**Liberal Arts**

**Program Structure**

The Bishop’s University Liberal Arts Program offers a dynamic, interdisciplinary major for particularly motivated students interested in the intensive study of the great themes and texts of Western civilization. The heart of the program is the Liberal Arts Foundation Courses (LIB 210–217), each of which engages, in an interdisciplinary and historical way, with a key theme in the history of the human condition. Students enrolled in the Liberal Arts Program are welcomed into Bishop’s with an introductory seminar (LIB 100) and culminate their experience with a final year seminar (LIB 300) or any LIB three hundred level course. Liberal Arts majors also complete a series of requirements from other departments (see below), for a total of 66 credits. Students in the Liberal Arts Program are encouraged to complete a second Major in a discipline of their choice. Many courses may be counted towards the requirements of both Majors. The Liberal Arts Program also offers an Honours degree, which requires the completion of a comprehensive research thesis.

**The Liberal Arts Major**

**Required Courses**

1. **First Year Seminar Course**

First year Liberal Arts majors enroll in this course in their first semester at Bishop’s, or the first time it is offered after they become a Liberal Arts Major.

**LIB 100a Introduction to the Study of Western Culture**  
3-3-1

By means of a study of classic texts in the Western cultural tradition, this class develops foundational skills in interdisciplinary education, reading, writing, conversation and seminar presentation.

2. **Other First Year Requirements**

- All Liberal Arts Majors must take CLA 100 or CLA 101 along with LIB 100, a Liberal Arts Foundation Course, and two electives in their first semester at Bishop’s.
- All Liberal Arts Majors must take an Introduction to Philosophy and an Introduction to Religion course, as well as a Liberal Arts Foundation Course and two electives in their second semester at Bishop’s.
- All Liberal Arts Majors must take FIH 101 or FIH 102 and HIS 104 in their first or second year at Bishop’s.

3. **Liberal Arts Foundation Courses**

Normally Liberal Arts students are enrolled in one Liberal Arts Foundation Course in each semester of their degree. Majors must complete at least four Foundation Course credits. Each course has a “culture” component that requires students to attend and discuss a selection of plays, musical performances, art exhibitions, or lectures each semester.

**LIB 210 Eros, Love and Desire**  
3-3-0

When Plato wrote that *eros* is “giving birth in beauty,” he sparked a debate that has lasted millennia. Does the erotic lead us upwards toward wisdom, truth, and love of thy neighbour? Or is *eros* the chaotic, anti-social, and even destructive force of Dionysian rapture? This course will explore these and other classic theories of eros, love and desire.

**LIB 211 Empire and its Enemies**  
3-3-0

“The sun never sets in my empire,” said Spanish King Carlos I in the 16th century—a phrase adopted by the British to signal not only the planetary breadth of their imperial achievement, but also the divine, solar blessing conferred on their conquests by God. What is this imperial aspiration, the desire to dominate? Why is Western history in a sense the history of empires constructed and empires resisted and destroyed? This course will trace the imperial aspiration and its enemies from the Roman city-state to the British nation-state to the eclipse of the state altogether by the modern capitalist corporation. It will analyze the various forms and modes of dominance and resistance up to and including the non-state actors of today.

**LIB 212 In Search of Justice**  
3-3-0

“Let justice roll down like water, and righteousness like an ever flowing stream.” So cried the prophet Amos, echoed thousands of years later when Martin Luther King insisted that “Power at its best is love implementing the demands of justice!” This course will explore the changing and always contested meaning of justice in its many forms in Western history. Is justice little more than the ancient Greek claim that one should “do good to one’s friends, and harm to one’s enemies”? Or is there a universal form of justice that recognizes civil rights and social justice for the poor, women, racial and ethnic minorities, gays and lesbians, and other marginalized peoples?

**LIB 213 The Use and Abuse of Beauty**  
3-3-0

French writer Stendhal said in the 19th century that “beauty is the promise of happiness” and, upon seeing the beauty of Florence, he wondrously proclaimed, “I was in a sort of ecstasy… absorbed in the contemplation of sublime beauty … Everything spoke so vividly to my soul.” Yet only decades later his compatriot poet Arthur Rimbaud, claimed that he wanted to “abuse” beauty, for he found her “bitter.” Dadaist and surrealist artist Tristan Tzara went even further, “I have a mad and starry desire to assassinate beauty…” Does Tzara signal not only a dramatic change in Western art, but the claim that all forms of harmony and beauty, including the personal and the political, are conservative. Is or the beautiful in some important sense still of what we might call “trascendent” importance to human life? This course will explore the fate of the beautiful, from the Greeks to 21st century life.

**LIB 214 The Human Will and Nature**  
3-3-0

The ecological crisis facing humanity today is not, German philosopher Martin Heidegger would claim, merely the product of recent economic productivity, nor can we solve it with yet more technology. It is the product of a “will to mastery” that has obsessed our culture, he claims, since the Greeks. Heidegger ominously warns that this “will to mastery becomes all the more urgent the more technology threatens to slip from human control.” This course will explore ideas for and against claims like those of Heidegger and, in so doing, address the global ecological turning point we appear to face.

**LIB 215 Ecstasy and Excess**  
3-3-0

“Joy is the most comprehensive mind…and it is from the summits of joy alone that each one will see the path to take.” American philosopher Alphonso Lingis claims here that humanity is the “ecstatic” species. In Greek the ek-static means literally to be outside, even beyond oneself—to transcend what and who one is. In the last few hundred years, artists, writers, philosophers, and others have claimed that ecstasy and excess are not merely temporary states, but the very condition of human life. This course will explore a variety of theories, from the biological to the philosophical and the virtual, inspired by the idea that there is no “human nature” that we can’t exceed.

**LIB 216/REL 208 The Divine and Ultimate Concern**  
3-3-0

The divine is that about which we are “ultimately concerned”—so said theologian Paul Tillich of Union Seminary in New York. Is this just a last-ditch attempt to salvage faith and spirituality in the midst of charges that religion is, at best, an “opiate of the masses” (Marx) and, at worst, “patently infantile” (Freud)? Or again, is the role of religion being taken over by its long time sister in spirit—art? This course will explore the troubled and passionate place of religious experience and the aesthetic in Western civilization.

**LIB 217 Space, Place & the Human Experience**  
3-3-0

Our environment has a powerful impact on our experiences and perceptions. In this course, the relationship between our bodies and the spaces they occupy will be examined. The difference between space and place will be explored, along with particular notions of each, including: empire and nation, home and homelessness, sacred spaces and places, liminal spaces, and mythical places. Through the examination of key texts, students will become familiar with essential notions of space and place, and the ways in which specific communities have engaged these notions in the formation of identities, both individually and collectively.
Modern science has given us an unprecedented understanding of nature - and with it, the power to transform our natural environment irrevocably. This interdisciplinary course will explore some key themes in the history and philosophy of science: the origins and evolution of Modern science; its roots in pre-Modern philosophy of nature; its flowering in the Scientific Revolution; the Modern era, in which science as scientific method is often taken for granted as the authoritative paradigm for all knowledge; the enormous contribution of science to society, economy and culture; as well as some important criticisms of the extent and character of scientific exploration of nature and human beings.

**LIB 222 Citizenship and Democratic Practice I**

3-3-0

Students learn not only the role and importance of civil society organizations, such as social movements, community groups, NGOs, churches and so on, but also commit themselves to an ongoing supervised internship in one or more of these organizations in Lennoxville, Sherbrooke or the wider Eastern Townships. At least one or both of these internship courses (depending on the demands of each internship) is required for the Minor in Social Justice and Citizenship.

**LIB 223 Citizenship and Democratic Practice II**

3-3-0

Students learn not only the role and importance of civil society organizations, such as social movements, community groups, NGOs, churches and so on, but also commit themselves to an ongoing supervised internship in one or more of these organizations in Lennoxville, Sherbrooke or the wider Eastern Townships. At least one or both of these internship courses (depending on the demands of each internship) is required for the Minor in Social Justice and Citizenship.

**4. Graduating Year Seminar**

**LIB 300ab Interdisciplinary Seminar**

3-3-0

A team-taught seminar which will explore a selected theme of interdisciplinary interest.

**5. Language Requirement**

Liberal Arts Major are required to take three courses in any single language (ancient or modern) and must have begun their language requirements by their second year.

**6. Social Sciences Requirement**

Any two Social Science courses (6 credits).

**7. Natural Sciences/Mathematics Requirement**

At least one course (3 credits) from Natural Sciences or Mathematics.

**8. Humanities Breadth/Depth Requirements**

Liberal Arts Majors are required to take 6 credits from two of the following three departments: Drama, English, Music.

Liberal Arts Majors are also required to take two 300-level courses in the Humanities (not including LIB courses).

**The Liberal Arts Honours Degree**

Liberal Arts students may opt to complete an Honours Degree. In addition to fulfilling the normal requirements for a Major, an Honours student must register in the fall of his or her final year for LIB 400, the requirement of which is to write a supervised, interdisciplinary Honours thesis. In keeping with Divisional regulations, a 70% average, calculated on the best 60 credits in the program, would be necessary for graduation with an Honours degree.

**LIB 400 Honours Thesis I**

3-3-0

Each student researches, writes, and publically defends a comprehensive thesis proposal under the supervision of at least two faculty members, one of whom must be a member of the Liberal Arts Program faculty. Students must receive a grade of 75% or higher in this course in order to be permitted to register for LIB 401.

**LIB 401 Honours Thesis II**

3-3-0

Based on the proposal completed in LIB 400, students draft, revise, and defend an honours thesis, as examined by all members of the Liberal Arts Program.

**Other Liberal Arts Courses**

**Liberal Arts Thematic Seminar Courses**

These courses are in-depth, interdisciplinary seminar courses on topics relevant to the program of study of Liberal Arts majors. Instructors and topics are determined each year.

**LIB 270 / ITA 270 Venice And Its Mystique**

3-3-1*

“As the Twentieth century draws to a close, no one knows quite what to expect, if anything, of the future. There is a strong need for magic, for a place that is outside of time, for a postponement of reality. For Venice.” — Gore Vidal

Once the crossroad of western and eastern civilizations, over the centuries Venice has been seen as the symbol of freedom and cosmopolitanism, but also as the city where artistic and cultural production can thrive. Venice surreal setting and the lushness of its artifacts have become emblematic of the cultural production of Western civilization, creating a unique landscape of unsurpassed aesthetic richness. It is in this exceptional urban scenery, that blends together water, art, and culture, that this five-week course will take place. This language and culture course will provide students with a basic knowledge of Italian and familiarize them with the history and culture of one of the few cities that can fulfill our “need for magic,” the “Serennisima.” This course will be taught in Italian. Students who wish to count the course for Italian credit will submit their assignments in Italian and participate in certain additional activities in Italian.

**LIB 370 Social Movements and Social Change in Brazil**

3-3-0

This is an intensive spring course that takes place primarily in Brazil. It consists of the study of Brazilian social movements, politics and culture in general and, in particular, the Movement of Landless Rural Workers (Movimento de Trabalhadores Rurais Sem Terra do Brasil, or MST). The course will include studies of and meetings with Brazilian social movements, labour unions, political parties, universities and other actors on the political scene in Brazil. The period in Brazil would be preceded and followed by research and essay assignments. The language of instruction is English, and all meetings in Brazil are translated.

**LIB 371 New Orleans: Art, Activism and Culture before and after Katrina**

3-3-0

Students in this course prepare for a March study trip to New Orleans by researching the history, politics and culture of this extraordinary city. There will be a particular focus on the aftermath of the Hurricane Katrina disaster, including activist and social movement organizing in response to the destruction of whole neighborhoods. On the basis of their research and experiences in New Orleans, each student will write and submit a comprehensive research paper at the end of the semester.

**LIB 384 / ITA 384 Dante’s Divine Comedy**

3-3-1

According to Dante Alighieri, none of us can save the wound in our souls without undertaking our own pilgrimage to hell, without purging our sins, and without letting go of ourselves so as to experience ecstatic union with the foundations of all reality. This is perhaps what James Joyce meant when he said that Dante is his “spiritual food” and that reading Dante is like “looking at the sun.” This course will unfold some of the philosophical, poetic, religious, political and historical richness of Dante’s allegorical masterpiece and lead each student on a personal journey through Inferno, Purgatorio and Paradiso.

**LIB 385 / ITA 385 Giovanni Boccaccio’s Decameron**

3-3-0

One of the most enjoyable, beloved and imitated literary works of all time, the Decameron by Giovanni Boccaccio (1313-1375) is among the great texts whose influence transcends the written word and expands into almost every area of the Western cultural tradition. A book on love according to Boccaccio himself, this masterpiece is in reality an audacious and sophisticated human comedy that brings to the reader the richness of life. Through an in-depth reading of the short stories that comprise the work, this course will explore the philosophical, historical, political, social, and gender related issues that arise from this literary masterpiece. We will also examine the enormous influence this text had on future visual and performative arts, literature and music.

**LIB 386 Montaigne’s Essays and Early Modern Humanities**

3-3-0

This course is an exploration of Michel Montaigne’s Essays, published in three volumes between 1580-1588. Framed by his celebrated phrase “What do I know?” (Que sais-je?), these writings examine the human condition with the fresh outlook of early modern skepticism. As Montaigne searches for moral examples that can assist us in the conduct of our lives, he gives surprising new inflexions to traditional wisdom on topics such as love, friendship, education, conversation, health, and dying.
LIB 387 Exuberant Beauty: The Poetry, Visual Art and Philosophy of William Blake 3-3-0
For William Blake beauty is not the delicate, the calm or the harmonious, but the exuberant. For William Blake the pathway to wisdom is not prudence or fear, but excess. This extraordinary poet, visual artist and philosopher created a new world of culture in which humans are fulfilled only in the creative imagination. His poetry, engravings and paintings are unique and brilliant and his philosophy stokes revolutionary claims that are usually credited to later thinkers like Hegel and Nietzsche. In this course we will study Blake’s works with an eye to understanding his philosophical originality. We will follow the great literary critic Northrop Frye’s advice to “Read Blake or go to hell.”

LIB 389ah/GER 389ab History and Memory in Berlin, Literature, Film and Visual Arts 3-3-1
This interdisciplinary course will explore (re)writings of German history by intellectuals and artists associated to Germany’s capital, (re)writings which expose the flaws and fallacies of a nation’s narrative. We will focus on the Weimar Republic, The Cold War and its aftermaths. Starting with a brief overview of Georg Simmel’s sociological depiction of the metropolis, we will then look at how works from Weimar Berlin revealed not only the instability of the nation’s founding myths but also the conflicts and contradictions which plagued the Weimar Republic (in literature, Benjamin, Brecht, Döblin; in visual arts, Dix, Grosz, Kirchner). We will then turn to the Cold War and its aftermaths, to examine how memory gets (de)constructed in literary texts and songs (Brausig, Grünbein, Bargeld), films (Wings of Desire, Berlin is in Germany), and architecture (Jewish Museum, Holocaust Memorial, documentary Berlin Babylon). A portion of this course may take place in Berlin – for museum and monument visits, literary walks, and cultural immersion.

No prerequisite

LIB 390ab / GER 390ab (De)constructing Identity in Vienna: Disclosing Discontent in Austrian Literature 3-3-1
In this course, we will examine how intellectuals and artists associated with Austria’s capital have been, ever since the advent of Freudian psychoanalysis, enlightened witnesses to their nation’s identity construction. Our interdisciplinary approach will enable us to investigate our topic from a variety of angles, focusing on two periods of Austrian history, namely the period around 1900 and the aftermaths of WWII. Starting with a brief introduction not only to Freud’s psychoanalytical theories but also to his sociological observations (Civilization and its Discontents), we will look at how literature (Schnitzler, Hofmannsthal, Zweig) and visual arts (Klimt, Schiele, Kokoschka), in the Vienna of 1900, portrayed the individual’s unconscious desires and torments. We will then turn to the aftermaths of WWII and study literary texts (Bachmann, Bernhard, Jelinek) and films (Haneke) which engage with Austrian history and culture, with a nation’s repressed feelings of anger and guilt. A portion of this course may take place in Vienna – for museum and monument visits, literary walks, and cultural immersion. Classes will be conducted in English. Students in a German Studies program will submit their written assignments in German and will attend a discussion hour in German on alternating weeks.

Prerequisites: None. However, students who wish to have this course counted for German Studies program credit must have already completed GER 202 and GER 204, and will complete various components of the course in German as stipulated in course description. Otherwise, the course will be counted as a Liberal Arts/free elective course.

Minor in Social Justice and Citizenship
A healthy democracy requires that its citizens have the insight and skills to freely govern themselves. The university is therefore a vital institution to democracy. Accordingly, Bishop’s University is committed to help its students learn “to practice the respectful and informed dialogue that sustains democracy [and] to exercise the rights and responsibilities of good citizenship.”

While each department and program in the university affects this principle in its own way, the Minor In Social Justice and Citizenship takes this goal as its explicit aim. Each student enrolled in this minor completes eight courses (24 credits) made up of a mandatory theory course (LIB 212 or LIB 217), an internship of either one or two semesters (LIB222 and LIB223) and a further five or six courses chosen from the elective list below. In LIB 212, “In Search of Justice,” students seek to understand the nature of human freedom, the institutions and cultural practices that seek to cultivate it, and the forms of power and manipulation that threaten and undermine it. In LIB217, “Space, Place, and the Human Experience,” students explore questions of social justice inside a spatial framework, in an attempt to understand how placemaking and spatial structures play into the formation of society & culture. In LIB 222 and LIB223, “Citizenship and Democratic Practice,” students not only learn about the agents of democratic practice in civil society (individuals, artistic and cultural communities, social movements, NGOs, churches, etc) but are also required to participate in supervised internships in local and regional community and civil society organizations. Students in the Minor are also encouraged to do at least one of the international courses affiliated with the Minor: LIB 370 Social Movements and Social Change in Brazil, Lib371 New Orleans: Art, Activism and Culture before and after Katrina, and SLP399 Praxis Malawi.

Elective Course List:
Students must take any five or six courses from this list, albeit no more than three from any one department (depending on their internship).

EDU 305 Multicultural Education
ENG 239 Feminist Literary Theory
ENG 342 Romanticism and Revolution
ESG 224 Human Impact on the Environment
ESG 248 Geography of Food
ESG 266 Environmental Policy
ESG 268 Global Environmental Change
ESG 350 Environmental Justice
ESG 366 Ethical Perspectives on Environmental Problems
HIS 108 A Global History of Indigenous Peoples
LIB 211 Empire and Its Enemies
LIB 214 Human Will and Nature
LIB 370 Social Movements and Social Change In Brazil
LIB 371 New Orleans: Art, Activism and Culture before and after Katrina

PHI 140 Introduction to Ethics
PHI 172 Introduction to Social and Political Philosophy
PHI 248 Philosophical Foundations of Feminism
PHI 324 The Philosophy and Politics of Karl Marx
PHI 342 Seminar in Social and Political Philosophy
PHI 366 Critical Theory

REL 200 Politics and Religion
SOC 207 North American First Nations
SOC 208 Criminology
SOC 235 Women and Penal System
SOC 250 Social movements
SOC 260 Community
Modern Languages, Literatures and Cultures

The Department of Modern Languages, Literatures, and Cultures offers an Honours program in Hispanic Studies, Majors in Modern Languages and Hispanic Studies, International Majors in German and Italian Studies, as well as Concentrations/Minors in German Studies, Hispanic Studies, Italian Studies, and Japanese Studies (International Concentration).

The Major in Modern Languages is 60 credits equally divided between two language Concentrations (30/30), which will be specified on the student’s final transcript. The languages available for Concentrations are German, Italian, Japanese and Spanish, as well as English Language Studies and French (offered by the Département des études françaises et québécoises). Students may choose one of their Concentrations in English or French, but completing Concentrations in English and French is not permitted for the Major in Modern Languages. The requirements and courses for the Concentrations within the Major in Modern Languages are listed under each specific language.

* Please note:

1) MLA 101 is a graduation requirement for all Majors in the MLA department and will normally be taken in the first year of studies. The following students are exempt from this requirement: Students with an Honours in Hispanic Studies, students taking the Major in Hispanic Studies on a part-time basis, students with more than one major. **Other students may request an exemption if there is not sufficient space in their curricula.**

2) Students registered in the Major in Modern Languages must declare their two languages by the end of their first year.

3) Students enrolled in all Majors in the MLA department must successfully complete the Information Retrieval and Evaluation Skills for the Humanities Lab (ILT 102b). This one-credit laboratory course should be taken in the first or second year of studies.

4) Unless otherwise stated, all courses will be taught in the language specified in the course title.

Adjunct Concentration in Modern Languages

Adjunct Concentration in Modern Languages: A 10-course concentration in a single language: German Studies, Hispanic Studies, Italian Studies, Japanese Studies (International), French (intermediate or advanced levels). This is effectively one half of a two-language Major in Modern Languages with the typical 10-course concentration. The specifications for this adjunct concentration are identical to those currently specified in the different language sections in the academic calendar.

The **Certificate in Modern Languages** is designed to provide part-time students with a working knowledge of at least two of the modern languages taught at Bishop’s University: English, French, German, Italian, Japanese, and/or Spanish.

Students must complete a total of 10 courses (30 credits). They choose two main languages of concentration and complete at least 12 credits in each. The 6 remaining credits may be taken in either of these two main languages, or in one other language. Please consult course offerings under individual languages within the Department of Modern Languages, Literatures, and Cultures, the Department of English and the Département des études françaises et québécoises.

Credits obtained in the certificate program may be applied towards a degree program in Modern Languages; however, students may not be enrolled simultaneously in a degree program and in the Certificate in Modern Languages.

**Admission requirements:** See Regulations for Certificate Programs.

**MLA Courses**

MLA (Modern Languages) courses are offered by the Department of Modern Languages, Literatures and Cultures through the collaboration of the different language sections. These courses may be taken as free electives or as part of the Humanities Divisional Requirement.

**MLA 101  Issues in Language and Linguistics  3-3-0**

Does language actually shape the world that surrounds us? Are there definitive language universals? Are all languages of equal complexity? This course will provide students with an overview of issues in the study of languages. It will introduce them to basic concepts in linguistics, familiarize them with the main components of language and common pursuits of linguists, and expose them to some long-standing debates in the field.

*No prerequisite*