Open	Open	Open

### 2) Asian Studies major with a Concentration in Asian Language

Semester 1	Semester 2	Semester 3	Semester 4
ASIA Language	ASIA Language	ASIA Language	ASIA Language
D2	ASIA 295	D2	D3
FWIS/ Open	FWIS/ Open	D3	Open
Open	Open	Open	Open
Open	Open	Open	Open
Semester 5	Semester 6	Semester 7	Semester 8
ASIA Language	ASIA Language	ASIA Elective	ASIA Elective
ASIA Elective	D3	LPAP	Open
D2	Open	Open	Open
Open	Open	Open	Open
Open	Open	Open	Open

\*Be sure to confirm that one of your courses also fulfills the AD requirement.



# African and African American Studies

## Minor Description

The African and African American Studies (CAAAS) minor is an interdisciplinary course of study drawing on disciplines from the Humanities and Social Sciences. The minor allows students to focus on issues of concern in this area of study across the university, including (but not limited to) histories of race and slavery, studies of African and African American culture, religion, philosophy, and race and racialization.

## Weblinks

Visit the Center for African and African American Studies website for more information:

[caaas.rice.edu](http://caaas.rice.edu)

CAAAS Minor requirements can be found in the General Announcements: [ga.rice.edu](http://ga.rice.edu)

## Frank Advice

Stay in touch with faculty—Houston is rich in African and African-American-related events. There are many lectures and events organized by the Center for African and African American Studies you can attend.

## Student Clubs

Check out activities sponsored by these Rice student organizations:

Black Graduate Student Association (BGSA)

Black Student Association (BSA)

Rice African Student Organization (RASA)

Rice Black Women's Association

Rice Ethiopian and Eritrean Student Association (REESA)

Rice Middle Eastern and North African Student Association

## Intro Courses for Minor

AAAS 200 (Knowing Blackness: Introduction to African and African American Studies)

## Degree Requirements

**For the minor**—A total of 6 classes required, 3 of which must be taken at the upper (300+) level. Students must complete electives from at least three different subject codes and take at least one elective from List A and one from List B. You can find both course lists at: [caaas.rice.edu](http://caaas.rice.edu)

## Contacts

Director: [Associate Professor Sherwin Bryant](#)

Director of Undergraduate Studies:

[Associate Professor Daniel Domingues](#)

# Chao Center for Asian Studies

## Center Description

The Department of Transnational Asian Studies houses the Chao Center for Asian Studies, which was founded with a generous gift from the T. T. and W. F. Chao Family Foundation in 2008 and has become the premier research hub for faculty, students and postdoctoral scholars working in Asian studies at Rice. The Chao Center supports the academic work of affiliated faculty and graduate students, and that of our undergraduate majors.

Students may apply for funding to support independent research on-campus and abroad. In addition, students may apply for our Advanced Undergraduate Research Award (AURA).

## Weblinks

Visit the Department of Transnational Asian Studies website for information about research opportunities, including requirements, application information and deadlines:  
[asianstudies.rice.edu](http://asianstudies.rice.edu)

For students interested in exploring Asian American studies, competitive internship opportunities may be available through the Chao Center's [Houston Asian American Archive](#), an oral history project.

# Environmental Studies

## Minor Description

Environmental Studies (ENST) is an interdisciplinary field that explores the interconnection between humans and the natural environment. Modern environmental issues reflect the interactions of natural and social systems at global and local scales. The resulting impacts on the earth have led many to ask whether humankind has entered into a new epoch in the planet's history, one in which humans are now a driver in the change of earth systems.

The Environmental Studies minor fosters the critical, integrative thinking required to better understand the complexities of this human-nature relationship and its scales of impact, and to assess and develop solutions that meet intergenerational human needs without compromising the natural systems upon which humans depend.

## Weblinks

Visit the Center for Environmental Studies website for more information: [enst.rice.edu](http://enst.rice.edu)

ENST minor requirements can be found in the General Announcements: [ga.rice.edu](http://ga.rice.edu)

## Internships

Although not part of the ENST curriculum, ENST minors frequently pursue relevant Internships through the Office of Sustainability (the Sustainability at Rice program), the Center for Civic Leadership, the School of Humanities and the Center for Environmental Studies. Internships are especially valuable for this minor.

Frank Advice	Take ENST 100 (Environment, Culture and Society) early and don't assume all courses in the General Announcements are necessarily offered every semester or every year. Advisers should note that majors in Environmental Science are often well on the way to a minor in Environmental Studies, since both programs have requirements across multiple schools. Also note that the Rice Environmental Initiative has created a New-Student Advising Booklet for Environmental Education at Rice that has excellent guidance and can be found <a href="#">here</a> .
Study Abroad	When offered, ENST 445 (Seminar in Urban Sustainability and Livability Research Methods and Applications) is taught abroad. With the program's approval, up to two courses from other study abroad programs can count toward the ENST minor.
Student Organizations	There are a number of clubs at Rice related to the environment and sustainability which can be found at <a href="https://sustainability.rice.edu/student-organizations">sustainability.rice.edu/student-organizations</a> .
Intro Courses for Minor	ENST 100 (Environment, Culture and Society)
Interesting Courses for Non-Minors	ENST 205 (Reckoning with the Anthropocene), ENST 250 (Understanding Energy: Energy Literacy and Civics), ENST 301 (Environmental Justice), ENST 302 (Environmental Issues: Rice into the Future), and ENST 312 (Justice in the Food System)
Degree Requirements	<b>For the minor</b> —A total of 6 courses are required, 3 of which must be taken at the upper (300+) level.
Contacts	Interim Center Director: <a href="#">Professor Randal Hall</a>  Program Co-Directors: <a href="#">Professor Randal Hall</a> and <a href="#">Professor in the Practice Richard Johnson</a>

# Humanities Research Center

## Center Description

The Humanities Research Center (HRC) is an internationally recognized hub for fostering innovative intellectual inquiry in the humanities and the arts. Through fellowships, workshops, public programming and sponsored initiatives, the HRC supports the scholarly and creative work of faculty, postdoctoral associates, and graduate and undergraduate students in the School of Humanities and beyond.

## Undergraduate Research & Awards

Our primary source of funding to support undergraduate research is through summer research fellowships. Undergraduate researchers work with a faculty mentor either on their own research or artistic project or on a faculty member's research initiative and receive up to \$3,500 over the summer. Applications are due in the spring semester.

The HRC is also pleased to present the Humanities Research Center Award for Undergraduate Research Excellence to a top undergraduate researcher as part of Humanities Day, the School of Humanities' annual research and creative work showcase. In addition to recognizing outstanding research, this award includes a cash prize of \$500.

## Center Leadership

The Humanities Research Center is led by Graham Bader, HRC Director and Professor of Art History, and Gabriela Garcia, HRC Associate Director. They work in conjunction with the Faculty Council, a group of faculty members from across the School of Humanities. Our 2024–25 Faculty Council includes the following members: Natasha Bowdoin (Art & Associate Dean), Kathleen Canning (Dean of the School of Humanities), Lacy M. Johnson (English/Creative Writing), Sidney Lu (Transnational Asian Studies), Ragini Tharoor Srinivasan (English), Sindhu Thirumalaisamy (Art), and Fay Yarbrough (History & Associate Dean).

## Weblinks

Visit the HRC website for more information: [hrc.rice.edu](https://hrc.rice.edu)

To stay in the loop about upcoming events, calls for applications, and other opportunities, follow the HRC on Instagram, [@rice\\_hrc](https://www.instagram.com/rice_hrc), and subscribe to our newsletter at: <https://tinyurl.com/hrc-newsletter>

## Contacts

Director and Professor of Art History: [Graham Bader](https://www.rice.edu/faculty/graham_bader)  
Associate Director: [Gabriela Garcia](https://www.rice.edu/faculty/gabriela_garcia)  
[hrc@rice.edu](mailto:hrc@rice.edu)

# Center for Languages and Intercultural Communication

## Center Description

Situated within the School of Humanities, the Center for Languages and Intercultural Communication (CLIC) offers instruction to all Rice students in 10 languages: Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Hebrew, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Portuguese and Spanish. CLIC emphasizes intercultural and interactional competence, with a particular focus on study abroad and experiential learning. Although Rice does not have a language requirement, students recognize the value of learning or improving their proficiency in a second language, as it expands their linguistic knowledge and fosters socio-cultural awareness.

CLIC also offers a Certificate in Language and Intercultural Communication in nine of its languages. This certificate validates language proficiency using an internationally recognized scale and requires four courses, experiential learning and an outcomes assessment. A proficiency certificate serves as a highly valued attestation of your linguistic and intercultural competence and is greatly desired by potential employers and graduate schools.



## Weblinks

Visit the Center for Languages and Intercultural Communication website for more information: [clic.rice.edu](http://clic.rice.edu)

Requirements for each Language Certificate can be found at: [clic.rice.edu/certificate](http://clic.rice.edu/certificate)

## Frank Advice

Whether you are pursuing a career in humanities, social sciences, STEM, business or music, or planning on going to graduate school, proficiency in a second language will make you a more competitive candidate. Start studying the language during your first year and stick with it throughout your time at Rice.

## Experiential Learning

Students pursuing the CLIC Certificate have access to an array of experiential learning opportunities by language: from working with refugees and youth, to working in NGOs and medical facilities, your experiential learning will allow you to use the target language in a meaningful and purposeful way. For more information regarding exciting opportunities in this regard visit [experientiallearning.blogs.rice.edu](http://experientiallearning.blogs.rice.edu)

## Study Abroad

CLIC offers Rice in Country, a six-week, six-credit, Rice faculty-led summer study abroad program that provides intensive instruction, combined with extracurricular and experiential activities. Destinations include Brazil, Jordan, France, Italy, Japan, Korea, Mexico, Spain and Taiwan. Rice in Spain emphasizes medical professions, while Rice in Mexico emphasizes sustainable business practices.

## Professional Organizations & Student Clubs

There are multiple on-campus student associations (SA), including: Brazilian SA, French Club, Hispanic Association for Cultural enrichment, Italian SA, Jewish Studies SA, Korean SA, Middle Eastern and North African SA, Rice Chinese SA, Rice German Club, and Rice Japanese Club. Visit [owl.nest.rice.edu](http://owl.nest.rice.edu) for a complete list of organizations.

## Intro Courses

The following courses are introductory language courses open to all Rice students: ARAB 141, CHIN 141, FREN 141, GERM 141, HEBR 141, ITA 141, KORE 141, JAPA 141, PORT 106, SPAN 141. For more information regarding how to determine your appropriate language placement see [clic.rice.edu/certificate](http://clic.rice.edu/certificate).

## Interesting Courses & Opportunities for Non-Certificate Students

CLIC 369: Intercultural Communication (taught in English). In addition, CLIC offers a variety of extracurricular opportunities that allow language learners to engage meaningfully with the target language and culture. These opportunities include weekly language tables, language consultants, film screenings, and various events, such as cooking demonstrations, calligraphy workshops and more.

## Contacts

Director of Language Instruction and Teaching Professor:  
[Hélade Scutti Santos](#)

Center Associate Director, Certificate Advisor and Lecturer:  
[Hossam Elsherbiny](#)

# Study of Women, Gender and Sexuality

## Center Description

The Center for the Study of Women, Gender and Sexuality (SWGS) includes faculty affiliates from the School of Humanities and School of Social Sciences. The center takes an interdisciplinary, feminist and transnational approach to women, gender minorities, sexual minorities, masculinities, and their interactions of race, class and other differences. Examples of inquiry include gender- and sexuality-based resistance; the cultural productions of women and queer people; the social construction of gender roles and sexuality; feminisms' relationships to other social justice projects; and the challenges that feminist theory poses to concepts and methods in traditional disciplines. Students gain proficiency in assessing the gender- and sexuality-relevant aspects of social institutions such as the workplace, family, politics and cultural traditions, and in critiquing and formulating visions for change.

## Weblinks

Visit the Center for the Study of Women, Gender and Sexuality website for more information: [cswgs.rice.edu](http://cswgs.rice.edu)

SWGS major and minor requirements can be found in the General Announcements: [ga.rice.edu](http://ga.rice.edu)

### Frank Advice

SWGS 100 is a good D1 course for any student. SWGS subject matter is relevant to the real world right now. The major or minor is practical preparation for anyone who will be dealing with people on the job. SWGS majors and minors go to medical, law and graduate school.

### Research

A 2-semester capstone is required for the major. This can be a senior thesis or the Seminar and Practicum in Engaged Research. The latter is a community-based project for juniors and seniors, including non-majors. Both are eligible for Distinction in Research and Creative Work. Other research opportunities include summer oral history projects.

### Study Abroad

Numerous majors have enjoyed relevant coursework in these programs, arranged via Rice's Study Abroad office: DIS Study Abroad in Scandinavia (Stockholm or Copenhagen); IES Amsterdam Social Sciences and Humanities in the Netherlands.

### Student Organizations

Majors and minors are often involved in Rice Women's Resource Center, Rice Pride, reproductive rights student organizations, and other relevant organizations on and off campus.

### Intro Courses for Major and Minor

SWGS 100 (Introduction to the Study of Women, Gender, and Sexuality). This new course replaces SWGS 101 and 201. To continue with the major or minor, take SWGS 200 (Theorizing Sexuality and Gender) next.

### Interesting Courses for Non-Majors

Literally any of them except for the thesis capstone. The Seminar and Practicum in Engaged Research is one of Rice's oldest community-based practica. See [ga.rice.edu](http://ga.rice.edu) for course listings and [cswgs.rice.edu](http://cswgs.rice.edu) for the most up-to-date record of courses offerings.

## Degree Requirements

**For the major**—A total of 10-11 courses are required (including a 2-semester capstone), 5 of which must be taken at the upper (300+) level.

**For the minor**—A total of 6 courses are required, 3 of which must be taken at the upper (300+) level.

## Is there an honors option?

The required Capstone experiences—either a Senior Thesis or the Seminar and Practicum in Engaged Research—are eligible for Distinction in Research and Creative Work.

## What if I want to go to grad school?

There are excellent interdisciplinary PhD programs in women's, gender and sexuality studies. Graduate students may also pursue feminist studies interests within other disciplines (e.g. English, Art History, History, Philosophy, Religion) and certain departments are known for being particularly outstanding for feminist work in that discipline, such as Rutgers University for history. If you are planning a disciplinary PhD, be sure to take plenty of courses or double major in that discipline. Write a thesis — it is the best way to see if graduate-level research is for you. This major or minor is excellent preparation for medical school or law school. It is directly relevant to many pressing public policy issues of our moment.

## Contacts

Director of Undergraduate Studies:  
[Associate Professor Emily Houlik-Ritchey](#)

Affiliated faculty:

Lora Wildenthal (History), HUMA Divisional Advisor at Will Rice College

Leslie Schwindt-Bayer (Political Science), SOSC Divisional Advisor at Brown College

Fay Yarbrough (History), HUMA Divisional Advisor at Jones College

Anne Chao (CSWGS Advisory Board member), HUMA Divisional Advisor at Lovett College

Molly Morgan (Anthropology), SOSC Divisional Advisor at Lovett College

## Four-Year Planning

- Take SWGS 100 early. It is highly recommended to take it before taking SWGS 200.
- Your main scheduling constraint will be the 2-semester capstone. This Four-Year Planning includes the Seminar and Practicum sequence in the junior year; senior year is also possible. Enroll in SWGS 494 in the fall and both SWGS 496 and SWGS 497 in the spring.
- If you are planning on the senior thesis, add it to your senior year. Enroll in SWGS 498 in the fall and SWGS 499 in the spring.
- Majors must take at least one Critical Race elective and at least one Global South elective. In the plan below, courses listed as “SWGS Major Req” fulfill those requirements and courses listed as “SWGS Elective” are general electives.

Semester 1	Semester 2	Semester 3	Semester 4
SWGS 100 (D1)	SWGS 200 (D1)	SWGS Major Req	SWGS Major Req
D2	FWIS/Open	SWGS Elective	SWGS Elective
FWIS/Open	D3	D2	D3
Open	Open	Open	Open
Open	Open	Open	Open
Semester 5	Semester 6	Semester 7	Semester 8
SWGS 494	SWGS 496	SWGS Elective	Open
SWGS Elective	SWGS 497	D1 if needed	Open
D2	D3	Open	Open
Open	LPAP	Open	Open
Open	Open	Open	Open

\*Be sure to confirm that one of your courses also fulfills the AD requirement.

# Ancient Mediterranean Civilizations

## Program Description

Ancient Mediterranean Civilizations (AMC) is an interdisciplinary major centered on the connected ancient world. From Greek temples to Roman warfare to the rise of Christianity and the cultures of early Jews and Muslims, AMC students explore the complex web of interconnections and innovations that revolutionized the ancient world and helped shape our own.

AMC is an intentionally flexible major, designed to help you identify your own areas of interest and formulate your curriculum in consultation with a faculty advisor. You will be exposed to the histories, arts, religions, philosophies, economies, literatures, languages and political systems of some of the world's most influential civilizations, and will discover that antiquity is much closer than you think.

## Weblinks

Visit the Ancient Mediterranean Civilizations website for more information: [amc.rice.edu](http://amc.rice.edu)

AMC major requirements can be found in the General Announcements: [ga.rice.edu](http://ga.rice.edu)

## Frank Advice

Many courses potentially count for the major; the ones currently approved for the major are listed in the GA. There may be brand-new courses not yet listed there. You should talk to the program director, or DUS, to figure out which ones best suit your interests and needs.

## Internships

The DUS can help you identify internship and research opportunities that best fit your interests. Many AMC students get hands-on training abroad, including on archaeological excavations, conservation and cultural heritage programs, and summer travel programs.

## Research

Most undergraduate research in the major occurs within courses, where students will probably write research papers involving ancient texts in translation and/or ancient artifacts. Some students work in local museums. With advance planning, independent study courses can be arranged. Most often, that takes the form of an honors thesis during senior year. Some students assist professors with their research.

## Study Abroad

Study abroad is highly recommended for this major. The Intercollegiate Center for Classical Studies in Rome and College Year in Athens are particularly popular with AMC majors. In addition, many AMC majors participate in archaeological excavations over the summer, and AMC has generous funding to support this.

## Intro Courses for Major

There are no required introductory courses. Popular introductory courses include: Introduction to Archaeology (ANTH 205), Introduction to the History of Art 1: Ancient to Medieval (HART 101), Roman Civilization (CLAS 108), Ancient Empires (HIST 200) and Biblical Ethics (RELI 12), but you are free to take whichever courses interest you most.



## Interesting Courses for Non-Majors

A diverse range of courses fall under the AMC umbrella and are open to all Rice students, regardless of academic background or career interest. Examples include: Queer Archaeology (ANTH 346), Comparing Christianities (RELI 112), Women in Ancient Art (HART 307), Classical Mythology (CLAS 235), Life of the Prophet Muhammad (RELI 221), and more.

## Degree Requirements

**For the major**—A total of 10 courses are required (30-31 credit hours, depending on course selection), 5 of which must be at the upper (300+) level. Students can also complete an honors thesis under supervision of a faculty member.

AMC majors must take one course from three of the following five categories:

- Graeco-Roman civilization
- Islamic civilization
- Jewish civilization
- Christian civilization
- Archaeological methods and theory

The core curriculum also includes your choice of a “Themes Across Time” course exploring the creation, transmission and reception of traditions in the Mediterranean world, as well as a comparative requirement.

## What should I look out for?

Even more so than other majors, courses may change semester by semester. This is because all of them (except the honors course) are listed under their respective departments (AMC is a BA granting program, not a department). Many majors study abroad or participate in archaeological excavations in the summer. Majors pursue many kinds of careers, from law and medicine to industry and high school and university teaching.

### What if I want to go to grad school?

AMC students go to graduate school in various fields, including classics, archaeology, law, medicine and more. The program director can help you plan for the specifics of graduate study in classics, history, art history, religious studies or archaeology. Such specifics may include language study, study abroad or the acquisition of technical expertise.

### Contacts

Director of Undergraduate Studies (Program Director):  
[Assistant Professor Sophie Crawford-Brown](#)

### Four-Year Planning

- The major requirements can change depending on your preferences and the availability of courses. All electives fill at least one requirement. Therefore, by the third year, a student will probably have accomplished most core and area requirements, and the remaining courses will be open electives.
- Language study is not required for the major, but students are strongly encouraged to pursue it, especially if considering graduate school. Knowing ancient and modern languages can help students with their research.

Semester 1	Semester 2	Semester 3	Semester 4
AMC Elective	AMC Elective	AMC Elective	AMC Elective
D2	D3	D2	D3
FWIS/Open	FWIS/Open	Open	AMC Elective
Open	Open	Open	Open
Open	Open	Open	Open
Semester 5	Semester 6	Semester 7	Semester 8
AMC Elective	AMC Elective	AMC Elective	AMC Elective
AMC Elective	D3	LPAP	Open
D2	Open	Open	Open
Open	Open	Open	Open
Open	Open	Open	Open

\*Be sure to confirm that one of your courses also fulfills the AD requirement.

# Cinema and Media Studies

## Program Description

The interdisciplinary program in Cinema and Media Studies (CMST) offers the opportunity to study film and media from diverse historical periods around the globe. Drawing on different disciplines across the university — including faculty and resources from Art History, Art, English, Religion and Modern and Classical Literatures and Cultures —the minor in CMST aims to develop the critical tools for viewing and analyzing the moving image in all its manifold forms. In addition to the history and theory of cinema, courses for the minor also focus on contemporary media forms such as television, advertising, video art, medical imaging, and expanded cinema. Students are presented with a wide array of theoretical, historical, political and formal approaches to the moving image in an effort not only to better understand different cultural, mainstream and artistic approaches to cinema, but also our media-saturated world at large.

## Weblinks

Visit the Department of Art History website for more information about CMST: [art.history.rice.edu](http://art.history.rice.edu)

CMST minor requirements can be found in the General Announcements: [ga.rice.edu](http://ga.rice.edu)

## Frank Advice

Develop a habit of going not only to multiplex cinemas but alternative theaters, such as the film theater of the Museum of Fine Arts Houston or Aurora Picture Show.

Intro Courses for Minor	All 200-level courses are designed as introductory gateway courses.
Interesting Courses for Non-Minors	All 200-level courses are also suitable for non-minors. In addition, many 300-level courses fulfill D1 requirements and are great options for non-minors.
Professional Organizations & Student Clubs	Organized entirely by undergraduate students, the Rice Film Club meets regularly to watch movies and have conversations with people in the film industry. For more information, please contact <a href="#">Associate Professor Lida Oukaderova</a> .
Degree Requirements	<b>For the minor</b> —A total of 6 classes are required, 2 of which should be selected from CMST 201 (History of Cinema and Media I: Invention to 1945), CMST 202 (History of Cinema and Media Part II: 1945-Present), CMST 203 (Introduction to Film and Media Analysis), CMST 204 (Introduction to Media Studies), or FILM 280 (History and Aesthetics of Film), and 2 must be taken at the upper (300+) level.
Contacts	Directors of Undergraduate Studies (Program Co-Directors): <a href="#">Associate Professor Lida Oukaderova</a> <a href="#">Professor Martin Blumenthal-Barby</a>

# Jewish Studies

## Program Description

The minor in Jewish Studies invites students of all backgrounds on an interdisciplinary journey of discovery through the exploration of the religious practices, literature, history and philosophy of the Jewish people. The study of Jewish cultures and communities around the world, a topic spanning more than 3,000 years of history, enriches our understanding of the human experience.

## Weblinks

Visit the program in Jewish Studies website for more information: [jewishstudies.rice.edu](http://jewishstudies.rice.edu)

Jewish Studies minor requirements can be found in the General Announcements: [ga.rice.edu](http://ga.rice.edu)

## Study Abroad

Jewish Studies has an active partnership with the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. We regularly send students to Israel, either for intensive language study during the summer, or to spend a semester in Jerusalem. All fields of study are welcome, not just Jewish Studies. The minor also offers a class on Jerusalem that takes students to Israel over spring break.

## Student Organizations

Check out the Jewish Studies Student Organization (JSSA). The JSSA organizes several fun events and trips every semester. You do not have to be Jewish to join us.

**Intro Courses  
for Minor**

JWST 120 (Israel: Language and Culture I); JWST 201 (Great Books of Jewish History and Culture); RELI 104 (Intro to Jewish Mysticism); RELI 108 (Introduction to Judaism); RELI 120 (Contemporary Ethics and the Bible); RELI 203 (Judaism of Jesus and Hillel)

**Interesting Courses  
for Non-Minors**

RELI 392 (Jerusalem) takes students to Jerusalem over spring break.

**Degree  
Requirements**

**For the minor**—A total of 6 courses are required, 3 of which must be at the upper (300+) level.

**Contacts**

Program Director and Director of Undergraduate Studies:  
[Professor Matthias Henze](#)

# Medical Humanities

## Program Description

Medical Humanities (MDHM) explores how biomedical concepts of disease interact with historical, cultural, social, religious, aesthetic, and ethical aspects of human experience. Many students are pre-med, but the program welcomes all students. Questions of what constitutes health, why we value it, who benefits when these values are put into practice, and who is harmed by health disparities are matters of concern for everyone.

Faculty research and teaching aims to expand access, diversity, and inclusiveness in the health professions through a focus on health disparities and disability. Areas of expertise include death and dying; social determinants of health; medicalization of reproduction; biomedical ethics; racial and ethnic inequities; medicine and media; food and health in prisons; social and ethical aspects of digital health technologies and data privacy; anatomical museums; and digital medical humanities.

## Weblinks

Visit the Medical Humanities website for more information: [medicalhumanities.rice.edu](http://medicalhumanities.rice.edu)

MDHM minor requirements can be found in the General Announcements: [ga.rice.edu](http://ga.rice.edu)

### Frank Advice

The introductory class fills fast so you might need to try registering a couple times. Attend the monthly advising sessions to learn more about opportunities like the best essay and creative work contest, paid research positions, a facilitated medical school acceptance program and a joint MPH program with the University of Texas.

### Practica

The minor requires a practicum, or upper-level research course, that shows medical humanities in action. Students work with a mentor in the Texas Medical Center or other health organization and, unlike with an internship, meet as a class to discuss relevant materials and develop research projects related to their experiences.

### Study Abroad

Students can earn 6 credit hours toward the minor in Pamplona, Spain, through the summer Rice in Country program. Students live with a local family for six weeks, take a Spanish for Medical Professions course, learn skills at a medical school, and have the opportunity to work with local health organizations.

### Student Clubs

The Rice Medical Humanities Club is one of the largest, most active, and longest-standing clubs on campus. It hosts events throughout the year, including coffee chats with faculty and physicians, symposia, hackathons, and socials. It also houses the *Rice Medical Humanities Review*, featuring multimedia student work.

### Intro Courses for Minor

MDHM 201 (Introduction to Medical Humanities) is required for the minor and you need to take it before the practicum, but it is also a great way for non-minors to learn about medical humanities. It provides a taste of different subfields, such as disability studies, racial bias in health care, and the ethics of health technologies.



### Interesting Courses for Non-Minors

Many medical humanities electives don't have prerequisites and there are a lot of options in a wide range of departments. Check the program's website for current lists of courses as they change every semester: [medicalhumanities.rice.edu/courses](https://medicalhumanities.rice.edu/courses)

### Degree Requirements

**For the minor**—A total of 6 courses are required, 3 of which must be taken at the upper (300+) level. Additionally the minor requires an intro course, research practicum, and 4 electives.

### Contacts

Program Director and Program Advisor:  
[Professor Kirsten Ostherr](#)

Associate Program Director and Program Advisor: [Melissa Bailar](#)

# Medieval and Early Modern Studies

## Program Description

The Medieval and Early Modern Studies (MDEM) Program offers a major and a minor, enabling students to study a range of medieval civilizations that often intersect with each other: European, Mediterranean, Middle Eastern, African and Asian, from the 4th through the 18th centuries CE. This global and interdisciplinary program draws on all disciplines that might include pre-modern content, including Anthropology, Art History, Asian Studies, Classical Studies, English, European Studies, French Studies, German Studies, History, Latin American Studies, Jewish Studies, Music, Philosophy, Religion, and Spanish and Portuguese. Students have the opportunity to experience pre-modern materials first-hand in many libraries and museums in Houston, including the Woodson Research Center at Rice. Our students go on to pursue careers in law, medicine, curatorial work, library science and business. Students interested in graduate school enter a number of fields, from music to history to art history.

## Weblinks

Visit the Medieval and Early Modern Studies website for more information: [medieval.rice.edu](http://medieval.rice.edu)

MDEM major and minor requirements can be found in the General Announcements: [ga.rice.edu](http://ga.rice.edu)

## Frank Advice

Talk with the MDEM Director of Undergraduate Studies to help you in determining what counts as credit toward the degree and what you still need to take. Majors interested in pursuing an honors thesis should talk to the DUS in the junior year consultation. Early planning can open up more potential research and funding opportunities. Lastly, the best way to find out what kind of learning the program fosters is to come to the Medieval and Early Modern Studies undergraduate conference.

## Research

Each spring, MDEM holds an undergraduate conference to showcase outstanding undergraduate research. A distinguished guest scholar responds to the papers and gives a talk. There is a cash prize for best undergraduate paper. If you have research that you feel might be of interest for this conference, do not hesitate to talk to the DUS.

Additionally, students interested in assisting with the research of one of their professors should talk to faculty whom they would like to work with as a research mentor. Undergraduate research assistants are often welcome and highly valued by professors.

## Study Abroad

Look to specific departments, centers and programs for study abroad opportunities that might allow experience with pre-modern cultural sites.

## Intro Courses for Major & Minor

Any introductory course with pre-modern content in any department can serve as an introduction to Medieval and Early Modern Studies, including some FWIS courses, for example: FWIS 114 (The Holy Grail), FWIS 150 (World of Medieval Medicine). See also: MDEM 103 (Introduction to Jewish Mysticism), MDEM 120 (Medieval Civilizations), MDEM 210 (Medieval Violence), MDEM 271 (Medieval Popular Christianity), MDEM 281 (Golden Age of Islam)

### Interesting Courses for Non-Majors

Any of the courses listed above may be of interest to non-majors and minors too.

### Student Clubs

Any students interested in reviving the pre-modern club Mappa Mundi are welcome to talk to the DUS.

### Degree Requirements

**For the major**—A total of 10 courses are required, 5 of which must be taken at the upper (300+) level. Beyond courses listed with the MDEM code, any course with 50% or more pre-modern content can be counted toward the MDEM major. Lists of courses available for MDEM credit are made each term and available from the DUS and at humanities hangouts/course preview events.

**For the minor**—A total of 6 courses are required (taken from at least 2 different fields or departments), 3 of which must be taken at the upper (300+) level.

If you are interested in pre-modern studies but are not sure you will have time to dedicate to the major, then the MDEM minor is ideal for you. It will give you a chance to explore how this body of knowledge might apply to your own specific academic or professional goals. If it turns out later that you have taken more pre-modern courses than you anticipated, and/or if you want to pursue honors, you can upgrade to the major later.

### What if I want to go to grad school?

Knowledge of ancient and modern languages relevant to your field will be a big plus for graduate study. Important languages might include Latin for Christian European studies, Hebrew for Jewish and classical Arabic for Islamic studies. Many graduate departments still ask for competence in French and/or German.

### Contacts

Director of Undergraduate Studies:  
[Associate Professor Claire Fanger](#)

## Four-Year Planning

- The program draws upon other departments' courses, so changes outside of MDEM's control are inevitable. It is wise to meet with the DUS to plan out completion of the major requirement areas in addition to electives. Majors should take courses in at least 3 different disciplines, such as Art History, Classical Studies, History, Music, Philosophy or Religion.
- Language courses can also count as electives in the major. MDEM credit is available for Latin, Hebrew, Arabic and any medieval vernaculars in which course work is offered.

Semester 1	Semester 2	Semester 3	Semester 4
MDEM Elective	MDEM Elective	MDEM Elective	MDEM Elective
D2	D3	D2	MDEM Elective
FWIS/ Open	FWIS/ Open	Open	D3
Open	Open	Open	Open
Open	Open	Open	Open
Semester 5	Semester 6	Semester 7	Semester 8
MDEM Elective	MDEM Elective	MDEM Elective	MDEM Elective
MDEM Elective	D3	LPAP	Open
D2	Open	Open	Open
Open	Open	Open	Open
Open	Open	Open	Open

\*Be sure to confirm that one of your courses also fulfills the AD requirement.

# Museums and Cultural Heritage

## Program Description

What goes on behind the scenes at museums? Why do people destroy and loot cultural heritage sites and why does that affect the public so much? How and why do we preserve heritage sites like historical buildings and towns? Why are debates over the provenance and even existence of historical artifacts so heated and sometimes violent? The Museums and Cultural Heritage (MUCH) minor draws on Anthropology, Art History, Religion, Architecture and History to study the identification, preservation, representation and presentation of heritage materials. Such materials often serve as evidence in humanistic, architectural and social science disciplines. Students learn about the preservation and use of tangible and intangible cultural heritage for study, archival purposes, and public display through the study of cultural heritage institutions, new digital analysis tools and media, and traditional methods of preservation and analysis.

## Weblinks

Visit the Museums and Cultural Heritage website for more information: [much.rice.edu](http://much.rice.edu)

MUCH minor requirements and lists of courses that count as electives can be found in the General Announcements: [ga.rice.edu](http://ga.rice.edu)

## Frank Advice

The required core course for MUCH is ANTH 341 (Museums and Cultural Heritage: Exhibiting Art, Exhibiting Culture). It is typically offered just once a year so best to prioritize taking it as soon as you can. It is also good to begin thinking early on about what kind of practicum you would like to do.

## Internships

Internships, which count for the practicum requirement for MUCH, are at the heart of the minor. A wide variety of institutions partner with us, from natural science to art museums, from cultural heritage sites to galleries and historical museums. Internships in museums, historical preservation projects, or similar organizations or efforts can be especially valuable for this minor; Houston has many options. Talk to faculty to find out possibilities.

## Intro Courses for Minor

In addition to the practicum, the primary required course for minors is ANTH 341. It can be taken at any time and there are no prerequisites for other courses. Other great courses to introduce you to the MUCH discipline include HIST 244 (Museums in World History) and ANTH 345 (Politics of the Past).

## Interesting Courses for Non-Minors

A wide variety of classes count towards MUCH credit, drawing from departments in both the schools of Humanities and Social Sciences, including Anthropology, Architecture, Anthropology, Art History, Asian Studies, History and Religion.

## Degree Requirements

**For the minor**—A total of 6 courses are required, 3 of which must be taken at the upper (300+) level. In addition to the practicum, the primary required course for minors is ANTH 341. At the end of the minor, students are also expected to take MUCH 424 in preparation for their capstone presentation.

## Contacts

Program Co-Directors and Program Advisors: [Associate Professor Leo Costello](#) and [Senior Lecturer Molly Morgan](#)

# Politics, Law and Social Thought

## Program Description

The Politics, Law and Social Thought (PLST) Program enables students to engage with the big questions relevant to contemporary society in a global setting. Political theory is the backbone of our understanding of modern democracy and law. Political theory models the way democracies (and other regime types) work. Understanding the foundations of politics and law requires understanding their historical and social contexts.

The PLST minor connects the theory and history of political thought and law in order to study why policies succeed or fail. This contextual approach to political theory shows how the values and possibilities of the present, and the way in which we think about the latter, are a direct result of political choices made at different times between different possible worlds. Politics, Law and Social Thought is a joint program of Rice's School of Humanities and School of Social Sciences.

## Weblinks

Visit the Politics, Law and Social Thought website for more information: [politics.rice.edu](https://politics.rice.edu)

PLST minor requirements can be found in the General Announcements: [ga.rice.edu](https://ga.rice.edu)

## Frank Advice

This minor is designed first and foremost to bring students across the university into conversations about big questions, both historical and contemporary, concerning political theory, law and society.



## Practicum Programs

PLST helps administer two programs that combine internships with classroom experience, with the aim of giving students the opportunity to explore law as a profession. The judicial practicum involves working with state and federal appellate judges. The legal practicum involves working with public and private legal professionals to see opportunities in the legal area.

## Intro Courses for Minor

There is no one introductory course; several courses can serve as the required core course; 3-4 core courses are offered each year. More information regarding these core courses can be found on [politics.rice.edu](http://politics.rice.edu)

## Interesting Courses for Non-Minors

PLST brings together courses related to big questions of political thought, deep issues of social theory, and law under one rubric. No single department at Rice monopolizes big questions of politics, law, and social thought; our list of course offerings each semester is designed precisely to connect non-minors with interesting courses. We urge students to explore our list, whether they are minors or not.

## Degree Requirements

**For the minor**—A total of 6 courses are required, 4 of which must be taken at the upper (300+) level.

## What should I look out for?

Students in this minor are often invited to special events where they can talk directly to visiting scholars and political figures.

## Contacts

Director of Undergraduate Studies: [Professor Peter Caldwell](#)

Assistant Director and Program Advisor: [Assistant Teaching Professor Joseph Cozza](#)

# Science and Technology Studies

## Program Description

The undergraduate minor in Science and Technology Studies (STS) is an interdisciplinary approach to the analysis of the social, cultural and political contexts of science and technology. Students will explore the history and philosophy of science, the evolution of science and technology over time, and how science functions in contemporary contexts. They will examine the relationship between media, design, and communication and their representations of science. Additionally, the program will cover social studies of science and technology, focusing on diverse methods to analyze the practice and impact of science and technology. Students will gain an understanding of how social, cultural, and political conditions shape science and technology, both historically and in the present, and will analyze their effects on social, cultural, and political contexts.

## Weblinks

Visit the Science and Technology Studies website for more information: [sts.rice.edu](https://sts.rice.edu)

Science and Technology Studies minor requirements can be found in the General Announcements: [ga.rice.edu](https://ga.rice.edu)

## Frank Advice

Keep an eye out for core courses since only a few are offered each year.

## Intro Courses for Minor

ENGL 273 / SWGS 273 (Medicine and Media); HIST 260 (Early History of Science); HIST 261 (History of Modern Science); HIST 346 (Computer Technology and Society); ANTH 348 (Anthropologies of Nature); ANTH 419 (Black Feminist Science and Technology Studies); ANTH 422 (Infrastructures and Power); ANTH 428 (Feminist Science and Technology Studies)

Please note: Minors will select 2 courses from the list of 8 core courses (above) that will count toward the minimum 6 courses.

## Degree Requirements

**For the minor**—A total of 6 courses are required, 3 of which must be taken at the upper (300+) level.

## Contacts

Co-Directors of STS and Directors of Undergraduate Studies: [Associate Professor Luis Campos](#) and [Professor Cymene Howe](#)

# Theatre

## Minor Description

The Theatre minor (THEA) takes a broad-based approach to understanding the facets of theatre-making through classes in stagecraft (costume construction or theatre technology), acting or design, history of theatre and a required production practicum. Through coursework focused on inquiry-based learning, coupled with production experience where students use practical experience, theatre students deeply engage in both theory and practice. Theatre courses are open to all students who want to gain a greater appreciation for the art of theatre.

Rice Theatre produces two full stage productions annually (spring and fall). Theatre minors participate in the productions to receive hands-on experience as an actor, designer or technician. An integral part of our academic program and open to all students, academic credit may be earned for all production positions. Students may act or work in stage management, set and costume construction, scene painting, lighting or sound. Our interdisciplinary minor offers a broad choice of courses in areas of arts, literature, history, writing and more.

## Weblinks

Visit the Theatre website for more information: [theatre.rice.edu](http://theatre.rice.edu)

Theatre minor requirements can be found in the General Announcements: [ga.rice.edu](http://ga.rice.edu)

Frank Advice	You must complete a total of 2 elective courses (6 credit hours) relevant to the theatre and dramatic arts.
Opportunities	Field trip THEA 294 (Theatre Junior Field Trip), 1 credit hour, is recommended for students pursuing the Theatre minor. These are trips to cultural centers nationally and internationally, including visits to theatres and meetings with creative professionals in the field.
Internships	Theatre Program faculty are actively involved in professional theatre and film locally, nationally and internationally, and actively pursue opportunities to involve advanced students in that work. In addition, advanced students are encouraged to apply for internship positions whenever possible. Rice students have been accepted in competitive internships at theatres such as the Alley Theatre, Houston Shakespeare Festival, Berkeley Repertory Theatre and Williamstown Theatre Festival.
Intro Courses for Minor	There is no designated introductory course, but we suggest you take THEA 303 (Introduction to Theatre) as soon as you can.
Interesting Courses for Non-Minors	THEA 102 (Intro to Acting), THEA 207 (Makeup for the Stage), THEA 308 (Improv for Stage and Screen)
Degree Requirements	<b>For the minor</b> —A total of 6 courses are required, 3 of which must be taken at the upper (300+) level.
Contacts	Program Director and Director of Undergraduate Studies: <a href="#">Professor in the Practice Christina Keefe</a>





# Resources

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- [134](#) Humanities Divisional Advisors

# Useful University Contacts

## Access & Opportunity Portal

[aop.rice.edu](http://aop.rice.edu)  
[aop@rice.edu](mailto:aop@rice.edu)

## Cashier

[cashier@rice.edu](mailto:cashier@rice.edu)  
(713) 348-4946

## Center for Career Development

[ccd.rice.edu](http://ccd.rice.edu)  
[ccd@rice.edu](mailto:ccd@rice.edu)  
(713) 348-4055

## Center for Civic Leadership

[ccl.rice.edu](http://ccl.rice.edu)  
[ccl@rice.edu](mailto:ccl@rice.edu)  
(713) 348-2223

## Counseling Center

[wellbeing.rice.edu](http://wellbeing.rice.edu)  
[wellbeing@rice.edu](mailto:wellbeing@rice.edu)  
(713) 348-3311

## Dean of Undergraduates

Dr. Bridget Gorman  
[ugdean@rice.edu](mailto:ugdean@rice.edu)  
(713) 348-4996

## Dean of Graduate Students

Professor Seiichi Matsuda  
[graduate@rice.edu](mailto:graduate@rice.edu)  
(713) 348-4002

## Digital Media Commons

[library.rice.edu/places/dmc](http://library.rice.edu/places/dmc)  
[dmc-info@rice.edu](mailto:dmc-info@rice.edu)  
(713) 348-3635

## Disability Resource Center

[drc.rice.edu](http://drc.rice.edu)  
[adarice@rice.edu](mailto:adarice@rice.edu)  
(713) 348-5841

## Fondren Library

[library.rice.edu](http://library.rice.edu)  
*Circulation Desk:* [circ@rice.edu](mailto:circ@rice.edu)  
(713) 348-4021  
*Reference Desk:*  
[ask@rice.libanswers.com](http://ask@rice.libanswers.com)  
(713) 348-5698

## Gibbs Recreation and Wellness Center

[recreation.rice.edu](http://recreation.rice.edu)  
[ricerec@rice.edu](mailto:ricerec@rice.edu)  
(713) 348-4058

## Housing and Dining

[dining.rice.edu](http://dining.rice.edu)  
(713) 348-5445

## Information Technology

[helpdesk@rice.edu](mailto:helpdesk@rice.edu)  
(713) 348-4357

## Kanopy

Free streaming to anyone with a Rice email  
[rice.kanopy.com](http://rice.kanopy.com)

## Office of Academic Advising

[oaa.rice.edu](http://oaa.rice.edu)  
[aadv@rice.edu](mailto:aadv@rice.edu)  
(713) 348-4060

## Office of Financial Aid

[financialaid.rice.edu](http://financialaid.rice.edu)  
[fina@rice.edu](mailto:fina@rice.edu)  
(713) 348-4958

## Office of Student Success Initiatives

[success.rice.edu](http://success.rice.edu)  
[success@rice.edu](mailto:success@rice.edu)  
(713) 348-2924

## OwlNest

[owlnest.rice.edu](http://owlnest.rice.edu)  
[studentcenter@rice.edu](mailto:studentcenter@rice.edu)  
(713) 348-4097

## Parking Registration Office

[parking@rice.edu](mailto:parking@rice.edu)  
(713) 348-7275

## Registrar

[registrar.rice.edu](http://registrar.rice.edu)  
[registrar@rice.edu](mailto:registrar@rice.edu)  
(713) 348-4999

## Rice Village Apartments

[rvapts@rice.edu](mailto:rvapts@rice.edu)  
(713) 348-4050

## Rice University Police Department (RUPD)

[dispatch@rice.edu](mailto:dispatch@rice.edu)  
(713) 348-6000

## SAFE Office

[safe.rice.edu](http://safe.rice.edu)  
[safesupport@rice.edu](mailto:safesupport@rice.edu)  
713) 348-3311

## School of Humanities

General Inquiries: [humanities@rice.edu](mailto:humanities@rice.edu)  
(713) 348-4810

Andrew Stefl, Lead Academic Administrator: [stefl@rice.edu](mailto:stefl@rice.edu)

## Student Health Services

[health.rice.edu](http://health.rice.edu)  
[hlsv@rice.edu](mailto:hlsv@rice.edu)  
(713) 348-4966



# Academic Calendar

Fall 2024

## August

- 18–24 Orientation week for new students
  - 26 First day of classes
  - 29 Humanities Hangout: welcome back!  
4–5:30 p.m.
- 

## September

- 2 Labor Day Holiday—no scheduled classes
  - 6 Last day for late registration, adding courses,  
withdrawal with 100% refund
  - 20 HRC Repair Lecture Series with Maggie  
Nelson, 4 p.m.
  - 24 School of Humanities Lightning Talks, 12 p.m.
- 

## October

- 8 Humanities NOW with Andrea Bajani & John  
Sparagana. 4 p.m.
  - 11 Last day to drop courses; course “audit”  
designation deadline
  - 14–15 Midterm recess—no scheduled classes
  - 22 Humanities Innovations with Douglas Brinkley  
& Caleb McDaniel, 7 p.m.
  - 25 Humanities Hangout: spring 2025 course  
preview. 12–2p.m.
- 

## November

- 1 Last day to designate a course as pass/fail;  
May degree conferral application deadline;  
spring 2025 course schedule published &  
course request period begins
  - 5 Election Day—no scheduled classes
  - 12–13 School of Humanities Campbell Lecture  
Series with Mel Chin, 6 p.m.
  - 20 Spring registration add/drop period begins
  - 22 Last day to register for spring without a late  
registration fee
  - 27–29 Thanksgiving Holiday—no scheduled classes
- 

## December

- 6 Last day of classes
  - 17 End of fall semester
- 

Spring 2025

## January

- 13 First day of classes
  - 20 MLK Jr. Day—no scheduled classes
  - 24 Last day for late registration, adding courses,  
withdrawal with 100% refund
- 

## February

- 13–14 Spring Recess—no scheduled classes
  - 28 Last day to drop courses; course “audit”  
designation deadline
- 

## March

- 15–23 Spring Break—no scheduled classes
  - 28 Last day to designate a course as pass/fail;  
fall 2025 course schedule published & course  
request period begins
- 

## April

- 16 Fall registration add/drop period begins
  - 18 Last day to register for the fall semester without  
a late registration fee
  - 25 Last day of classes
- 

## May

- 6 End of spring semester
  - 9–10 Commencement
- 

\*Check [humanities.rice.edu](https://humanities.rice.edu) for a Spring events line up.



# Humanities Directory

## Office of the Dean

### [Kathleen Canning](#)

Dean, School of Humanities  
Andrew W. Mellon Professor of  
History

### [Fay Yarbrough](#)

Associate Dean, Faculty and  
Graduate Programs  
William Gaines Twyman Professor  
of History

### [Natasha Bowdoin](#)

Associate Dean, Undergraduate  
Programs and Special Projects  
Associate Professor of Art

### [Anita Norwig](#)

Assistant Dean of Humanities

### [Peyton Ball](#)

Communications and Events  
Specialist

### [Kate Coley](#)

Associate Director of Development

### [Gaylon Denney](#)

Senior Digital Information Manager

### [Eric Granquist](#)

Director of Humanities Information  
Technology Workflow

### [Jennifer Judge](#)

Undergraduate Program  
Administrator

### [Anna Julia](#)

Graduate Administrator

### [Christine Gocek Medina](#)

Lead Administrative Specialist

### [Christy Montecillo](#)

Director, Finance

### [Elaine Palinkas Sanches](#)

Executive Assistant

### [Paula D. Platt](#)

Academic and Events  
Administrator

### [Nyeve Pommier](#)

Executive Director of Programs  
and Strategic Initiatives

### [Andrew Steffl](#)

Lead Academic Administrator and  
Data Analyst

### [Emily Stein](#)

Senior Director of Development

### [John P. Waterhouse](#)

Director of Communications

### [Lydia Westbrook](#)

Graduate Administrator

## Directors of Undergraduate Study / Program Advisors

### What is a Director of Undergraduate Studies (DUS)?

aka “major advisors” / “minor advisors” / “transfer credit advisors” / “program advisors”

Directors of Undergraduate Studies are faculty who serve as chief academic advisors for undergraduates interested in majoring or minoring in their respective departments or programs. They can speak best to the degree requirements and have the most up-to-date information regarding an area of study, including information on course offerings, four-year planning, independent study projects, research opportunities and internships, graduate school and careers in the field. The DUS is the person to talk to about declaring your major or minor. Even if you receive advising from another faculty member, which you are welcome to seek out, the DUS will be the one to sign off on your declaration form and approve any transfer credit requests. Note that each department/program has one primary DUS but that this person may switch to a different faculty member from year to year.

#### [Melissa Bailar](#)

Executive Director, Medical Humanities Research Institute  
Associate Director and Program Advisor, Program in Medical Humanities

#### [Joshua Bernstein](#)

Associate Teaching Professor of Art  
DUS, Department of Art

#### [Peter C. Caldwell](#)

Samuel G. McCann Professor of History  
Director and Program Advisor, Program in Politics, Law and Social Thought

#### [Luis Campos](#)

Baker College Chair for the History of Science, Technology and Innovation  
Associate Professor of History  
Co-Director and Program Advisor, Program in Science and Technology Studies

#### [David Cook](#)

Professor of Religion  
DUS, Department of Religion

#### [Leo Costello](#)

Associate Professor and Chair, Department of Art History  
Co-Director and DUS, Program in Museums and Cultural Heritage

#### [Joseph Cozza](#)

Assistant Teaching Professor  
Associate Director and Program Advisor, Program in Politics, Law and Social Thought

#### [Sophie Crawford-Brown](#)

Assistant Professor of Art History  
DUS and Director, Program in Ancient Mediterranean Civilizations

#### [Daniel Domingues da Silva](#)

Associate Professor of History  
DUS, Center for African and African American Studies

#### [Hossam Elsherbiny](#)

Associate Director and Lecturer in Arabic, Center for Languages and Intercultural Communication (CLIC)  
DUS, CLIC

#### [Sophie Esch](#)

Associate Professor of Modern and Classical Literatures and Cultures  
Program Advisor, Program in Latin American and Latinx Studies  
Director, Center for Latin American and Latinx Studies

#### [Claire Fanger](#)

Associate Professor of Religion  
Director and DUS, Program in Medieval and Early Modern Studies

#### [Randal L. Hall](#)

William P. Hobby Professor of American History  
Editor, Journal of Southern History  
Interim Director, Center for Environmental Studies  
Co-Director and Program Advisor, Environmental Studies Minor

#### [Matthias Henze](#)

Isla Carroll and Percy E. Turner Professor of Biblical Studies, Department of Religion  
Director and DUS, Program in Jewish Studies

[Emily Houlik-Ritchey](#)

Associate Professor of English  
Associate Director and DUS,  
Center for the Study of Women,  
Gender and Sexuality

[Cymene Howe](#)

Interim Chair and Professor,  
Department of Anthropology  
Co-Director and Program  
Advisor, Program in Science and  
Technology Studies

[Lacy M. Johnson](#)

Associate Professor of Creative  
Writing, Department of English  
DUS, Program in Creative Writing

[Richard Johnson](#)

Executive Director for Sustainability  
Professor in the Practice of  
Environmental Studies  
Co-Director and Program Advisor,  
Environmental Studies Minor

[Betty Joseph](#)

Professor of English  
DUS, Department of English

[Christina Keefe](#)

Professor in the Practice, Program  
in Theatre  
Director and DUS, Program in  
Theatre

[Hilary Mackie](#)

Associate Professor of Modern and  
Classical Literatures and Cultures  
Program Advisor, Program in  
Classical Studies and Minors in  
Latin Language and Literature,  
Classical Civilizations, and Greek  
Language and Literature

[Joseph Manca](#)

Nina J. Cullinan Professor of Art  
and Art History  
DUS, Department of Art History

[Molly Morgan](#)

Senior Lecturer, Anthropology  
Co-Director and DUS, Program in  
Museums and Cultural Heritage

[Astrid Oesmann](#)

Associate Professor of Modern and  
Classical Literatures and Cultures  
Program Advisor, Program in  
German Studies

[Kirsten Ostherr](#)

Gladys Louise Fox Professor of  
English  
Director, Medical Humanities  
Research Institute  
Director and Program Advisor,  
Program in Medical Humanities

[Lida Oukaderova](#)

Associate Professor of Art History  
DUS, Program in Cinema and  
Media Studies

[Aysa Pollnitz](#)

Associate Professor of History  
DUS, Department of History

[Sonia Ryang](#)

T.T. and W.F. Chao Professor of  
Asian Studies  
DUS, Department of Asian Studies

[Linsey Sainte-Claire](#)

Assistant Professor of Modern and  
Classical Literatures and Cultures  
Program Advisor, Program in  
French Studies

[M. Rafael Salaberry](#)

Mary Gibbs Jones Professor of  
Modern and Classical Literatures  
and Cultures  
Program Advisor, Program in  
Spanish and Portuguese

[Charles Siewert](#)

Robert & Kathryn Hayes Chair  
in Humanities and Professor of  
Philosophy  
DUS, Department of Philosophy

## Humanities Divisional Advisors

### What is a Divisional Advisor?

Divisional Advisors are faculty associates of a residential college who are selected and engaged by College Magisters and the OAA to provide academic advising to you prior to your declaring a major. Each Divisional Advisor:

- Serves their residential college by representing one of the four major undergraduate academic divisions – Humanities, Social Sciences, Natural Sciences and Engineering
- Is trained by and works closely with the Office of Academic Advising (OAA) to keep up to date on academic rules and regulations, graduation requirements, educational opportunities, academic resources, and other important or time-sensitive information.
- Can advise you on a wide range of topics including personal interests, course choices, short- and long-term plans, and co-curricular opportunities, to name a few.
- Has tremendous knowledge, insights, and experiences to share, but does not have expertise in all majors, so they will often also refer students to Major Advisors in academic departments or advisors in collaborative offices across campus.

#### **Baker**

[Maria Stasevicius](#)

Lecturer, Center for Languages and Intercultural Communication

#### **Brown**

[Laura Correa Ochoa](#)

Assistant Professor, Department of History

#### **Duncan**

[Ian Schimmel](#)

Associate Teaching Professor, Department of English and Program in Creative Writing

#### **Hanszen**

[Denva Gallant](#)

Assistant Professor, Department of Art History

#### **Jones**

[Fay Yarbrough](#)

Associate Dean of Humanities, Faculty and Graduate Programs  
William Gaines Twyman Professor, Department of History

#### **Lovett**

[Anne Chao](#)

School of Humanities Advisory Board Member  
Lecturer, Department of History

#### **Martel**

[Leo Costello](#)

Chair, Department of Art History  
Associate Professor, Department of Art History

#### **McMurtry**

[Tim Schroeder](#)

Professor, Department of Philosophy

#### **Sid Rich**

[David Messmer](#)

Associate Teaching Professor, Program for Writing and Communication (FWIS)  
Director, FWIS Program

#### **Wiess**

[Hélade Scutti Santos](#)

Director, Center for Languages and Intercultural Communication  
Lecturer in Portuguese

#### **Will Rice**

[Lora Wildenthal](#)

John Antony Weir Professor, Department of History  
Director, Center for Women, Gender and Sexuality

## DEPARTMENTS

Art  
Art History  
English  
History  
Modern and Classical  
Literatures and Cultures  
Philosophy  
Religion  
Transnational Asian Studies

## CENTERS

African and African American  
Studies  
Chao Center for Asian  
Studies  
Environmental Studies  
Humanities Research Center  
Languages and Intercultural  
Communication  
Study of Women, Gender  
and Sexuality

## PROGRAMS

Ancient Mediterranean  
Civilizations  
Cinema and Media Studies  
Jewish Studies  
Medical Humanities  
Medieval and Early Modern  
Studies  
Museums and Cultural  
Heritage  
Politics, Law and Social  
Thought  
Science and Technology  
Studies  
Theatre

