

Liberal Arts

Liberal Arts Major (63 credits) MAJLIB

Faculty

Jenn Cianca,

B.A. (Bishop's), M.A., Ph.D. (Toronto);
Associate Professor,
Chair of the Department

Bruce Gilbert,

B.A.(Toronto), M.A.(McGill),
Ph.D.(Penn.State); Associate Professor
Coordinator for the Minor in Social
Justice and Citizenship

Program Overview

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 210–218), 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 300-level course. Liberal Arts majors also complete a series of requirements from other departments (see below), for a total of 63 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.

Programs

Liberal Arts Honours Degree (69 credits)

HONLIB

Liberal Arts students may opt to complete an Honours Degree. In addition to fulfilling the normal requirements for a Major (see below), 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.

Prerequisite: LIB 400

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 100 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
LIB 211	Empire and its Enemies
LIB 212	In Search of Justice
LIB 213	The Use and Abuse of Beauty
LIB 214	The Human Will and Nature
LIB 215	Ecstasy and Excess
LIB 216/REL 208	The Divine and Ultimate Concern
LIB 217	Space, Place & the Human Experience
LIB 218	The History and Philosophy of Science

4. Graduating Year Seminar

LIB 300 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).

Minor in Social Justice and Citizenship (24 credits) MINSJC

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 place making 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.

List of Courses

Liberal Arts Foundation Courses

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 it "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. Or is the beautiful in some important sense still of what we might call "transcendent" 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.

LIB 218 The History and Philosophy of Science 3-3-0
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 ad 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.

Liberal Arts Independent Studies

LIB 230	Independent Study I	3-3-0
Students pursue a course of directed, independent study on an interdisciplinary theme under the supervision of a faculty member.		
LIB 231	Independent Study II	3-3-0
Students pursue a course of directed, independent study on an interdisciplinary theme under the supervision of a faculty member.		
LIB 232	Independent Study III	3-3-0
Students pursue a course of directed, independent study on an interdisciplinary theme under the supervision of a faculty member.		
LIB 233	Independent Study IV	3-3-0
Students pursue a course of directed, independent study on an interdisciplinary theme under the supervision of a faculty member.		

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
HIS 217	The United States Since 1945
HIS 269	First Nations/Settler Relations in Canada
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 100	On the Way to the Good Life
PHI 104	The Hopes and Conflicts of Social and Political Life
PHI 349	Topics in Feminist Philosophy
PHI 324	The Philosophy and Politics of Karl Marx
PHI340	Topics in Ethics
PHI 342	Seminar in Social and Political Philosophy
PHI 366	Critical Theory
REL 200	Politics and Religion
SOC 207	Sociology of Indigenous-Settler Relations
SOC 208	Criminology
SOC 235	Women and Penal System
SOC 250	Social movements
SOC 260	Community
SOC 292	Social Policy
SOC 298	Social Problems
SOC 309	Advanced Seminar in global Colonization and Decolonization
SOC 340	Women: Theory and Ideology
SOC 396	Post-Colonial Theory
WOM 101	Introduction to Women's Studies
WOM 201	Women and Feminism in Canada
WOM 305	Women and Feminism: Selected Topics
SLP 399	Situated Learning and Praxis (Praxis Malawi)

Modern Languages, Literatures and Cultures

Faculty

Modern Languages, Literatures and Cultures

Sandra Ward,
B.A., M.A. (Bishop's); Senior Instructor
ESL Coordinator

German Studies

Sophie Boyer,
B.A., M.A., Ph.D. (McGill); Professor

Hispanic Studies

Gilberto D'Escoubet,
B.A., M.A. (U de Montréal),
Senior Instructor

Jordan Tronsgard,
B.A., M.A. (Calgary), Ph.D. (Ottawa)
Associate Professor
Chair of the Department

Japanese Studies

Katsunori Hizawa,
B.A. (Waseda), M.A.(Illinois);
Special Instructor

Program Overview

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

Major in Modern Languages (60 credits)

MAJMLA

This major is 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, 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:*