

Bachelor of Arts in Humanities, the Arts, and Social Thought

Study and Examination Regulations

as amended by the Academic Senate

§1 Scope

This document gives an overview of the content, structure and aims of the BA program in Humanities, the Arts, and Social Thought. Overall regulations governing programs of study at Bard College Berlin as well as the rights and obligations of members of the college are outlined in the General Study and Examination Regulations.

§2 Aims of the Program

The BA in Humanities, the Arts, and Social Thought provides the opportunity to specialize in an interdisciplinary area of study in the humanities within the framework of a liberal arts education. Alongside their chosen field of concentration, students complete a core program addressing central developments in intellectual and cultural history from ancient societies to the present day. The concentrations themselves reflect the variety of skills, disciplinary influences and ethical questions fundamental to the humanities. The program includes courses in civic and social engagement, and a progression toward the capacity to produce and present independent research. In addition, students have the chance to pursue elective study in a wide range of areas. The overarching aims of the BA are to cultivate reflective, historically-informed specialist knowledge, an appreciation and understanding of art, literature and thought, a spirit of inquiry and social conscientiousness, and a fluency in writing and communication.

§3 Content and Approach

The foundation of the degree program consists of core courses which provide an overview of intellectual history and of the key texts and debates at the origin of the disciplines of philosophy, literature, art history, economics, and the natural and social sciences. Core courses enable students to consider the interplay between fields and phenomena often treated as separate and distinct—for instance, painting and mathematics, or literary forms and political economy—and to examine the history of philosophy in its widest interactions with the history of science, rhetoric, and the visual arts. Concentration modules, in the areas of Art and Aesthetics, Ethics and Politics, and Literature and Rhetoric, allow greater specialization, but in a manner that challenges the limits of disciplinary boundaries, and permits the posing of questions that go beyond restrictive specialist inquiry, in the investigation of the modes and structures of belief, artifacts, and practices established as—or contending to be—culturally valuable. An additional elective component makes it possible for students to take courses outside the concentration areas, and to acquire further training and new perspectives in methods and disciplinary knowledge preparatory to the formulation and pursuit of an independent project of research in the final year. The Bard College Berlin learning experience is highly interactive throughout: substantially based on small-group seminar dialogue and conversation, it expects of students thorough preparation and engagement through extensive reading and reflection. Assessment is continuous, composed of essay assignments as well as class presentations during and at the end of each semester, rather than a final examination structure. The language of instruction is

English, except in the introductory, intermediate and advanced classes in the modern languages that Bard College Berlin offers throughout the four-year program.

§4 General Learning Outcomes

The degree in Humanities, the Arts, and Social Thought provides an excellent groundwork for graduate study in the fields of the humanities and social sciences. Its extensive core course program in intellectual history also addresses foundational debates in the history of science and economics. Raising the ethical challenges and broader affiliations of these fields, it thus offers an ideal preparation for undertaking specialist training within them. The degree promotes critical thinking and reflection preparatory to innovative and cross-disciplinary academic work, and to the productive and creative application of academic learning to the demands of professional life, and of civic and cultural engagement. Continuous assessment through writing and essay assignments, as well as class presentations and seminar discussions, forms students who are well prepared to articulate considered views and analyses to an academic audience and to a wider public. The pursuit of academic work in a highly diverse international environment also encourages the capacity to interact with and draw inspiration from distinctive opinions and influences, equipping students both intellectually and socially for the challenges of future work in a cross-border labour market and in multi-national contexts. Specifically, the degree is ideal immediate preparation for employment in any of the fields traditionally associated with an intensive and high-quality course of study in the humanities: consultancy, journalism, public service in the NGO or state sector, advertising, organizational leadership in cultural, educational and public policy projects, initiatives and institutions.

§5 Overview of Structure

- (1) The Bachelor program in Humanities, the Arts, and Social Thought has a modular structure comprising 256 ECTS credits over four academic years. Students must complete the core modules, foundational and advanced concentration modules in 1 area of concentration, a mathematics and sciences module, elective modules, a core research colloquium, and a BA thesis project.
- (2) A module handbook containing information on the modules, their learning outcomes and assessment structure is published, along with a full course list keyed to the handbook, for each academic year.
- (3) The BA program in Humanities, the Arts, and Social Thought consists of the following components:
 - a) Core Component

The core component consists of 6 modules, spaced incrementally over the four years of the BA degree. Students take one core course in each of the first two semesters, and can take the final four in the second, third or fourth years. The core courses are the foundational framework of the degree. Chronological in outline—beginning with ancient philosophy, literature, mathematics and culture, and ending with modernism in the early twentieth century—they are also each based on a central concept or pivotal text, and inclined towards a focus on two or more particular disciplines, though all offer a background in the fundamental works, debates and problems of the subject areas of the arts and humanities, the social sciences and the natural sciences. By the end of their degree, students are able to identify the originating and recurrent preoccupations of each disciplinary field, as well as the interconnections between them, in addition to gaining a thorough overview of Western and related non-Western intellectual history.

	ECTS
<i>Core Component (6 Modules, one core course each)</i>	48
• Greek Civilization	8
• Medieval Literatures and Cultures	8
• Renaissance Art and Thought	8
• Early Modern Science	8
• Origins of Political Economy	8
• Modernism	8

b) Concentration Component

Students must declare 1 area of specialization or concentration by the end of their second year, by which time they must have completed four foundational modules in that concentration. Four advanced concentration modules must be completed by the end of the final two years of study. A double concentration is possible. In that case, the thesis project must be grounded on a connection between the two concentrations.

The foundational modules introduce students to the essential texts, methods, concepts, debates and historical frameworks of each concentration field. The advanced modules seek to develop the themes, methods, concepts, and historical overview provided in the foundational modules, with a focus on individual authors and movements, genres, issues or (through cross-listed courses) important interdisciplinary connections. Advanced modules will cultivate students' capacity for independent research and investigation, with a greater emphasis on secondary material and its connection to primary sources.

The concentration areas are designed to give students fundamental disciplinary knowledge enabling them to undertake graduate study in any subject related to these fields, while still opening the horizons of traditionally closed or restricted disciplines.

The Areas of Concentration are:

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.

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.

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 Concentration Modules (4 modules in one area of concentration) 32

Art and Aesthetics Concentration

- Art Objects and Experience 8
- Approaching Arts through Theory 8
- Art and Artists in Context 8
- Artistic Practice 8

Ethics and Politics Concentration

- Ethics and Moral Philosophy 8
- History of Political Thought 8
- Methods in Social and Historical Studies 8
- Political Systems and Structures 8

Literature and Rhetoric Concentration

- Literary History 8
- Close Reading 8
- Introduction to Critical and Cultural Theory 8
- Written Arts 8

Advanced Concentration Modules (4 modules in the chosen area of concentration) 32

Art and Aesthetics Concentration

- Artists, Genres, Movements 8
- Exhibition Culture and Public Space 8
- Aesthetics and Art Theory 8
- Media, Practices, Techniques 8

Ethics and Politics Concentration

- Global Social Theory 8
- Law, Politics and Society 8
- Civic Engagement and Social Justice 8
- Movements and Thinkers 8

Literature and Rhetoric Concentration

- Literary Movements and Forms 8
- Theories of Literature and Culture 8
- Writer and World 8
- Producing Literature 8

c) Mathematics and Sciences Module

The Mathematics and Sciences Module seeks to ensure that students graduating with a humanities degree have a basic mastery of mathematics and its application to disciplines in the social sciences. The module complements the focus on the history of science in the core program, by ensuring that students have an understanding of the contemporary uses and applications of mathematics, and of key debates and controversies in contemporary scientific research.

Mathematics and Sciences Module 8

d) Elective Component

The elective component allows students to choose a range of further courses, either in classes in their chosen concentration field, in one of the other concentrations, 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 depend on the module to which the course belongs. The Elective Component's purpose is to allow students to pose further questions relevant to their chosen 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 humanities BA. The elective component can include language study, with the possibility of taking language courses for equivalent credit to elective courses. An internship can also be pursued within the elective component, with 8 credits awarded for the completion of a period of practical training in conjunction with an internship course that provides a guide to organisational structures, decision-making, and institutional functioning.

Elective component (14 courses) 112

The Elective component may include language study in the languages offered by the college and/or an internship taken in conjunction with an internship course.

e) Senior Core Colloquium

The senior core colloquium is designed to support students in the conduct of independent research work in their chosen field of concentration during the final year of study. Topics and issues addressed in the senior core colloquium include research methods; contemporary scholarly research (its formats and core questions); peer review; the preparation of research work for presentation in public forums.

Senior Core Colloquium 8

f) BA Thesis Module

The culminating or capstone element of the BA degree is the BA thesis project in the fourth year. The BA thesis module consists of an individual project, serving as a preparation for the BA thesis and including regular meetings with the thesis advisor (to plan and discuss research and methodology), and a final BA Thesis, submitted in the second semester of the fourth year, and defended in an oral examination.

BA Thesis Module 16

- Individual Project 4
- BA Thesis 12

(4) Moderation

Moderation is a requirement of the BA in Humanities, the Arts, and Social Thought which allows the student to enter the advanced stage of their program in the chosen concentration. The requirement consists of an interview at the end of the second year of study, to discuss the student's choice of concentration. In preparation for the interview, the student must submit a short essay on the first two years of study, and an essay detailing plans for the final two years, as well as a term essay that they believe reflects their best work to date. Moderation panels are made up of at least two members of the faculty. Successful completion of the moderation requirement permits students to continue with their chosen area of concentration.

(5) The progression of the modules in the BA program is structured as shown in Appendix 1.

§6 Evaluation and Examinations

- (1) Assessment at Bard College Berlin is continuous throughout the semester and modular structure, and involves a number of different types of assignment and test, including essays, examinations, presentations and shorter written or verbal assignments which involve the analysis of course material. The assessment is structured incrementally within each course and over the duration of the degree, with shorter essays being assigned in the earlier stages of each class, and in the first two years of the BA. At the end of the semesters, and in advanced electives, students undertake longer essay assignments which are part of their preparation for undertaking the research and writing work required for the BA thesis in the fourth year. The aim of the assessment structure is to promote excellence in written and verbal communication, both for academic purposes and in wider contexts.

a) *Writing at Bard College Berlin*

Assessment at Bard College Berlin is intensively focussed on writing assignments. It encompasses the following exercises: short analyses of art works, literary texts or theoretical arguments, thesis-driven papers centred on coursework material; independently researched academic papers devised in consultation with an advisor.

b) *Other Forms of Assessment*

Other forms of assessment at Bard College Berlin include class presentations, short examinations or test exercises. A combination of the latter may substitute partially for essay assessment in the foundational and advanced concentration modules, though not in the core courses. Classes which include a practical or non-academic element may incorporate workshops, the presentation of individual student projects and a variety of practical assignments as part of the assessment range. Assessment in language courses is organized around homework exercises and regular in-class examinations.

(2) The module handbook provides detailed information on the assessment structure in each module.

(3) In the case of a shift to online learning recommended or mandated by law in an emergency situation, examinations and presentations will take place in online formats.

§2 Legal Validity

(1) These study and examination regulations come into effect on the basis of the resolution of the Academic Senate of Bard College Berlin in June 2021.

Appendix 1: Sample Structure of the BA in Humanities, the Arts, and Social Thought

<i>Semester</i>	<i>Core</i>	<i>Concentration (Art & Aesthetics, Ethics & Politics, or Literature & Rhetoric)</i>		<i>Mathematics & Sciences</i>	<i>Electives</i>		<i>Senior Core Colloquium</i>	<i>BA Thesis</i>	
1	Greek Civilization 8 ECTS	Concentration Module 1 8 ECTS		Mathematics and Sciences Module 8 ECTS	Elective 8 ECTS				
2	Medieval Literatures and Cultures 8 ECTS	Concentration Module 2 8 ECTS			Elective 8 ECTS	Elective 8 ECTS			
3	Renaissance Art and Thought 8 ECTS	Concentration Module 3 8 ECTS			Elective 8 ECTS	Elective 8 ECTS			
4	Early Modern Science 8 ECTS	Concentration Module 4 8 ECTS			Elective 8 ECTS	Elective 8 ECTS			
Moderation									
5	Origins of Political Economy 8 ECTS	Advanced Concentration Module 1 8 ECTS			Elective 8 ECTS	Elective 8 ECTS			
6	Modernism 8 ECTS	Advanced Concentration Module 2 8 ECTS			Elective 8 ECTS	Elective 8 ECTS			
7		Advanced Concentration Module 3 8 ECTS				Elective 8 ECTS	Senior Core Colloquium 8 ECTS	Individual Project 4 ECTS	BA Thesis 12 ECTS
8		Advanced Concentration Module 4 8 ECTS			Elective 8 ECTS	Elective 8 ECTS			
ECTS	48	64		8	112		8	16	