

Module Handbook  
of the  
Bachelor of Arts in Humanities, the Arts, and Social Thought  
at  
Bard College Berlin  
A Liberal Arts University

May 2018

## **Core Component**

The core component (48 ECTS) consists of 6 core modules over six semesters. All core modules are semester-long with a seminar format (meeting for two sessions of 90 minutes per week) and a lecture component of up to four 90 minute sessions per semester. Each module is designated 8ECTS.

## **MODULE: Greek Civilization**

### **Learning Outcomes:**

- Substantial knowledge of major texts, currents and artifacts relevant to the civilization of Classical Greece
- Familiarity with key events and historical figures, as well as religious, intellectual and artistic movements that characterized this civilization, and its African and Near-Eastern roots
- Knowledge of the main literary genres and theoretical disciplines that originated and were systematized in this period, and of the cultural and political debates that informed them, and were in turn triggered by them
- Deep understanding of the concepts and scientific, moral and aesthetic values that constitute a key foundation for all learning since this time
- Critical reflection on the ethical and political underpinnings and the philosophical stakes in these concepts and values
- Ability to analyse primary and secondary sources, and to interpret their meaning with reference both to their immediate context and enduring significance
- Familiarity with the problem of transmission and translation of ancient objects and texts and methods adopted in the face of this challenge
- Presentation of arguments and ideas, both one's own and those of authors and fellow students, in both oral and written form

### **Content:**

The seminar course in this module is concerned with the art, architecture, literature, and perhaps especially the philosophy of Classical Greece, in connection to its African and Near-Eastern roots. Through a close and careful engagement with works, indeed the first works in the western tradition, of literature (epic, comic, and tragic), history, and philosophy—paired with an analysis of architecture and archaeological finds housed here in Berlin—students will discover the modes of inquiry that characterized the cultural production of Ancient Greece. By cultivating students' understanding of the distant and often strange world we find in these texts and objects, this module helps students to see the ways in these modes of inquiry have influenced nearly every field of study they will encounter at Bard College Berlin, including philosophy, psychology, history, art history, aesthetics, political theory, and rhetoric.

Prerequisites:	None
Credit Requirements:	Preparation for classes; attendance; regular, active participation; 1-4 term essays; 1 final essay (total length: 5000-7000 words).
Workload:	Contact hours: 45h, independent study: 195h, total: 240h
Evaluation:	Seminar preparation and participation 30%; term essays 30%; final essay 40%
Credits:	8 credits
Frequency:	Annual
Duration:	1 semester
Composition:	Seminar

## **MODULE: Medieval Literatures and Cultures**

### **Learning Outcomes:**

- Familiarity with key texts, motifs and cultural dialogues in the medieval period, across a variety of contexts
- Ability to read and understand texts from a range of genres, and to identify both their stylistic features and the yield of historical information they provide
- Awareness of the historical manifestations and stakes of cultural conflict, interaction and clash
- Familiarity with methodological approaches to literature, historiographical study and comparative religion
- Ability to present, in written and oral form, the analysis and interpretation of texts from a range of sources (literary, religious, philosophical)
- Ability to undertake the exploration of a single theme, concept or cultural concern through the study of texts, which have distinct purposes and different provenances, and to present such an analysis effectively in written and oral form

### **Content:**

The module introduces students to the civilizations and cultures which developed after Antiquity, and to the religious traditions and frameworks through which they defined themselves. It focuses on the major civilizational entity that emerged and developed between the fifth and the fifteenth centuries, Western Christendom and Islam. It examines Christendom's conception of cultural heritage and legitimacy (its distinctive claims to the legacy of Antiquity, and its relationship to Judaism). Secondly, it considers the way in which the definition of society in religious terms shaped and influenced the discussion and treatment of issues, questions and fields of endeavor that in modernity came to be regarded as differentiated from religion (politics, art). Lastly, it looks at the claim to universal validity, which undergirded the values of these societies and civilizations, and the nature of its connection to their religious and theological ordering. The module provides historical knowledge of the medieval period in Western Christendom, an introduction to (and competence in reading) its major texts and genres, and an ability to identify, explore and analyze cultural motifs across a variety of sources. It also offers a study in the problem of culture Contact and interaction, investigating the basis of conflict and opposition, and of co-existence, tolerance and mutual influence.

Prerequisites:	None
Credit Requirements:	Preparation for classes; attendance; regular, active participation; 1-4 term essays; 1 final essay (total length: 5000-7000 words).
Workload:	Contact hours: 45h, independent study: 195h, total: 240h
Evaluation:	Seminar preparation and participation 30%; term essays 30%; final essay 40%
Credits:	8 credits
Frequency:	Annual
Duration:	1 semester
Composition:	Seminar

## **MODULE: Renaissance Art and Thought**

### **Learning Outcomes:**

- Substantial knowledge of selected works of art, art theory, literature, and political thought from the fourteenth through sixteenth centuries, including an awareness of the historical and (in the case of artworks) physical contexts in which they were made
- Understanding the key values that shape and emerge from Renaissance artistic production, such as naturalism, realism and perspective, which inform art and literature but also political theory and natural science, alongside values like harmony, grace, and *disegno* that define the era's aesthetics
- A theoretical and practical understanding of perspective, its guiding role in the development of Renaissance art, its implications for both political theory and philosophy, and the relationships among art, mathematics and natural science it creates
- Familiarity with broader intellectual currents, such as humanism and Neoplatonism, that shape cultural production in the Renaissance and inform its self-definition
- An understanding of the conception of nature that develops in the Renaissance in the context of both art and science, including the ability to consider critically the conditions from which the modern scientific method emerges
- Ability to analyze, interpret and discuss works of visual art in both written and oral expression
- A capacity for formal analysis, for thinking through the relationship of form to meaning, and for the critical evaluation of one's own direct responses to works of art

### **Content:**

This core module addresses the art of the Renaissance, its contemporaneous theorization (including the relevance of Renaissance art theory to other fields of endeavor), and the values and intellectual currents that shape, and are shaped by, Renaissance artistic production. This seminar course proceeds through the close reading of a small number of artworks and texts and the dialogue among them. Students have the opportunity to critically examine the principal intellectual and cultural concerns of the period in terms emerging from the specificity of individual works of art and (literary, political, or philosophical) thought. Sustained attention is given to the development of perspective and its broader implications and its metaphorization in political theory and philosophy, as a major intellectual shift in the European tradition that grows directly out of artistic practices. The changing conception of nature and the human relationship to the natural world is another focus, where students consider the close relationship between art and science in the Renaissance and the foundations for a nascent scientific method. Further, throughout the course of this module, students will learn how to engage works of visual art closely and critically, to develop the means for interpretive formal analysis, and to articulate and evaluate their own direct responses to individual artworks, considering the implications of those responses in light of the intellectual issues and values addressed in the course.

Prerequisites:	None
Credit Requirements:	Preparation for classes; attendance; regular, active participation; 1-4 term essays; 1 final essay (total length: 5000-7000 words).
Workload:	Contact hours: 45h, independent study: 195h, total: 240h
Evaluation:	Seminar preparation and participation 30%; term essays 30%; final essay 40%
Credits:	8 credits
Frequency:	Annual
Duration:	1 semester
Composition:	Seminar

## **MODULE: Early Modern Science**

### **Learning Outcomes:**

- Substantial knowledge of significant discoveries in astronomy, mechanics and analytic geometry during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries
- A comprehensive understanding of the philosophical issues at stake in these discoveries
- A comprehensive understanding of theories of progress in scientific knowledge
- Familiarity with interdisciplinarity as a reflection on the dialogue and the differences between methods, here those of experimental science, history, and philosophy
- Practical experience with the design and interpretation of basic physical experimentation
- A theoretical understanding of the significance of experimental results
- The ability to describe, in written and oral expression, empirical results of historical experiments with reference to their methodological significance
- The ability to describe, in written and oral expression, empirical results of historical experiments with reference to their theoretical significance

### **Content:**

This core module is concerned with the innovations in scientific method in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, a period that constituted a particularly fruitful, even decisive phase in scientific exploration and discovery. The module explores the significance for philosophical analysis—and for the humanities more generally—of the testing of natural phenomena by means of rigorous, mathematically-informed method (the ‘scientific method’—known to us today simply as ‘science’). The module’s two-fold focus—philosophical and methodological—enables students not only to evaluate the scientific research of the period (as recorded in its classic texts) but to apply this learning to other processes of thought and innovation, and to the analysis of contemporary scientific experiments. The module therefore combines a historical and practical scientific education with a philosophical investigation of the procedures and consequences—as well as the cultural significance—of scientific thinking and research.

Prerequisites:	None
Credit Requirements:	Preparation for classes; attendance; regular, active participation; 1-4 term essays; 1 final essay (total length: 5000-7000 words).
Workload:	Contact hours: 45h, independent study: 195h, total: 240h
Evaluation:	Seminar preparation and participation 30%; term essays 30%; final essay 40%
Credits:	8 credits
Frequency:	Annual
Duration:	1 semester
Composition:	Seminar

## **MODULE: Origins of Political Economy**

### **Learning Outcomes:**

- Familiarity with key texts, concepts and debates in the intellectual history of economics and social and political theory
- Understanding of the emergence of political economy, the philosophical discourse which sought to encompass, analyse and correct the means and mechanisms by which societies and populations provide for their own maintenance, organization and development
- Knowledge of the historical trajectory followed by political economy, from its beginnings in the late seventeenth century through its connections with ‘moral sense’ philosophy in the eighteenth century, to the emergence of Marxism in the nineteenth, and of philosophies of money in the early twentieth
- Awareness of the links between political economy and the wider discourses of culture: the origins of the novel; the influence of economic thought on language and vocabulary
- Understanding of the linkages between the claims, preoccupations and proposals of political economy and contemporary debates concerning questions of equality, identity, legal status, and economic justice
- Ability to describe, in written and oral presentation, the central arguments and technical concepts of foundational texts in the intellectual history of economic, political and social theory
- Ability to link, in written and oral presentation, the arguments and claims of political- or social-theoretical texts with the form and subject matter of literary and other cultural documents and artefacts

### **Content:**

The module explores the intellectual history of the contemporary disciplines of economics, political theory and sociology, by examining the origins of the discourse known as “political economy,” the philosophical study of the means and processes by which societies and populations provide for their own survival and development. It offers an introduction to the reach and implications of this endeavor, its relationship to questions of law, sovereignty and political representation as well as war and the definition of human identity. In keeping with its attention to the formative history of modern categories and disciplines of knowledge, the module also addresses the way in which economic thinking influences literary texts and cultural exchange, from the shaping of novelistic plot to the connotations of everyday language. It allows students to understand, draw upon and critique the historical formulation of contemporary problems and concerns such as inequality, the sources and circulation of wealth, and the connection (and differentiation) between the economic and political spheres.

Prerequisites:	None
Credit Requirements:	Preparation for classes; attendance; regular, active participation; 1-4 term essays; 1 final essay (total length: 5000-7000 words).
Workload:	Contact hours: 45h, independent study: 195h, total: 240h
Evaluation:	Seminar preparation and participation 30%; term essays 30%; final essay 40%
Credits:	8 credits
Frequency:	Annual
Duration:	1 semester
Composition:	Seminar

## **MODULE: Modernism**

### **Learning Outcomes:**

- Familiarity with key texts, concepts and theories associated with “Modernism” as an aesthetic and philosophical category, and with its meanings in literature, art, architecture and media history.
- Knowledge of the historical conditions of the emergence of Modernism in different cultural contexts and the relationship between its distinctive manifestations.
- Familiarity with nineteenth- and early twentieth-century epistemologies relevant for the emergence and development of Modernism.
- Ability to engage critically with aesthetic, scientific and philosophical discourses focused on a single concept or theme, and to present such analysis in written and oral form.
- Ability to link the arguments and claims of philosophical and scientific texts to the structure, styles and content of literary and artistic material, and to present such analysis effectively in written and oral form.
- Ability to explore and offer insights about the relevance of the issues raised by the module topics for contemporary debates in aesthetics, art criticism and philosophy.

### **Content:**

The module offers an overview and critical analysis of the emergence, historical development and meaning of the category of Modernism, a term which describes methods, projects and attempted revolutions across the arts and sciences at the end of the nineteenth and the beginning of the early twentieth century. Starting from the analysis of the historical, sociological and aesthetic claims made by modernist artists, writers and architects, it considers how these proposals were manifested in their works, and what the key stylistic features, ambitions and innovations of modernist art were. The module also attends to the question of cultural influence and interaction, looking at the different contexts of modernism across Europe and elsewhere, and at the diverse sources (post-colonial, historical) of inspiration for modernist works and practices. It examines the relationship between literary and aesthetic technique and experimentation in science and philosophy, or the ways in which the various branches of modernist endeavor shared an epistemology. Finally it allows students to formulate connections between the claims and achievements of the modernists and aesthetic practices today, most notably, the status of art itself, and the connection between aesthetics and other branches of knowledge.

Prerequisites:	None
Credit Requirements:	Preparation for classes; attendance; regular, active participation; 1-4 term essays; 1 final essay (total length: 5000-7000 words).
Workload:	Contact hours: 45h, independent study: 195h, total: 240h
Evaluation:	Seminar preparation and participation 30%; term essays 30%; final essay 40%
Credits:	8 credits
Frequency:	Annual
Duration:	1 semester
Composition:	Seminar



## **MODULE: Mathematics and Sciences**

### **Learning Outcomes:**

- Familiarity with the aims and functions of a field of contemporary scientific endeavor
- Mastery of basic mathematical knowledge and its application to a field of research
- Ability to understand and participate in debates on the uses of contemporary scientific research
- Awareness of the wider relationships between scientific knowledge and contemporary culture
- Capacity to complete exercises and projects proper to mathematical analysis or its use a contemporary disciplinary or practical field

### **Content:**

This module provides an introduction to methods and key questions guiding research in the natural sciences, and to the mathematical tools fundamental for the disciplines of the humanities or social sciences. Courses address the mathematical knowledge essential for economics (linear algebra, analytic geometry, complex numbers), for the study of philosophical logic, and for the acquisition of skills required for coding and programming. Courses may also examine ethical controversies in recent scientific discovery (such as the use made of developments in the field of genetics), or traditions of scientific inquiry and their cultural formation.

Prerequisites: None

Credit Requirements: Preparation for classes; attendance; regular, active participation; homework exercises ; final project (length: 5000-7000 words) or final exam (90 minutes)

Workload: Contact hours: 45h, independent study: 195h, total: 240h

Evaluation: Seminar preparation and participation: 30%; homework exercises 30%; final project 40%

Credits: 8 credits

Frequency: Annual

Duration: 1 semester

Composition: Seminar

## **Concentrations**

Students choose 1 area of concentration from the following three: Ethics and Politics, Art and Aesthetics, Literature and Rhetoric.

In their area of concentration students take four foundational modules (32ECTS) and four advanced modules (32ECTS).

### **Ethics and Politics**

The Ethics and Politics concentration introduces students both to the historical foundations of ethical and political life, and to its ancient, modern and contemporary theoretical conceptualizations. Through careful reading and interpretation of primary sources, students engage with fundamental problems in ethics and politics, and with the moral and ideological perspectives indispensable for understanding the character and nature of human societies in their universal and particular dimensions. By focusing on and exploring in depth themes, authors, and/or historical periods, the concentration allows students to enhance their knowledge of the essential dilemmas of ethical and political life, while engaging with the main interpretative approaches and disciplinary debates in the fields of ethics and political thought. The concentration aims to refine students' understanding of the conditions of modern society, and to deepen their familiarity with the main streams in which these conditions have been considered. A central aim of the concentration is to enable students to deepen their reflection on the theory and practice of democratic citizenship.

## **Foundational Modules Ethics and Politics**

### **MODULE: Ethics and Moral Philosophy**

#### **Learning Outcomes:**

- Theoretical and empirical knowledge of fundamental ancient, modern and contemporary conceptions of ethics
- Familiarity with the main approaches to ethical evaluation from antiquity to our times
- Ability to analyse primary sources and interpret their meaning with reference to their historical significance
- Ability to present and critically examine, in oral and written expression, key concepts and arguments in the history of ethical thought

#### **Content:**

This module uses a historical approach to introduce pivotal debates in ethical thought. It shows how different ethical approaches grew out of discrete political formations, responding to the dilemmas characteristic of those formations. The module offers a comprehensive introduction to the main systems of ethical theory, and to the themes and problems that recur in the elaboration of ethics as a field of inquiry. It points to the ways in which philosophical deliberations about theoretical concerns can be brought to bear on real-world challenges and conflicts. Critical for this investigation of the relationship between theory and practice is reflection on one or more historical institutions or documents relevant for interdisciplinary understanding of the interplay between ethics and politics.

Prerequisites:	None
Credit Requirements:	Preparation for classes; attendance; regular, active participation; 1-4 term assignments; 1 final essay (total length: 5000-7000 words).
Workload:	Contact hours: 45h, Independent study: 195h, total: 240h
Evaluation:	Seminar preparation and participation 30%; term assignments 30%; final essay 40%
Credits:	8 credits
Frequency:	Annual
Duration:	1 semester
Composition:	Seminar

## **MODULE: History of Political Thought**

### **Learning Outcomes:**

- Theoretical and empirical knowledge of the history of social and political thought
- Open engagement with various conceptualizations and manifestations of liberal democratic citizenship
- Ability to analyse primary sources and interpret their meaning with reference to their historical significance
- Ability to present and critically examine, in oral and written expression, key concepts and arguments in the history of political thought

### **Content:**

This module offers an overview and analysis of the main works and debates in the development of the discourses now variously known as political theory, political thought, and political philosophy. Organized around a thematic focus (such as the concepts of “freedom” or “equality”), and through consideration of theoretical texts and historical documents drawn from Ancient Greece to the present day, this module analyzes a single category or problem in political thought. Through this approach, we illuminate the conditions under which such concepts are devised and developed, and how they change over time and are manifested in contemporary form.

Prerequisites:	None
Credit Requirements:	Preparation for classes; attendance; regular, active participation; 1-4 term assignments, 1 final essay (total length: 5000-7000 words).
Workload:	Contact hours: 45h, independent study: 195h, total: 240h
Evaluation:	Seminar preparation and participation 30%; term assignments 30%; final essay 40%
Credits:	8 credits
Frequency:	Annual
Duration:	1 semester
Composition:	Seminar

## **MODULE: Political Systems and Structures**

### Learning Outcomes:

- Knowledge of the main components of the structure of government and of the institutions, organizations and agreements that regulate relationships between states
- Ability to understand, compare and critically examine the categories (e.g. liberal democracy, nationalism, political globalization) used to describe particular orders of governance
- Understanding of the factors influencing national, regional or global political transformation over time, including modes of political expression, activism and influence
- Awareness of contemporary global and cross-border issues and of key interpretations of their causes and impact
- Ability to reflect critically on the categories and assumptions of political systems and practices

### Content:

The module introduces the frameworks shaping contemporary political life. It pursues a comparative analysis of their similarities and divergences across regions and kinds of government or regime. The embeddedness of states in the larger regional or global political orders that might supplant state sovereignty is explored. Courses within the module examine the institutional components of governmental structure (legislative, executive, judicial), and their variation according to political ideology, historical development, and economic context. Classes may also foreground the institutional components of the international order within which governments are situated. Particular attention is given to identifying the origins, patterns and influences driving political change both within national polities and across state borders. Also considered are the possibilities of agency open to individuals and groups--their access to political representation and modes of intervention and activism--whether at the local, national, regional or global level.

Prerequisites:	None
Credit Requirements:	Preparation for classes; attendance; regular, active participation; 1-4 term assignments, 1 final essay (total length: 5000-7000 words).
Workload:	Contact hours: 45h, independent study: 195h, total: 240h
Evaluation:	Seminar preparation and participation 30%; term assignments 30%; final essay 40%
Credits:	8 credits
Frequency:	Annual
Duration:	1 semester
Composition:	Seminar

## **MODULE: Methods in Social and Historical Studies**

### **Learning Outcomes:**

- Knowledge of qualitative social research methods used in the fields of the social sciences, including politics, history, anthropology or sociology political science, anthropology or history
- Familiarity with the creation and implementation of original qualitative research design in the fields of the social sciences
- Ability to analyse primary sources with reference to their methodological and / or historical significance
- Ability to present and critically examine, in oral and written expression, key concepts and arguments in the theorization of qualitative research methods in the social sciences

### **Content:**

The module familiarizes students with the tools that allow the study of human collectivities in social, political, and historical framework. The focus adopted by courses in the module introduce the fundamentals of social science research investigation: methodologies and their conceptual framework and justification. The module is dedicated to showing the practical uses of such methods, and the basis for the theoretical claims with which they are linked. Courses address the essentials of research design: the demarcation of the object of study and the research question, the use of methods such as interviewing, participant observation, discourse analysis, and the interpretation of documentary sources of a variety of kinds. The ultimate goal of the courses is to provide a clear sense of the strategies and approaches necessary for constructing a defensible argument grounded on evidence and analysis. Courses may culminate in an independent research project related to the material foregrounded in the class.

Prerequisites:	None
Credit Requirements:	Preparation for classes; attendance; regular, active participation; 1-4 term assignments, 1 final essay (total length: 5000-7000 words).
Workload:	Contact hours: 45h, independent study: 195h, total: 240h
Evaluation:	Seminar preparation and participation 30%; term assignments 30%; final essay 40%
Credits:	8 credits
Frequency:	Annual
Duration:	1 semester
Composition:	Seminar

## Advanced Modules Ethics and Politics

### MODULE: Global Social Theory

#### Learning Outcomes:

- Understanding of the structural, institutional and normative aspects of social life in global perspective
- Ability to recognize and assess secondary sources and interpret their meaning in relation to primary material on social matters
- Awareness of the cultural, political and socio-geographical contexts and power relations implicated in knowledge production
- Capacity to pose political and sociological questions independently
- Ability to engage with and critically assess social theories and wider approaches to the study of society that have emerged from different perspectives or schools thought (for example, postcolonial theory or cultural studies)
- Oral and written presentation of concepts and arguments pertaining to the classics of social research

#### Content:

An introduction to a variety of social theorists and theories from across the world, this module focuses on the study of society, cultures, and institutions in global perspective. The module examines core sociological ideas about how societies are formed, organized and transformed, with particular attention given to theorizations of gender, sexuality, race, ethnicity, religion, class, and nation, and their interrelation in different visions of modern life. The *global* aspect of the module lies in its ambition not only to compare and juxtapose various traditions of knowledge production with each other, but also to critically engage with the movement to decolonize knowledge. The theories of society introduced in this module will help students develop a critical awareness of how meaning is assigned to cultural, political and social institutions and how education alters or consolidates existing social constellations and hierarchies.

Prerequisites:	None
Credit Requirements:	Preparation for classes; attendance; regular, active participation; mid-term essay, final essay (total length: 5000-7000 words).
Workload:	Contact hours: 45h, independent study: 195h, Total: 240h
Evaluation:	Seminar preparation and participation 30%; mid-term essay 30%; final essay 40%
Credits:	8 credits
Frequency:	Annual
Duration:	1 semester
Composition:	Seminar

## **MODULE: Law, Politics and Society**

### **Learning Outcomes:**

- Advanced understanding of the interrelation of legal and political systems and other cultural phenomena
- Understanding of the actual functioning of historical and/or contemporary political and legal orders
- Ability to reflect on the challenges involved in the practice of liberal democratic citizenship
- Ability to assess secondary sources and interpret their meaning in relation to primary material and historical context
- Capacity for independent research, critical analysis, interpretation and oral and written presentation of concepts and arguments pertaining to legal, political and moral institutions

### **Content:**

This module investigates the ways in which legal systems develop under the sway of specific cultural values and demands, as well as in response to specific political conditions and projects. It considers evolving interpretative engagement with legal precedent and constitutional provisions. Also addressed are the dynamic relationships that develop between legal codes and political orders (whether domestic or international). Courses in the module address the philosophical history of the theory and functioning of law, positions developed on the basis of experience of legal practice by judges and political movements, or the historical, political and cultural environments that shape the elaboration of legal codes and frameworks.

Prerequisites:	None
Credit Requirements:	Preparation for classes; attendance; regular, active participation; mid-term essay, final essay (total length: 5000-7000 words).
Workload:	Contact hours: 45h, independent study: 195h, total: 240h
Evaluation:	Seminar preparation and participation 30%; mid-term essay 30%; final essay 40%
Credits:	8 credits
Frequency:	Annual
Duration:	1 semester
Composition:	Seminar



## **MODULE: Social Commitment and the Public Sphere**

### **Learning outcomes:**

- Understanding of, and developing commitment to, civic/social engagement as a response to debates within and about the public sphere (e.g. freedom of speech, migration, citizenship, etc).
- Knowledge of participatory methods used in art, activism and research aimed at informing, disrupting or transforming the public sphere.
- Ability to apply such methods responsibly with local and international communities and individuals.
- Awareness of the historical constitution of the public sphere as a site for theoretical and practical engagement.
- Ability to recognize and critically assess both the ethical implications of one's engaged research and one's historically conditioned position within the public sphere.

### **Content:**

Courses in this module explore how students' own engagement in participatory research, art, and activism makes it possible to examine how human agents construct or reconstruct what has come to be called the public sphere. Through their own practice in one or more socially engaged methods—such as participatory action research, participatory theater, engaged urbanism, visual methods, multisensory ethnography, oral history initiatives, public history projects—students will discover, practically and theoretically, how political groups, individuals with a political aim, or institutions acting as agents in social transformation use the spaces, media and institutions of social life to advance specific causes or alterations in the way that past or present conditions are interpreted and lived. In this way, courses in this module allow students to gain a hands-on understanding of what it means to be socially engaged in local and international communities and the ethical implications and challenges related to this engagement, with a focus on questions of representation, positionality, and consent.

Prerequisites:	None
Credit Requirements:	Preparation for classes; attendance; regular, active participation; mid-term essay, final essay (total length: 5000-7000 words).
Workload:	Contact hours: 45h, independent study: 195h, total: 240h
Evaluation:	Seminar preparation and participation 30%; mid-term essay 30%; final essay 40%
Credits:	8 credits
Frequency:	Annual
Duration:	1 semester
Composition:	Seminar

## **MODULE: Movements and Thinkers**

### **Learning Outcomes:**

- Advanced understanding of a paradigmatic formulation in the history of philosophy, politics, and economics.
- Ability to present and critically examine, in oral and written expression, key concepts and arguments in the history of ethical and political thought
- Ability to assess secondary sources and interpret their meaning in relation to primary material and historical context
- Capacity for independent research, critical analysis, interpretation and oral and written presentation of concepts and arguments pertaining to the history of ethical and political thought

### **Content:**

In this module we consider the forms of mutual influence between events, the popular movements that both respond to and produce them, and individual thinkers or schools of thought in the history of philosophy, politics, and economics. Particular attention will be given to the continuing impact of a specific work or body of work on contemporary debates concerning key problems in ethics, politics or the study of history and society.

Prerequisites:	None
Credit Requirements:	Preparation for classes; attendance; regular, active participation; mid-term essay, final essay (total length: 5000-7000 words).
Workload:	Contact hours: 45h, independent study: 195h, total: 240h
Evaluation:	Seminar preparation and participation 30%; mid-term essay 30%; final essay 40%
Credits:	8 credits
Frequency:	Annual
Duration:	1 semester
Composition:	Seminar

## **Concentration: Art and Aesthetics**

The Art and Aesthetics concentration takes as its object works of visual art or aesthetic categories and considers them in the broader framework of material culture, historical context, and philosophical ideas. Courses in the concentration explore art through a focus on selected themes, concepts, or values; particular aesthetic philosophies and movements; periods and places of visual art production; the oeuvre of individual artists or filmmakers; the constitution of art as an object of knowledge and as the site of specific practices; and sustained engagement with individual works of art. Studio art courses offer the opportunity to create new works of visual art and performance, and thereby expand understanding of the conditions and processes of art making and their relationship to problems in aesthetics, art history, and art theory.

## Foundational Modules Art and Aesthetics

### MODULE: Artistic Practice

#### Learning Outcomes:

- Understanding of the variety of the media, techniques and materials relevant to and involved in artistic practices
- Ability to understand the different stages involved in artistic processes, from conception to creation to presentation
- Familiarity with a set of specific techniques and development of skills associated with artistic practices and the making of artworks, whether object-based, body-based, or environmental/site specific
- Understanding of the discursive horizons, including the aesthetic and/or conceptual contexts, within which works of art are situated
- Ability to create and present artifacts or collaborative productions
- Foundational ability to reflect upon the interrelation between the making and the meaning of art, including an interdisciplinary understanding of artistic practices
- Familiarity with the interpretative methods and critical vocabulary of “studio critique”

#### Content:

Courses in this module introduce students to a variety of contemporary artistic practices, including painting, drawing, and sculpture; performance, theatre, and dance; as well as music, film, installation, architecture, and digital media. Courses will allow students to gain a “hands-on” understanding of what it means to process an idea and develop it into a work of art, and by doing so help them to gain a better understanding of the challenges involved in creative processes and practices. The module’s focus on practice aims to complement the theoretical modules in the concentration. At the same time the introduction to artistic practices in a particular field or medium provides the foundation for advanced modules such as “Media, Practices, Techniques” and “Exhibition Culture and Public Space.” By introducing students to some of the questions which are relevant to the production of art, past and present, the courses in the module allow students to gain an understanding of the interrelation between practice and theory and of the interconnections between the fields, thereby enabling students to develop a concrete understanding of artistic practices and production as a discursive and interdisciplinary activity. Students will acquaint themselves through their own practice with the methods and conditions of art production. They may choose to work with a range of materials or within a specific medium or practice. Courses in this module are mostly, but not exclusively, practicing arts courses.

Prerequisites:	None
Credit Requirements:	Preparation for classes; Attendance; regular, active participation; mid-term essay or project, final essay or project (total length: 5000-7000 words or equivalent)
Workload:	Contact hours: 45h, independent study: 195h, total: 240h
Evaluation:	Seminar / studio preparation and participation: 30%; mid-term essay or project 30%; final essay or project 40%
Credits:	8 credits
Frequency:	Annual
Duration:	1 semester
Composition:	Seminar

## **MODULE: Art Objects and Experience**

### **Learning Outcomes:**

- Capacity to reflect critically on one's own direct responses to art objects and to consider them in relation to those of others in sustained discussion
- Capacity to present, in oral and written form, expositions of formal analysis, and of the relationship between form and meaning
- Development of a visual vocabulary and familiarity with the essential concepts, terminology and methods of visual analysis
- Development of specific analytical and interpretative skills associated with the history of art and with the discourse on art in related disciplines
- Ability to identify, access and critically evaluate a wide variety of relevant textual materials in dialogue with works of visual art

### **Content:**

The module focuses on the production or analysis of selected artifacts, exploring their materiality, their form, subject matter, and style. First hand study of works of art or methods of artistic production will introduce students to some of the fundamental issues with regard to representation and familiarize them with a variety of theoretical positions. This module can also be fulfilled with a studio art courses in which students are confronted with the numerous techniques and media of artistic production. A significant component of this module is the direct engagement with art objects in museums and galleries, or through studio art practice.

Prerequisites:	None
Credit Requirements:	Preparation for classes; attendance; regular, active participation; 1-4 term exercises, 1 final exercise (total length: 5000-7000 words or equivalent).
Workload:	Contact hours: 45h, independent study: 195h, total: 240h
Evaluation:	Seminar preparation and participation: 30%; term essays or projects 30%; final essay or project 40%
Credits:	8 credits
Frequency:	Annual
Duration:	1 semester
Composition:	Seminar

## **MODULE: Approaching Arts through Theory**

### **Learning Outcomes:**

- Capacity to reflect critically on specific aesthetic theories, concepts and categories
- Familiarity with central developments and debates in the history of philosophical approaches to art
- Familiarity with fundamental concepts, terminology and methods in the history of art and/or art criticism
- Ability to interpret and critically examine texts in philosophical aesthetics or art theory in relation to works of visual art, and to consider them in historical context
- Ability to critically examine, in oral and written form, aesthetic and art-historical arguments and debates, and to analyze visual works theoretical, aesthetic or philosophical terms

### **Content:**

Art has always generated theoretical appraisals of its meaning, function, techniques and general significance as a realm of human activity. In this module we will examine some of the fundamental concepts and theories that have been influential in the philosophical interpretation of art or artistic practice, either within philosophical aesthetics or through philosophically oriented art or film criticism, critical theory, or formulations of methods in artistic practice. Courses focused on philosophical aesthetics within this module aim to familiarize students with the way in which aesthetics has evolved as a distinct philosophical branch since the eighteenth century, and allow students to appreciate the difference between “modern” and pre-Kantian ideas about aesthetics. The module does not necessarily prioritize textual accounts of art or the aesthetic over actual practice; art objects may be treated as guides to or critiques of theory, while studio arts courses may explore practices that have been given theoretical articulation.

Prerequisites:	None
Credit Requirements:	Preparation for classes; attendance; regular, active participation; 1-4 term exercises, 1 final exercise (total length: 5000-7000 words or equivalent).
Workload:	Contact hours: 45h, independent study: 195h, total: 240h
Evaluation:	Seminar preparation and participation: 30%; term essays or projects 30%; final essay or project 40%
Credits:	8 credits
Frequency:	Annual
Duration:	1 semester
Composition:	Seminar

## **MODULE: Art and Artists in Context**

### **Learning Outcomes:**

- Familiarity with the cultural, historical and/or socio-economic conditions which determined or accompanied the development of distinctive artistic forms
- Ability to analyze a range of fundamental methods within the (social) history of art, and an awareness of the historical context of those methods
- Ability to bring relevant historical evidence to bear on the interpretation of specific artworks
- Understanding of the changing contexts of artistic and cultural production, including an awareness of patronage, collecting and exhibition culture
- Understanding of the changing self-perception of artists within their historical and socio-economic contexts
- Ability to analyze the relationship between works of art and the architectural or spatial context within which they are produced and/or placed

### **Content:**

By looking at the complex dynamic between artists, patrons, and the public reception of art, this module examines the changing role of art and of the artist in response to the cultural, institutional, political and social situation of a given period. "Artists" here include a very broad range of creative practitioners involved in the production of visual artifacts: painters, sculptors, architects, film directors, and performance and conceptual artists. The periods studied may range from the medieval to the contemporary, introducing students to changing contexts of cultural production and with it the changing self-understanding of artists within their historical and socio-economic contexts.

Prerequisites:	None
Credit Requirements:	Preparation for classes; attendance; regular, active participation; 1-4 term exercises, 1 final exercise (total length: 5000-7000 words or equivalent).
Workload:	Contact hours: 45h, independent study: 195h, total: 240h
Evaluation:	Seminar preparation and participation: 30%; term essays or projects 30%; final essay or project 40%
Credits:	8 credits
Frequency:	Annual
Duration:	1 semester
Composition:	Seminar

## **Advanced Modules Art and Aesthetics**

### **MODULE: Artists, Genres, Movements**

#### **Learning Outcomes:**

- Advanced ability to grasp, deploy and critically reflect upon some of the essential terminology, methods and subfields within art historical discourse
- Capacity to engage critically, and with sustained attention, a body of artistic work or artistic practices associated with a historical period, individual artist, movement or genre
- Understanding of some of the essential developments and debates within the oeuvre of individual artists, specific movements or genres
- Deepened understanding of the methods of developing historical and art historical arguments in relation to a body of artistic work or range of artistic practices specific to a historical period, artist, movement or genre
- Capacity for independent research, interpretation, and critical analysis

#### **Content:**

The study of an individual artist's oeuvre, of the historical development and characteristics of a genre, or of the set of artistic practices, theories, and (often) ideologies associated with artistic movements are common frameworks for the study of art within art historical discourse. Courses in this module address artworks in the context of these historical or typological categories and also allow for critical examination of those categories and the methods that define them. A course within the module could focus on a specific artistic movement in the context of modernism or postmodernism (e.g., cubism, surrealism, abstract expressionism); a genre (e.g., portraiture, landscape, or a film genre) in its origins and historical development, or in relation to a set of aesthetic conditions; or a selection of works from a particular artist's oeuvre, considered in relation to their biographical and historical context or, alternatively, in relation to a set of conceptual or thematic issues.

Prerequisites:	None
Credit Requirements:	Preparation for classes; Attendance; regular, active participation; mid-term essay or project, final essay or project (total length: 5000-7000 words or equivalent).
Workload:	Contact hours: 45h, independent study: 195h, total: 240h
Evaluation:	Seminar preparation and participation: 30%; mid-term essay or project 30%; final essay or project 40%
Credits:	8 credits
Frequency:	Annual
Duration:	1 semester
Composition:	Seminar



## **MODULE: Exhibition Culture and Public Space**

### **Learning Outcomes:**

- Familiarity with the wider historical, cultural or institutional frameworks which have shaped the collecting and the exhibiting of art, and with debates concerning the larger political and social issues associated with cultural production and display
- Ability to analyze the relationship between objects and the architectural or spatial context within which they are placed, and of the way such spaces engage viewers/visitors
- Ability to analyze the interrelation between art production, collecting and display, and to engage critically with debates related to the display of objects in galleries, museums and other spaces
- Familiarity with the essential developments and debates, across a range of disciplines, relating to the history of art exhibition, as well as those surrounding the canonization of art
- Development of the capacity to synthesize, in oral and written form, a range of methodologies from different disciplines in the discussion of a particular problem in exhibition culture
- Capacity for independent research, interpretation, and critical analysis

### **Content:**

This module focuses on the wider spatial, institutional, and cultural framework in which art works have been collected and displayed over time and/or in which architecture develops in relation to urban space, and analyses how awareness of this framework has affected artistic production. One aim of this module is to help students gain a better understanding of the canonization of art by locating this process between two opposite but interrelated poles, the sacralization of art on the one hand, and its commodification on the other. This module includes courses that address the historical origins and transformation of the two most influential institutions, the museum and the exhibition, and trace their mutations and transfigurations in the present day; that consider architecture and urban planning in relation to ideas about public space, its uses, and its significance; and that teach studio art practices such as installation or performance that critically engage their exhibition spaces (the gallery, the theater, or other public spaces).

Prerequisites:	None
Credit Requirements:	Preparation for classes; Attendance; regular, active participation; mid-term essay or project, final essay or project (total length: 5000 7000 words or equivalent).
Workload:	Contact hours: 45h, independent study: 195h, total: 240h
Evaluation:	Seminar preparation and participation: 30%; mid-term essay or project 30%; final essay or project 40%
Credits:	8 credits
Frequency:	Annual
Duration:	1 semester
Composition:	Seminar

## MODULE: Aesthetics and Art Theory

### Learning Outcomes:

- Deepened understanding of, and critical engagement with, specific aesthetic theories, concepts and categories
- Deepened understanding of central developments and debates in the history of philosophical approaches to art, and of the place of art and aesthetics as fields of inquiry within a broader intellectual history
- Advanced ability to analyze, in oral and written form, works of visual art in philosophical terms, and/or with respect to specific aesthetic theories and debates or to the historical context of theoretical problems
- Advanced ability to reflect analytically and critically upon aesthetic and art historical arguments and debates
- Ability to interpret and critically examine textual secondary sources in light of primary material and historical context
- Capacity for independent research, interpretation, and critical analysis

### Content:

In what ways does theoretical understanding contribute to the making and to the appreciation of art? Conversely, how do art objects themselves do theoretical work, i.e., articulate new theoretical problems or philosophical ideas? From a certain point of view, the theoretical interpretation of art has seemed to be dominated by elite discourse amongst self-styled taste-makers and *hommes de lettres*, or by the artistic avant-garde. This module will encourage students to consider the degree to which such intellectual engagement, rather than merely an elite activity, could also have fundamental consequences both for cultural production in particular and societal dynamics more generally. Drawing on knowledge gained in the introductory module, courses in this module include those aiming to deepen students' understanding of the ideas and intentions of key thinkers, as well as more advanced courses in art or film theory, or studio courses that address theoretical problems raised by works of visual art. The relationship of texts or artworks studied in this module to a broader intellectual history, as well as to social practices and everyday experiences, will be carefully considered.

Prerequisites:	None
Credit Requirements:	Preparation for classes; Attendance; regular, active participation; mid-term essay or project, final essay or project (total length: 5000-7000 words or equivalent).
Workload:	Contact hours: 45h, independent study: 195h, total: 240h
Evaluation:	Seminar preparation and participation: 30%; mid-term essay or project 30%; final essay or project 40%
Credits:	8 credits
Frequency:	Annual
Duration:	1 semester
Composition:	Seminar

## **MODULE: Media, Practices, Techniques**

### **Learning Outcomes:**

- Understanding of materials, techniques and workshop or studio practice, including when relevant their historical development, in relation to the formal, semantic and phenomenal conditions of works of art
- Familiarity with the historical development of visual art production in a specific medium or media, in painting and the plastic arts, cinema or new media, and a consideration of the role played by the conditions of the medium or of a set of technical practices in shaping that development
- Advanced ability to grasp, deploy and critically reflect upon some of the essential terminology, methods and subfields within the interdisciplinary discourse on artistic production and its history
- Deepening of the capacity to present, in oral and written form, expositions of formal analysis, and of the relation between medium, form and meaning
- Development of an interdisciplinary understanding of the visual arts and visual culture
- Capacity for independent research, interpretation, and critical analysis

### **Content:**

Encompassing media such as sculpture, painting, photography, or film, and practices such as theater or dance, this module examines art production as both a practical and a discursive activity. The module includes both studio courses and courses in art history or criticism that focus on the medium and, more broadly, on the material conditions of art. Students will consider the problem of the medium in relation to a discourse defined, on the one hand, by viewing experiences, studio or workshop practices, and theoretical issues arising from medium specificity, and on the other hand, by artistic production and reception in relation to the “post-medium condition“ associated in particular with contemporary art. Courses in the module also examine the limits of what can or cannot be termed "art" and the ways these limits have been formulated – and have emerged from changing artistic practices – in a variety of historical periods, with a particular focus on the transition from the middle ages to the Renaissance and on that from modernism to postmodernism.

Prerequisites:	None
Credit Requirements:	Preparation for classes; Attendance; regular, active participation; mid-term essay or project, final essay or project (total length: 5000-7000 words or equivalent).
Workload:	Contact hours: 45h, independent study: 195h, total: 240h
Evaluation:	Seminar preparation and participation: 30%; mid-term essay or project 30%; final essay or project 40%
Credits:	8 credits
Frequency:	Annual
Duration:	1 semester
Composition:	Seminar

## **Concentration: Literature and Rhetoric**

What is “literature”? Established as a special category in the eighteenth century, the specificity of the literary object has since been subject to debate: it cannot be defined by fictiveness or by a special use of language wholly distinct from “ordinary” expression. Nevertheless, the recognizability and importance of literature persists, and the methods used to understand and analyze it have been extended to the broader interpretation of culture, deriving their approaches from a range of disciplines, including history, sociology, linguistics and philosophy. This concentration introduces the manifestations of the literary object, its genres and styles and their development, as well as their relationship to other discourses and forms. In particular, it examines the connection between literary production and interpretation and the history of rhetoric, or the exploration of patterns of communication and their effectiveness. Cultivating an interdisciplinary knowledge of the origins, structure, and affiliations of literary art, the concentration provides the tools and background necessary for bringing the strategies and insights of literary hermeneutics to the scrutiny of cultural norms and values as systems of language.

# Foundational Modules Literature and Rhetoric

## MODULE: Close Reading

### Learning Outcomes:

- The habit of reading challenging, aesthetically complex and important works of literary art
- Ability to observe and describe details of form, rhetoric, and style
- Ability to understand and explain narrative or poetic structures
- Capacity to describe literary effects
- Ability to give an account of the total effect and significance of a work

### Content:

Focusing on one specific literary text or a series of texts, courses in this module focus on developing the capacity to notice, describe and interpret the significance of features of structure and language. The courses also cultivate the habit of reading challenging works, concentrating attention on rhetorical complexity at the level of the word, phrase, line or sentence, and on the shape of narratives or poetic artifacts. Attention is directed to all aspects of a work's presentation and organization, fostering the ability to grasp the specific character of non-literary as well as literary works through observation of particular attributes. Ultimately, the course should lead to an ability to give an account of the nature of the effect created by the work or works in question, one that encompasses the observation of detail within a comprehensive and persuasive interpretation.

Prerequisites:	None
Credit Requirements:	Preparation for classes; attendance; regular, active participation; 1-4 term assignments, 1 final essay (total length: 5000-7000 words).
Workload:	Contact hours: 45h, independent study: 195h, total: 240h
Evaluation:	Seminar preparation and participation 30%; term assignments 30%; final essay 40%
Credits:	8 credits
Frequency:	Annual
Duration:	1 semester
Composition:	Seminar

## **MODULE: Literary History**

### **Learning Outcomes:**

- Understanding of the nature of the investigative work needed to place a literary work in its historical context
- Ability to make the transition from the observation of rhetorical and structural detail to the historical framework of a given text
- Ability to link a literary text with scholarly arguments concerning its historical significance
- Capacity to pay attention to the obscure or unusual features of a text's presentation, language or worldviews, and to explore their connection to historical context
- Ability to read and interpret a literary text alongside other primary, non-literary historical sources
- Capacity to understand the placing of a literary text within a tradition, series of related works or categories as a result of historical investigation

### **Content:**

Courses in this module build on the attention to close reading through specific focus on a literary text or texts in historical context. The features of the text are read alongside other primary source material, scholarly essays, and theoretical works on literary history with a view to exploring the ways in which interpretation of aesthetic characteristics and gestures may change in the light of historical knowledge. The ultimate goal of the courses is to provide a guide to the way in which such historical examination of any literary artwork may be conducted. Understanding of literary texts as instances in a larger unfolding of cultural transformation is also a central learning outcome of the courses. Introduction to the reading and interpretation of scholarly research provides in addition a clear sense of the degree to which the seemingly unique features of a literary text or texts reflect wider trends or styles in a given historical period.

Prerequisites:	None
Credit Requirements:	Preparation for classes; attendance; regular, active participation; 1-4 term assignments, 1 final essay (total length: 5000-7000 words).
Workload:	Contact hours: 45h, independent study: 195h, total: 240h
Evaluation:	Seminar preparation and participation 30%; term assignments 30%; final essay 40%
Credits:	8 credits
Frequency:	Annual
Duration:	1 semester
Composition:	Seminar

## **MODULE: Critical and Cultural Theory**

### **Learning Outcomes:**

- Introduction to the key concepts, figures and texts of critical and cultural theory
- Awareness of the disciplinary influences that informed the development of the fields of critical and cultural theory
- Understanding of the central issues and themes that informed the emergence of critical and cultural theory as an area of research and study
- Understanding of the connection between critical and cultural theory and literary study
- Ability to link the concepts and interpretative strategies of theory to the reading of literary texts

### **Content:**

Courses in this module introduce the history, key concepts, interpretative schools and works associated with the field of critical and cultural theory. The courses focus in particular on this field of research and study and its connection to the analysis of literature. Attention will be paid to the key issues (political, social and cultural) that informed the development of critical and cultural theory, including the study of power, gender difference, class, and sexuality. The disciplinary and interdisciplinary influences that formed the field known as “theory” will also be addressed and explored. Most importantly, the value of critical and cultural theory in illuminating works of literature and literary history as a whole guides the discussion of core ideas and approaches.

Prerequisites:	None
Credit Requirements:	Preparation for classes; attendance; regular, active participation; 1-4 term assignments, 1 final essay (total length: 5000-7000 words).
Workload:	Contact hours: 45h, independent study: 195h, total: 240h
Evaluation:	Seminar preparation and participation 30%; term assignments 30%; final essay 40%
Credits:	8 credits
Frequency:	Annual
Duration:	1 semester
Composition:	Seminar

## **MODULE: Written Arts**

### **Learning Outcomes:**

- The habit of writing as a daily practice fostering reflection, study, interpretation and analysis
- The habit of reading works of high quality from a range of sources as an aid to writing
- Familiarity with different styles and forums of writing in contemporary culture
- Ability to recognize distinctive genres and styles in literary history
- Capacity to link the practice of creative writing with scholarly study
- Ability to pursue an incremental writing process, from draft to finished essay or creative work
- Capacity for attention to and constructive critique of others' writing

### **Content:**

Courses in this module may include creative writing workshops structured around the reading of literary texts, courses centered on the improvement of writing skills through engagement with literary, scholarly, and journalistic material, and courses centered simply on intensive engagement with the practice of writing through the habit of reading. The central premise of the courses is that writing of excellent quality depends on the consistent habit of reading sources of high quality, and that effective understanding and analysis takes place through the writing process. Like the Language and Thinking program, the courses stress the connection between what is called "creative" writing and other sorts of writing, making use of exercises like freewriting to begin the task of building an analysis of a text, finding the appropriate form for an argument, or the source of inspiration for a creative work. A further principle of the courses is that engagement with literary works of high quality is an important resource for work all scholarly disciplines and for any professional field.

Prerequisites:	None
Credit Requirements:	Preparation for classes; attendance; regular, active participation; 1-4 term assignments, 1 final essay (total length: 5000-7000 words).
Workload:	Contact hours: 45h, independent study: 195h, total: 240h
Evaluation:	Seminar preparation and participation 30%; term assignments 30%; final essay 40%
Credits:	8 credits
Frequency:	Annual
Duration:	1 semester
Composition:	Seminar



## Advanced Modules Literature and Rhetoric

### MODULE: Literary Movements and Forms

#### Learning Outcomes:

- Knowledge of what constitutes a literary movement or generic form
- Ability to analyze the relationships between a given manifestation of form or literary transformation and its historical conditions of emergence
- Capacity to understand the effects of literary innovation on subsequent developments in literary history and aesthetic and literary theory
- Ability to connect the features of a literary text to theoretical descriptions and interpretations of generic characteristics and their reworking over time
- Ability to reflect critically on the relationship between critical and theoretical accounts of form, periodization and literary movements and the actual features of literary texts

#### Content:

Literary history is often characterized by efforts at what is called “periodization,” namely the retrospective attempt to order a sequence of literary production within a single framework (for instance: Romanticism, Naturalism, Modernism). This framework is meant to evoke common stylistic gestures, shared political and aesthetic preoccupations, and similar responses to the emergence of social transformations, in the work of writers and poets belonging to the same or a proximate generation, but not necessarily to the same national culture. This module examines in detail one of the fundamental periodizing building blocks of modern literary history in comparative terms. Analyzing the texts and innovations characteristic of the literary movement, the module also asks how it has been recognized and defined.

Prerequisites:	None
Credit Requirements:	Preparation for classes; attendance; regular, active participation; mid-term essay, final essay (total length: 5000-7000 words).
Workload:	Contact hours: 45h, independent study: 195h, total: 240h
Evaluation:	Seminar preparation and participation 30%; mid-term essay 30%; final essay 40%
Credits:	8 credits
Frequency:	Annual
Duration:	1 semester
Composition:	Seminar

## **MODULE: Theories of Literature and Culture**

### **Learning Outcomes:**

- Understanding of key terms, categories and approaches in the analysis of literature and culture
- Ability to link central concepts of literary, critical or cultural theory to the reading of specific texts and cultural artifacts
- Awareness of the historical development of modes of thinking about literature and culture, and their interaction with literary and cultural innovations
- Understanding of the interdisciplinary development of central categories or theories of literature and culture

### **Content:**

Building on the foundational module in critical and cultural theory, courses in this module focus on specific categories, terms, works or movements in the theory of literature and culture, and seek to draw out their implications for the reading of texts and artifacts. Courses may be devoted to the work of individual theorists, to the relevance of a particular theoretical framework for the understanding of literature, or to the historical development of interdisciplinary influences on the study of literature and culture.

Prerequisites:	None
Credit Requirements:	Preparation for classes; attendance; regular, active participation; mid-term essay, final essay (total length: 5000-7000 words).
Workload:	Contact hours: 45h, independent study: 195h, total: 240h
Evaluation:	Seminar preparation and participation 30%; mid-term essay 30%; final essay 40%
Credits:	8 credits
Frequency:	Annual
Duration:	1 semester
Composition:	Seminar

## **MODULE: Writer and World**

### **Learning Outcomes:**

- Understanding of the specific characteristics of the work of a given writers or writers, and of its relationship to literary traditions and historical context
- Awareness of the conditions (whether historical or contemporary) under which writers carry out their work
- Understanding of the innovations (cultural, stylistic, generic or institutional) achieved by individual writers or collaborations in writing, and their possible historical causes
- Thorough knowledge of the works of specific writers, and of their aesthetic, cultural and political significance
- Awareness of the processes by which a writer’s work becomes available to readers or to a reading public

### **Content:**

Courses in this module allow indepth study of the work of individual writers, of works produced by collaborations in writing, or by writers linked through affiliation to a similar aesthetic. The emphasis of the courses is on the relation between writers and their “world,” namely the aggregate of historical, cultural, linguistic and other determinants that shape writing practice, the development of style, and the ways in which works reach (or are hindered from reaching) readers or a reading public. Courses may be focused on any writer or writers, whether “canonical,” recently or not yet accorded recognition by literary scholarship, or on any historical context, but always emphasize the multifaceted framework (practical, geographical, political) within which a literary aesthetic is developed and received.

Prerequisites:	None
Credit Requirements:	Preparation for classes; attendance; regular, active participation; mid-term essay, final essay (total length: 5000-7000 words).
Workload:	Contact hours: 45h, independent study: 195h, total: 240h
Evaluation:	Seminar preparation and participation 30%; mid-term essay 30%; final essay 40%
Credits:	8 credits
Frequency:	Annual
Duration:	1 semester
Composition:	Seminar

## **MODULE: Producing Literature**

### **Learning Outcomes:**

- Understanding of the kinds of writing and reading practice that can support the production of literature
- Awareness of the distinct and even conflicting aspects of the writing process: fostering openness to inspiration, along with the capacity to critically assess work in progress or completed work
- Ability to develop a writing practice that combines observation, the recording of ideas or impressions, regular reading and writing exercises, and the completion of first drafts
- Knowledge of historical or contemporary forms of writing and publishing, and their effect on reading practice and cultural identity
- Awareness of the relationship between the production of literature and other kinds of artistic or cultural activity
- Capacity to critically assess the work of others, paying attention to its features and to its aims

### **Content:**

This module includes advanced courses in written arts that focus on the development of individual writing practice, whether in poetry, fiction, or non-fiction writing. It also includes courses that concentrate on the physical and infrastructural production of writing and literature, and the ways in which this can determine the emergence of new forms of writing and reading. The courses pay sustained attention to the cultivation of an individual writing and reading routine, and to the training of the capacity to provide feedback on others' work that pays close attention to its aims and features.

Prerequisites:	None
Credit Requirements:	Preparation for classes; attendance; regular, active participation; mid-term essay, final essay (total length: 5000-7000 words).
Workload:	Contact hours: 45h, independent study: 195h, total: 240h
Evaluation:	Seminar preparation and participation 30%; mid-term essay 30%; final essay 40%
Credits:	8 credits
Frequency:	Annual
Duration:	1 semester
Composition:	Seminar

## Elective Component

Students choose 12 electives. Each elective consists of 1 course with 8 ECTS. The elective component can include language study from beginner to advanced level. It can also include the internship module (completion of an internship or period of practical training, accompanied by an internship course introducing the functioning of institutions and organizations). Credits for an internship in conjunction with the course can be earned to the same value as a single elective: 8ECTS.

The elective component allows students to choose a range of further courses, either in classes in their chosen concentration field, or in the additional areas of study in the arts, humanities, social and natural sciences or the fine arts, offered by Bard College Berlin's faculty and visiting instructors. Assessment standards and expectations will be comparable in all elective courses. The Elective Component's purpose is to allow students to pose further questions relevant to their field which may be raised by other disciplines, and to enable them to develop the research skills, wide disciplinary knowledge and capacity for broad-ranging study characteristic of the BA.

## MODULE: Language Study

### Learning Outcomes:

- Written and oral competence according to the Common European Framework for Languages level assigned to the course.

### Content:

The content of the language courses varies according to the level.

Prerequisites:	Depending on the level
Credit Requirements:	Preparation for classes; attendance; regular, active participation; homework; quizzes; final written exam (90 minutes).
Workload:	Contact hours: 62h, independent study: 178h, total: 240h
Evaluation:	Seminar preparation and participation 25%; homework exercises: 25%; quizzes: 25%, final exam 25%
Credits:	8 credits
Frequency:	Depending on need
Duration:	1 semester
Composition:	Language class

## **MODULE: Internship**

### **Learning Outcomes:**

- Knowledge of the functioning of organisations in business, education, culture and politics
- Ability to research and analyse the funding structure of public and private organisations
- Understanding of decision-making processes within organisations and of views on best practice and optimal structuring
- Awareness of the cultural impact of organizations, institutions and businesses
- Capacity to understand and carry out the tasks demanded at traineeship level in organisational structures
- Ability to connect traineeship experience with professional development and career plans

### **Content:**

The internship module provides academic credit to students wishing to pursue a period of practical training outside classroom hours in conjunction with a course which guides them in understanding the functioning of organizations and institutions.

Prerequisites:	None
Credit Requirements:	Internship, preparation for classes; attendance; regular, active participation; 2 term assignments, 1 final essay (total length: 4000-6000 words).
Workload:	Internship: 130h, seminar contact hours: 21h, independent study: 89h, Total: 240h
Evaluation:	Seminar preparation and participation 30%; term assignments 30%; final essay 40%
Credits:	8 credits
Frequency:	Annual
Duration:	1 semester
Composition:	Seminar and internship

## **MODULE: Senior Core Colloquium**

### **Learning Outcomes:**

- Familiarity with contemporary research methods and approaches in the field of the student's senior thesis
- Capacity to identify fruitful and productive research questions
- Ability to plan and organize research work
- Ability to complete and develop on the preliminary stages of a research project
- Ability to summarize, critically analyse and draw upon contemporary scholarship in individual research work
- Capacity to present research work to an audience working in similar fields and to a general public
- Capacity to participate in an informed way in the debates and controversies relevant to a particular research field

### **Content:**

The senior core colloquium is the capstone seminar experience of the BA within the students' chosen concentration and closely interconnected fields. The seminar meets for a total of three hours weekly in the first semester of the fourth year. It addresses key methodological approaches and questions in contemporary scholarship, centered on a core question relevant to the research work of the senior thesis.

Prerequisites:	Foundational Concentration Modules; Moderation
Credit Requirements:	Preparation for classes; attendance; regular, active participation; research project prospectus; 5-10 term exercises; presentation of research project
Workload:	Contact hours: 45h independent study: 195h total: 240h
Evaluation:	Seminar preparation and participation: 30%; prospectus: 10%; term exercises: 40%; presentation of research: 20%
Credits:	8
Frequency:	Annual
Duration:	1 semester
Composition:	Seminar

## **MODULE: Senior Thesis**

### **Learning Outcomes:**

- Capacity to pursue and complete independent work in the student's field of specialization
- Ability to present research work in a way that conforms to the standards and criteria of academic and scholarly requirements
- Capacity to develop and refine an argument that draws extensively on already existing scholarship while presenting a persuasive and valuable new perspective
- Ability to prepare effectively for the completion of an individual research project by following the guidance of an experienced researcher in the selection of a research question, appropriate research material, and useful methods of interpretation and analysis

### **Content:**

The culminating or capstone element of the degree is the BA thesis project in the fourth year. All students take this module. It consists of an individual project (4ECTS), serving as a preparation for the BA thesis and including Regular meetings with the thesis advisor, to plan and discuss research results and writing. and a final BA Thesis (12ECTS), submitted in the second semester of the fourth year, and defended in an oral examination.

Prerequisites:	Successful completion of 4 core modules, 3 foundational concentration modules, and 1 advanced concentration module
Credit Requirements:	Preparation for and participation in weekly supervision meetings; BA Thesis of 10000-12000 words
Evaluation:	Preparation for supervisions: 25%; thesis project: 75%
Workload:	Contact hours: 15h, independent study: 465h, total: 480h
Credits:	16 credits
Frequency:	Annual
Duration:	1 year
Composition:	Individual project: 4 credits, BA Thesis: 12 credits