

DIVISION OF HUMANITIES

Exposure to the humanities—engagement with texts, languages, history, culture, and civilization—is essential preparation for students to become informed citizens and productive members of society. This involves not only providing them the skills and knowledge to obtain gainful employment, but also the ability to adapt, grow, and learn through the course of their lives.



Highlights

- The humanities attract some of the University's most exceptional students, whose distinguished honors have included Rhodes, NEH, Mellon, and Fulbright Scholarships.
- Humanities faculty conduct world-renowned research. Current projects include the decipherment and translation of the earliest manuscript of the Buddhist tradition; the preservation of endangered languages of the Pacific Northwest; the preparation of digital editions of important Middle English texts; and the study and analysis of the literatures, cinema, and art from a wide variety of cultures and traditions.
- The internationally recognized Walter Chapin Simpson Center for the Humanities offers varied opportunities for intellectual community and professional development. Since 2000 the Simpson Center has funded 154 faculty fellowships, and 60 dissertation fellowships in its annual year-long "Society of Scholars" program, supporting people from more than 30 units across the Campus.

Teaching

Through the humanities, students learn to navigate culture similarities and differences; to read, digest, and interpret many different kinds of information; and to respond to the challenges of an increasingly interconnected world.

The College offered well over 2800 courses in 2015-2016, with more than 43,000 course registrations. Students from Arts and Sciences and other UW schools and colleges took these courses to fulfill requirements of their majors or minors, to satisfy general education requirements, or as free electives. Since 2010, six humanities faculty or teaching assistants have been awarded the Distinguished Teaching Award or the Excellence in Teaching Award for their exceptional teaching.

The UW's Interdisciplinary Writing Program, which links a writing course with a course in another discipline, serves as a national model. The Creative Writing Program, which teaches students to be writers of fiction, non-fiction, and poetry, is one of the nation's best, with three winners of MacArthur fellowships on its faculty.

Humanities units foster innovative education in a wide range of formats. Web-enhanced and online foreign language programs blend new technology with more traditional classroom-based instruction. The innovative Comparative History of Ideas program (CHID) allows students to tailor their education through direct contact with local and international groups. Study abroad programs run by humanities departments, often in conjunction with the UW's Office of International Programs and Exchanges, afford UW students the opportunity to travel widely—to Rome, León, Cádiz, Prague, Beijing, Bangalore, and many other locations. CHID's study abroad offerings are particularly robust, with over a dozen international programs offered each year.

Michael C. Shapiro, Divisional Dean

DEPARTMENTS

Asian Languages and Literature

Classics

Comparative History of Ideas

Comparative Literature, Cinema & Media

English

French and Italian Studies

Germanics

Linguistics

Near Eastern Languages and Civilization

Scandinavian Studies

Slavic Languages and Literatures

Spanish and Portuguese Studies

CENTERS

Language Learning Center

Simpson Center for the Humanities

Languages in a Global University

The humanities units at the University of Washington are unsurpassed in the range and depth of their language offerings. In any given year, courses of instruction are offered in over fifty modern and classical languages, including Spanish, French, Latin, German, Russian, and Swedish, Arabic, Turkish, Vietnamese, Swahili, American Sign Language (ASL), Sanskrit, and more. Students can study these language from the most basic level through the most advanced levels. The Language Learning Center provides up-to-date technical support for language learning, including online and satellite-based links in a wide variety of languages.

Research

Faculty and students in the Division of Humanities have achieved extraordinary distinction in many areas of research, including environmental humanities, computational linguistics, religious literatures and traditions, textual studies, endangered language documentation and preservation, creative writing, pre-modern literatures and civilizations, and cultural studies. UW faculty edit many scholarly journals and book series, including *Modern Language Quarterly*, *Phonology Religion Compass*, and *The Journal of Turkish Studies*. Many have held leadership roles in professional organizations, including the presidency of such distinguished scholarly organizations as the Linguistic Society of America and the American Oriental Society.

K-12 Connections and Community Outreach

UW humanities departments and centers cultivate connections with community organizations, arts organizations, and businesses. The Simpson Center, a leader in the public humanities, works with dozens of theaters, museums, cultural institutions, and neighborhood groups, offering a wide range of programs and seminars. Humanities departments cooperate in many different ways with cultural organizations, both governmental and private, to advance the cause of the humanities and the study of foreign languages and cultures. Through the UW in the High School program, high school students are able to take college-level courses in several foreign languages at their own school. Many humanities departments have advisory boards that include distinguished representatives of the many heritage communities in our region. These board members are invaluable in planning courses, seminars, lectures, films, and cultural events.

FACULTY (2015-2016)

64	Professors
53	Associate Professors
21	Assistant Professors
7	Principal Lecturers
25	Senior Lecturers
23	Lecturers (full-time)

STUDENTS (Autumn 2016)

800	Undergraduate majors
415	Graduate Students

DEGREES GRANTED (2015-2016)

501	Bachelor of Arts degrees
30	Master of Arts degrees
20	Master of Science degrees
10	Master of Fine Arts degrees
38	PhD degrees

last update: Autumn 2016



Students participating in the UW Summer Institute in the Arts and Humanities complete individual research projects with feedback from faculty and peers. Here they listen to a classmate's presentation about her research. Photo by Isaiah Brookshire.



The UW's Archaeological Excavations and Field School at Tel Dor, Israel, is led by Classics Professor Sarah Stroup. A student in the program made international news when she unearthed a signet ring gemstone dating back to 230 BCE.