

LIBERAL ARTS MAJOR CONCENTRATION (B.A.) (36 CREDITS)

Offered by: Languages, Literatures, Cultures (Faculty of Arts)

Degree: Bachelor of Arts

Program credit weight: 36

Program Description

The Major Concentration in Liberal Arts exposes students to texts from and histories of a suitably wide range of cultures and societies. Students are able to choose among three intellectual streams: literature and the arts (including theatre and architecture); history, culture and society; and philosophy and religion. Students in each stream must satisfy distribution requirements in relation to minimum number of 300/400+ level courses; maximum number of courses in one discipline; geographical areas and historical periods.

All students majoring in Liberal Arts are also required to complete a Minor Concentration in a language program (other than English). Students who are native speakers of a language other than English are strongly encouraged to fulfill this requirement in a third language.

The approved language minors are:

- Minor Concentration in Classics (Language Stream)
- Minor Concentration in East Asian Language and Literature or Supplementary East Asian Language
- Minor Concentration in German Language
- Minor Concentration in Hispanic Languages
- Minor Concentration in Italian Studies
- Minor Concentration in Jewish Studies
- Minor Concentration in French Language and Literature - French Language
- Minor Concentration in World Islamic & Middle East Studies
- Minor Concentration in Russian
- Minor Concentration in Scriptural Languages

Degree Requirements — B.A. students

[To be eligible for a B.A. degree, a student must fulfil all Faculty and program requirements as indicated in Degree Requirements for the Faculty of Arts.](#)

We recommend that students consult an Arts OASIS advisor for degree planning.

Note: For information about Fall 2025 and Winter 2026 course offerings, please refer to Visual Schedule Builder. A technical issue is causing the "Terms offered" field to incorrectly report "this course is not currently offered" for many courses in the Course Catalogue.

Required Courses

Liberal Arts students are required to take two courses designed to help them reflect on the contemporary significance of a Liberal Arts education and on their experience in the Liberal Arts program.

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Course	Title	Credits
LIBA 202	Introduction to Liberal Arts.	3
LIBA 402	Seminar in Liberal Arts.	3

Complementary Courses (30 credits)

Students must complete 30 credits in one of the three specialized streams set out below.

The distribution requirements for all streams are the following:

1. at least 6 credits from the 200-level introductory courses within one stream;
2. at least 15 credits must be from courses at the 300 level or above; at least 6 credits must be at the 400 level or above (language courses cannot count toward satisfying this requirement);
3. no more than 18 credits can be from a single discipline;
4. geographical area: at least 6 credits in coursework primarily emphasizing Africa and/or Asia, and at least 6 credits in coursework emphasizing Europe and/or the Americas or Australasia, and
5. historical periods: at least 6 credits in coursework primarily emphasizing texts or history from before 1500, and at least 6 credits in coursework primarily emphasizing texts or history from 1500-1900 (a given course may satisfy both the geographical area and the historical period requirement).

Stream 1: Literature and the Arts (including Theatre and Architecture)

This stream is designed for students whose primary interests lie in the study of literature and the arts across geographical boundaries and historical traditions.

Approved courses are listed below. The courses appearing in List A are introductory in nature and should be taken early in the program. The courses appearing in List B are of two kind:

1. courses taught in the "core" disciplines in this stream, and
2. courses taught in other disciplines which are nevertheless pertinent to this stream.

Though wide ranging, the choice of courses is limited by the stream's orientation, as well as by the overall objectives of the Liberal Arts Program.

The additional courses may be substituted with the approval of the Program Director.

Students must choose 30 credits as follows:

6 credits from the courses in List A

24 credits from the courses in List B

List A (6 credits)

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Course	Title	Credits
ARTH 204	Introduction to Medieval Art and Architecture.	3
ARTH 205	Introduction to Modern Art.	3
ARTH 207	Introduction Early Modern Art 1400-1700.	3
ARTH 209	Introduction to Ancient Art and Architecture.	3

CLAS 203	Greek Mythology.	3	ARCH 251	Architectural History 2.	3
CLAS 301	Ancient Greek Literature and Society.	3	ARCH 354	Architectural History 3.	3
CLAS 302	Roman Literature and Society.	3	ARCH 355	Architectural History 4.	3
EAST 211	Introduction: East Asian Culture: China.	3	ARCH 531	Architectural Intentions Vitruvius - Renaissance.	3
EAST 212	Introduction: East Asian Culture: Japan.	3	ARCH 532	Origins of Modern Architecture.	3
EAST 213	Introduction: East Asian Culture: Korea.	3	ARTH 352	Feminism in Art and Art History.	3
EAST 215	Introduction to East Asian Art.	3	EAST 307	Topics: East Asian Language and Literature 1.	3
ENGL 202	Departmental Survey of English Literature 1.	3	EAST 308	Topics: East Asian Language and Literature 2.	3
ENGL 203	Departmental Survey of English Literature 2.	3	EAST 350	Gender and Sexuality in Chinese Literature.	3
ENGL 215	Introduction to Shakespeare.	3	EAST 351	Women Writers of China.	3
ENGL 230	Introduction to Theatre Studies.	3	EAST 352	Critical Approaches to Chinese Literature.	3
FREN 250	Littérature française avant 1800.	3	EAST 353	Approaches to Chinese Cinema.	3
FREN 251	Littérature française depuis 1800.	3	EAST 362	Japanese Cinema.	3
FREN 252	Littérature québécoise.	3	EAST 453	Topics: Chinese Literature.	3
GERM 259	Introduction to German Literature 1.	3	EAST 454	Topics: Chinese Cinema.	3
HISP 225	Hispanic Civilization 1.	3	EAST 461	Inventing Modern Japanese Novel.	3
HISP 241	Survey of Spanish Literature and Culture 1.	3	EAST 464	Image, Text, Performance.	3
ISLA 200	Islamic Civilization.	3	EAST 467	Topics: Japanese Cinema.	3
ISLA 210	Muslim Societies.	3	EAST 550	Classical Chinese Poetry Themes and Genres.	3
ITAL 230	Understanding Italy.	3	EAST 562	Japanese Literary Theory and Practice.	3
ITAL 295	Italian Cultural Studies.	3	EAST 569	Advanced Topics: Japanese Literature.	3
LLCU 220	Introduction to Literary Analysis.	3	HIST 345	History of Italian Renaissance.	3
RELG 203	Bible and Western Culture.	3	HIST 405	Topics in Intellectual History.	3
RUSS 223	Russian 19th Century: Literary Giants 1.	3	HIST 411	Topics in African History.	3
RUSS 224	Russian 19th Century: Literary Giants 2.	3	HIST 426	Topics: British Cultural History.	3

Music: up to 6 credits of Music courses (labelled MUAR) can be selected in consultation with the Program Director.

List B (24 credits)

Students in the Literature and the Arts (including Theatre and Architecture) stream may choose from:

- any course (other than a course dedicated to teaching a language) at the 200 level or above in the following departments and programs: Architecture (ARCH), Art History and Communication Studies (labelled ARTH), Classics (CLAS), English (ENGL), French (FREN), German Studies (GERM), Hispanic Studies (HISP), Italian Studies (ITAL), Languages, Literatures, and Cultures (LLCU), and Russian Studies (RUSS); and
- any course (other than a course dedicated to teaching a language) at the 200 level or above in Jewish Studies (JWST) listed in the Course Catalogue under the headings “Biblical Studies,” “Languages and Literatures – Hebrew” and “Language and Literature – Yiddish.”

Students in this stream may also choose a maximum of 9 credits from the following list:

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Course	Title	Credits
AFRI 401	Swahili Language and Culture.	3
ARCH 250	Architectural History 1.	3

ARCH 251	Architectural History 2.	3
ARCH 354	Architectural History 3.	3
ARCH 355	Architectural History 4.	3
ARCH 531	Architectural Intentions Vitruvius - Renaissance.	3
ARCH 532	Origins of Modern Architecture.	3
ARTH 352	Feminism in Art and Art History.	3
EAST 307	Topics: East Asian Language and Literature 1.	3
EAST 308	Topics: East Asian Language and Literature 2.	3
EAST 350	Gender and Sexuality in Chinese Literature.	3
EAST 351	Women Writers of China.	3
EAST 352	Critical Approaches to Chinese Literature.	3
EAST 353	Approaches to Chinese Cinema.	3
EAST 362	Japanese Cinema.	3
EAST 453	Topics: Chinese Literature.	3
EAST 454	Topics: Chinese Cinema.	3
EAST 461	Inventing Modern Japanese Novel.	3
EAST 464	Image, Text, Performance.	3
EAST 467	Topics: Japanese Cinema.	3
EAST 550	Classical Chinese Poetry Themes and Genres.	3
EAST 562	Japanese Literary Theory and Practice.	3
EAST 569	Advanced Topics: Japanese Literature.	3
HIST 345	History of Italian Renaissance.	3
HIST 405	Topics in Intellectual History.	3
HIST 411	Topics in African History.	3
HIST 426	Topics: British Cultural History.	3
ISLA 385	Poetics and Politics in Arabic Literature.	3
ISLA 388	Persian Literature.	3
ISLA 392	Arabic Literature as World Literature.	3
ISLA 488	Tales of Wonder-Islamic World.	3
ISLA 585	Arab Women's Literature.	3
LIBA 395	Individual Reading Course.	3
PHIL 336	Aesthetics.	3
PHIL 436	Aesthetics 2.	3
RELG 210	Jesus of Nazareth.	3
RELG 302	Literature of Ancient Israel 1.	3
RELG 303	Literature of Ancient Israel 2.	3
RELG 307	Bible, Quran and Interpretations.	3
RELG 311	Formation of the New Testament.	3
RELG 312	The Gospels.	3
RELG 455	Religion and the Performing Arts in South India.	3

Stream 2: History, Culture, and Society

This stream is designed for students whose primary interests lie in the study of history, culture, and society across geographical boundaries and historical traditions.

Approved courses are listed below. The courses appearing in List A are introductory in nature and should be taken early in the program. The courses appearing in List B are of two kind:

1. courses taught in the "core" disciplines in this stream, and
2. courses taught in other disciplines which are nevertheless pertinent to this stream.

Though wide ranging, the choice of courses is limited by the stream's orientation, as well as by the overall objectives of the Liberal Arts Program.

The additional courses may be substituted with the approval of the Program Director.

Students must choose 30 credits as follows:

6 credits from the courses in List A

24 credits from the courses in List B

List A (6 credits)

Expand allContract all

Course	Title	Credits
CATH 200	Introduction to Catholicism.	3
COMS 200	History of Communication.	3
COMS 210	Introduction to Communication Studies.	3
COMS 230	Communication and Democracy.	3
EAST 211	Introduction: East Asian Culture: China.	3
EAST 212	Introduction: East Asian Culture: Japan.	3
EAST 213	Introduction: East Asian Culture: Korea.	3
EAST 215	Introduction to East Asian Art.	3
HIST 200	Introduction to African History.	3
HIST 201	Modern African History.	3
HIST 202	Survey: Canada to 1867.	3
HIST 203	Survey: Canada since 1867.	3
HIST 205	Ancient Mediterranean History.	3
HIST 207	Jewish History: 400 B.C.E. to 1000.	3
HIST 208	Introduction to East Asian History.	3
HIST 213	World History, 600-2000.	3
HIST 214	Early Modern Europe.	3
HIST 215	Modern Europe.	3
ISLA 200	Islamic Civilization.	3
ISLA 210	Muslim Societies.	3
POLI 212	Introduction to Comparative Politics - Europe/ North America.	3
POLI 227	Introduction to Comparative Politics - Global South.	3
POLI 231	Introduction to Political Theory.	3
POLI 243	International Politics of Economic Relations.	3
POLI 244	International Politics: State Behaviour.	3
SOCI 210	Sociological Perspectives.	3
SOCI 211	Sociological Inquiry.	3

List B (24 credits)

Students in the History and Culture stream may choose from any course at the 200 level or above in the following departments and programs: History (HIST), Political Science (POLI), Sociology (SOCI) and Art History and Communication Studies (labelled COMS).

Students in this stream may also choose a maximum of 9 credits from the following list:

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Course	Title	Credits
ANTH 202	Socio-Cultural Anthropology.	3
ANTH 206	Environment and Culture.	3
ANTH 212	Anthropology of Development.	3
ANTH 318	Globalization and Religion.	3
ANTH 322	Social Change in Modern Africa.	3
ANTH 327	Anthropology of South Asia.	3
ANTH 338	Indigenous Studies of Anthropology.	3
ANTH 355	Theories of Culture and Society.	3
ARTH 310	Postcolonialism.	3
CATH 340	Catholicism and Public Policy.	3
CLAS 203	Greek Mythology.	3
CLAS 308	Gender in the Ancient World.	3
CLAS 404	Classical Tradition.	3
CLAS 406	Greek and Roman Historiography.	3
EAST 303	Current Topics: Chinese Studies 1.	3
EAST 304	Current Topics: Chinese Studies 2.	3
EAST 305	Current Topics: Japanese Studies 1.	3
EAST 306	Current Topics: Japanese Studies 2.	3
EAST 313	Current Topics: Korean Studies 1.	3
EAST 314	Current Topics: Korean Studies 2.	3
EAST 364	Mass Culture and Postwar Japan.	3
EAST 370	History of Sexuality in Japan.	3
EAST 462	Japan in Asia.	3
EAST 493	Special Topics: East Asian Studies 1.	3
EAST 494	Special Topics: East Asian Studies 2.	3
FREN 336	Histoire de la langue française.	3
GERM 331	Germany after Reunification.	3
GERM 357	German Culture in European Context.	3
GERM 364	Gender and Society in German Literature and Culture.	3
GERM 365	Modern Short Fiction.	3
GERM 368	Fin-de-Siècle Vienna.	3
HISP 437	Colonial / Postcolonial Latin America.	3
ISLA 310	Women in Islam.	3
ISLA 325	Introduction to Shi'i Islam.	3
ISLA 355	Modern History of the Middle East.	3
ISLA 360	Islam and Politics in Africa	3
ISLA 365	Middle East Since the 1970's.	3

ISLA 410	History: Middle-East 1798-1918.	3
ISLA 411	History: Middle-East 1918-1945.	3
ISLA 415	Modern Iran: Anthropological Approach.	3
ISLA 420	Indo-Islamic Civilization: Medieval.	3
ISLA 421	Islamic Culture - Indian Subcontinent.	3
ITAL 230	Understanding Italy.	3
ITAL 295	Italian Cultural Studies.	3
ITAL 356	Medieval Discourses on Love.	3
ITAL 363	Gender, Literature and Society.	3
ITAL 365	The Italian Renaissance.	3
ITAL 371	The Italian Baroque.	3
ITAL 400	Italian Regional Identities.	3
JWST 211	Jewish Studies 1: Biblical Period.	3
JWST 216	Jewish Studies 2: 400 B.C.E. - 1000.	3
JWST 217	Jewish Studies 3: 1000 - 2000.	3
JWST 240	The Holocaust.	3
JWST 306	The American Jewish Community.	3
JWST 361	The Shtetl: 1500-1897.	3
JWST 365	Modern Jewish Ideologies.	3
JWST 366	History of Zionism.	3
LIBA 395	Individual Reading Course.	3
LLCU 212	Understanding Digital and Social Media.	3
RELG 201	Religions of the Ancient Near East.	3
RELG 203	Bible and Western Culture.	3
RELG 204	Judaism, Christianity and Islam.	3
RELG 270	Religious Ethics and the Environment.	3
RELG 322	Church and Empire to 1300 .	3
RELG 323	Church and State since 1300.	3
RELG 326	Christians in the Roman World.	3
RELG 331	Religion and Globalization.	3
RELG 334	Theology of History.	3
RELG 338	Women and the Christian Tradition.	3
RELG 375	Religion, Politics and Society.	3
RUSS 217	Russia's Eternal Questions.	3
RUSS 229	Introduction to Russian Folklore.	3
RUSS 427	Russian Fin de Siècle.	3
RUSS 428	Russian Avantgarde.	3
RUSS 430	High Stalinist Culture 1.	3

Stream 3: Philosophy and Religion

This stream is designed for students whose primary interests lie in the study of philosophy and religion across geographical boundaries and historical traditions.

Approved courses are listed below. The courses appearing in List A are introductory in nature and should be taken early in the program. The courses appearing in List B are of two kind:

1. courses taught in the "core" disciplines in this stream, and
2. courses taught in other disciplines which are nevertheless pertinent to this stream.

Though wide ranging, the choice of courses is limited by the stream's orientation, as well as by the overall objectives of the Liberal Arts Program.

The additional courses may be substituted with the approval of the Program Director.

Students must choose 30 credits as follows:

6 credits from the courses in List A

24 credits from the courses in List B

List A (6 credits)

Expand allContract all

Course	Title	Credits
ISLA 200	Islamic Civilization.	3
ISLA 210	Muslim Societies.	3
JWST 211	Jewish Studies 1: Biblical Period.	3
JWST 216	Jewish Studies 2: 400 B.C.E. - 1000.	3
PHIL 230	Introduction to Moral Philosophy 1.	3
PHIL 240	Political Philosophy 1.	3
POLI 231	Introduction to Political Theory.	3
RELG 201	Religions of the Ancient Near East.	3
RELG 203	Bible and Western Culture.	3
RELG 204	Judaism, Christianity and Islam.	3
RELG 207	Introduction to the Study of Religions.	3
RELG 252	Hinduism and Buddhism.	3
RELG 253	Religions of East Asia.	3
RELG 321	Western Intellectual Tradition.	3
RELG 334	Theology of History.	3
RELG 341	Introduction: Philosophy of Religion.	3
RELG 373	Christian Ethics of Love.	3
RELG 380	Religion, Philosophy, Modernity.	3

List B (24 credits)

Students in the Philosophy and Religion stream may choose from:

- any course (other than a course dedicated to teaching a language) at the 200 level or above in the following departments and programs: Philosophy (PHIL), Religious Studies (RELG), Catholic Studies (CATH), Islamic Studies (ISLA), and Jewish Studies (JWST); and
- any course in Political Science (POLI) listed in the Course Catalogue under the heading "Political Theory."

Students in this stream may also choose a maximum of 9 credits from the following list:

Expand allContract all

Course	Title	Credits
ANTH 209	Anthropology of Religion.	3
ANTH 318	Globalization and Religion.	3

CLAS 203	Greek Mythology.	3
CLAS 303	Ancient Greek Religion.	3
ENVR 203	Knowledge, Ethics and Environment. ¹	3
ENVR 400	Environmental Thought.	3
GERM 355	Nietzsche and Wagner.	3
GERM 367	Topics in German Thought.	3
HIST 320	Themes in Intellectual History.	3
HIST 350	Science and the Enlightenment.	3
HIST 440	Fiction and History.	3
ITAL 355	Dante and the Middle Ages.	3
LIBA 395	Individual Reading Course.	3
LLCU 301	Topics in Culture and Thought.	3

¹ ENVR 203 Knowledge, Ethics and Environment. is a prerequisite for ENVR 400 Environmental Thought..