

# HUMANITIES

## Overview

The humanities comprise the academic fields concerned with the human experience as articulated in diverse forms of human expression and thought. At New College, the Division of Humanities includes Art, Art History, Classics, Languages and Literatures (Chinese, English, French, German, Ancient Greek, Latin, Russian, Spanish), Music, Philosophy, and Religion. Humanities also connects with many interdisciplinary areas, including Environmental Studies; Gender Studies; International and Area Studies; Medieval and Renaissance Studies; and Theater, Dance, and Performance Studies, to name a few of the formally organized interdisciplinary programs at New College.

But “Humanities” is a complex area itself, with roots in the *studia humanitatis*, or the study of human thought, creation, and experiences. It has roots in ancient debates about the best path to developing “virtue” through balancing contemplation and action in the world. Studying the humanities encourages us to continue asking what it means to be human, what goes into the category of the human, and how the human intersects or ought to intersect with the non-human world.

Humanities as an Area of Concentration (AOC) allows students to draw together work across the Humanities, to range widely, and engage with multiple lenses to develop a compelling senior project. Because of its range, a Divisional Humanities AOC is not usually combined with other AOCs.

## Faculty in Humanities

Kim Anderson (<https://www.ncf.edu/directory/kim-s-anderson/>), Professor of Art

Tom Bailey, Visiting Assistant Professor of Creative Writing

Dan Bethune (<https://www.ncf.edu/directory/dan-bethune/>), Assistant in Humanities (Studio Technician)

Virginia Bray, Adjunct Instructor of Piano and Chorus

Katherine Brion (<https://www.ncf.edu/directory/katherine-d-brion/>), Associate Professor of Art History and Museum Studies

Ryan Buysens (<https://www.ncf.edu/directory/ryan-buysens/>), Associate Professor of Digital Media and Art

Emily Carr (<https://www.ncf.edu/directory/emily-carr/>), Visiting Assistant Professor of Creative Writing

Magdalena Carrasco (<https://www.ncf.edu/directory/magdalena-e-carrasco/>), Professor of Art History

Maribeth Clark (<https://www.ncf.edu/directory/maribeth-clark/>), Professor of Music/Humanities Division Chair

Rick Dakan, Adjunct in Creative Writing/Writer in Residence

Mark Dancigers (<https://www.ncf.edu/directory/mark-dancigers/>), Visiting Assistant Professor of Music

Nicolas Delon (<https://www.ncf.edu/directory/nicolas-delon/>), Associate Professor of Philosophy and Environmental Studies (On Leave)

Aron Edidin (<https://www.ncf.edu/directory/aron-z-edidin/>), Professor of Philosophy

April Flakne (<https://www.ncf.edu/directory/april-flakne/>), Professor of Philosophy

Nathan Frantz, Adjunct Instructor of Music

Alexandria Griffin (<https://www.ncf.edu/directory/alexandria-griffin/>), Visiting Assistant Professor of Religion

Melanie Hubbard (<https://www.ncf.edu/directory/melanie-hubbard/>), Visiting Assistant Professor of English

Sonia Labrador-Rodriguez (<https://www.ncf.edu/directory/sonia-n-labrador-rodriguez/>), Associate Professor of Spanish Language and Literature

Fang-yu Li (<https://www.ncf.edu/directory/fang-yu-li/>), Associate Professor of Chinese Language and Culture

Manuel Lopez (<https://www.ncf.edu/directory/manuel-lopez/>), Associate Professor of Religion and Buddhist Studies

Mariam Manzur-Leiva (<https://www.ncf.edu/directory/mariam-manzur-leiva/>), Spanish Instructor and TA Program Supervisor/Quality Matters Coordinator and Instructional Designer

T. J. H. McCarthy (<https://www.ncf.edu/directory/thomas-j-mccarthy/>), Professor of Medieval History (On Leave)

Nova Myhill (<https://www.ncf.edu/directory/nova-myhill/>), Professor of English and Theater, Dance, and Performance Studies/Director of Theater, Dance, and Performance Studies

Nassima Neggaz (<https://www.ncf.edu/directory/nassima-neggaz/>), Associate Professor of History and Religion (On Leave)

Christopher Noble (<https://www.ncf.edu/directory/christopher-noble/>), Assistant Professor of Philosophy

Tim O'Donnell (<https://www.ncf.edu/directory/tim-odonnell/>), Director of Theatrical Production

Patricia Okker (<https://www.ncf.edu/directory/patricia-okker/>), Professor of English (On Leave)

Jose Alberto Portugal (<https://www.ncf.edu/directory/jose-alberto-portugal/>), Professor of Spanish Language and Literature/Co-Chair of the Faculty

Amy Reid (<https://www.ncf.edu/directory/amy-reid/>), Professor of French Language and Literature/Director of Gender Studies/Chair of the Faculty

David Rohrbacher (<https://www.ncf.edu/directory/david-s-rohrbacher/>), Professor of Classics

Carl Shaw (<https://www.ncf.edu/directory/carl-a-shaw/>), Professor of Classics

Xia Shi (<https://www.ncf.edu/directory/xia-shi/>), Associate Professor of History and International and Area Studies/Marian Hoppin Chair of Asian Studies

Wendy Sutherland (<https://www.ncf.edu/directory/wendy-lou-h-sutherland/>), Professor of German Language and Black European and Diaspora Studies

Hugo R. Viera-Vargas (<https://www.ncf.edu/directory/hugo-viera-vargas/>), Associate Professor of Caribbean and Latin American Studies and Music

Leymis Wilmott (<https://www.ncf.edu/directory/leymis-b-wilmott/>), Dance Instructor and Artist in Residence

Alina Wyman (<https://www.ncf.edu/directory/alina-wyman/>), Professor of Russian Language and Literature

Jessica Young (<https://www.ncf.edu/directory/jessica-k-young/>), Assistant Professor of Global English

Robert Zamsky (<https://www.ncf.edu/directory/robert-l-zamsky/>), Professor of English/Associate Provost

Jing Zhang (<https://www.ncf.edu/directory/jing-zhang/>), Associate Professor of Chinese Language and Culture/Director of International and Area Studies

## Requirements for the Divisional AOC in Humanities

A student who intends to complete a Divisional AOC in Humanities will meet the following requirements:

1. The student should demonstrate the ability to read, think, communicate, create, and perform in the humanities

through successful completion of one or more undertakings in each of the following fields:

- a. The Arts
  - b. Literature(s)
  - c. Philosophy and Religion
2. The student should explore diverse approaches to the humanities through successful completion of at least one undertaking in each of the following areas (examples in parentheses are meant as suggestions, not as prescriptions):
    - a. Historical study in one of the humanities disciplines (ex. The Western Art Music Tradition, Christian Scriptures, Art History courses, literature with a historical focus)
    - b. Theoretical/critical study in one of the humanities disciplines (ex. Introduction to Music, Music Theory I, Postcolonial Literature and Theory, Introduction to Religion, courses in philosophy)
    - c. Creative work in one of the humanities disciplines (ex. courses in art, acting or directing, creative writing, dance, music composition, or performance)
  3. The student should complete 10-12 term-length activities in the humanities. Transfer students should discuss their coursework from other institutions with a faculty member in the humanities in order to determine if fewer than ten courses at New College in this area would be appropriate.
  4. The student should study a foreign language (modern or classical) that is related to his or her special interest in the humanities. Students will be required to successfully complete at least one course in a foreign language sequence at New College at the intermediate level (third semester) or above. A course or tutorial studying literature or other material in the original language fulfills this requirement. Intermediate-level coursework taken at a regionally accredited institution focusing on a language not regularly taught at New College will be considered on a case-by-case basis to determine whether it fulfills the language requirement of the Humanities AOC.
  5. Students who declare a Humanities AOC during their fifth contract are encouraged when possible to create a pre-thesis ISP that designs a plan to complete a thesis or thesis project in the humanities, to develop the thesis proposal, and consider the appropriate work for the 6th, 7th, and 8th contracts.
  6. The student's senior project should involve work in one or more of the disciplines in the division. The form and content of senior projects (thesis-monograph, creative project, or "academic portfolio") will be defined in close collaboration with the academic sponsor and with the approval of the baccalaureate committee.
- A New Mythology: Irish Themes and Motifs in Modern Young Adult Literature
  - "A Need to Know Basis": An Account, Analysis, and Response of the Intersection of Prenatal Testing and Informed Consent
  - Flitting Fairy and Haughty Harpy: Costuming Ariel in William Shakespeare's *The Tempest*
  - Stendhal and the Heroines of His World
  - The Evolution of Orpheus from the Classical World Period to the Renaissance
  - "Feminist Fairy Tales": Female Agency and Subversive Messages in Fairy Tales of the Traditional European Canon Tale Type AT425A

## Representative Senior Theses in Humanities

- No Man's Wasteland: A Critical Genealogy of the Anthropocene
- On the Outside: International Travel, Self-Transformation, and Alienation in Film and Literature
- Spiritual But Not Religious, Judaism in the New Age: A Case Study of Jewish Practitioners of Kundalina Yoga as Taught by Yogi Bhajan in the United States
- Beyond Words: Poetic Authority and Voice in the Works of Claudia Rankine and John Taggart
- Masculinity on the Margins: Redefining American Manhood in New Orleans and Southern Louisiana
- Performance as Survival: Art, Activism, and Identity at the Nuyorican Poets Café