

Humanities A: Introductory History

These courses introduce students to the study of history. They provide a broad overview of Western history from ancient times to the modern period, in its political, social and cultural dimensions. They introduce students to the reading and evaluation of primary sources and the methodology of analysis and interpretation used by historians. Students will gain experience in writing analytical, argument-driven and evidence-based prose. They will gain insight into the historical conditions that have produced their own society, culture and values. Typically, introductory History courses will contribute to the following General Education outcomes:

I. Skills:

Students should be able to:

A. think critically, reason soundly, and argue effectively,

as demonstrated by the ability to:

1. analyze arguments according to standard criteria
2. assume and defend a position on a given topic
3. use systematic processes, including the collection and analysis of evidence, to form and support conclusions
4. read and analyze complex texts, including the analysis of rhetorical devices and modes of inference

Students should be able to:

C. communicate effectively,

as demonstrated by the ability to:

1. write coherent analytical and persuasive papers using effective expression

II. Knowledge:

Students should know:

C. History, literature, art, music, and philosophy,

1. demonstrating a general knowledge of the nature, origins, and contributions of major civilizations
2. demonstrating a more detailed knowledge of formative influences in the recent past
3. demonstrating a general knowledge of the methods and traditions of analysis in the humanities

III. Values:

Students should value:

C. Ethical behavior,

1. acquiring knowledge and skills necessary for ethical judgment and its application to everyday life

2. developing the habit of reflecting on their own values and fulfilling their ethical and civic responsibilities