



LIBERAL ARTS

MASTER OF ARTS

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

CSUS offers an interdisciplinary program of graduate study leading to the Master of Arts Degree in Liberal Arts. The graduate program is designed to give students an opportunity to study broad areas of human experience at an advanced level without requiring them to specialize in a particular discipline. The major does not aim to prepare students for a career or a profession, though many graduates may find it enhances their understanding and effectiveness in their chosen fields of work. It requires a commitment to serious reading, thinking, and writing, and the willingness to journey at times in uncharted academic regions where disciplines cross, whether to meet amicably or join battle. Faculty from various disciplines who teach the core courses are carefully chosen for their outstanding teaching and scholarship, and their interest in interdisciplinary approaches to learning.

This is a new program at CSUS, though there are nearly a hundred similar graduate majors throughout the country and over 18,000 graduates. With this program, CSU joins a nationwide effort to redress the imbalance that exists between the decreasing study of the liberal arts, particularly in undergraduate general education requirements, and increasing pursuit of specialized vocational training. It provides a second chance for graduates who feel that their bachelor's degree may have left them with an incomplete education in the liberal arts.

FACULTY

Stephen Harris, *Program Coordinator*
Program Office, Mendocino Hall 2011, 278-6444

GRADUATE PROGRAM

Admission Requirements

Admission as a classified graduate student in Liberal Arts requires:

- an undergraduate degree from an accredited four year college or university (or equivalent preparation if the student has done undergraduate work outside the U.S.) with a minimum 2.5 GPA **and**,
- three letters of reference **and**
- a grade "B-" or better in LIBA 201, 202, 203, or 204 **and**
- competence in the English language, as demonstrated by academic achievement and the Writing Proficiency Exam

Students with deficiencies in Admission Requirements that can be removed by specified additional preparation may be admitted with conditionally classified graduate status. Any deficiencies will be noted on a response to the admission application.

Admission Procedures

Persons interested in applying should first contact the Graduate Center for information and application materials. Applications are accepted as long as room for new students exists, but students applying for Fall are urged to complete their application by April 1 and for Spring by October 1 in order to be included before Computer Access Student Phone Entry Registration (CASPER) begins. All students must complete Forms A and B of the CSU application booklet and return forms to the Graduate Center. International visa students must submit the appropriate international student application form which is available at the Office of International Programs and at the International Graduate Center. All other application materials are filed with the Graduate Center and will be forwarded to the Liberal Arts Program coordinator for appropriate action.

Advancement to Candidacy

Students must file an application for Advancement to Candidacy, indicating a proposed program of graduate study. This should be initiated by the student as soon as the student has:

- removed any deficiencies in Admission Requirements **and**
- completed at least 15 units of 200-level courses in the graduate program with a "B-" or better in each of the required courses **and**

- maintained a minimum 3.0 GPA overall in the program's electives and culminating requirements **and**
- filed an acceptable Advancement to Candidacy form with the program Office, to include a description of the student's electives and how the elective courses fit it and lead to the culminating requirement **and**
- fulfilled all university-wide graduate requirements for advancement, including the Writing Proficiency Examination.

Degree Requirements

Total units required for MA: 30

A. Required Courses (9-12 units)

(9-12) Select three or four of the following:

LIBA 201	Interdisciplinary Studies in Humanities and Social Science
LIBA 202	Interdisciplinary Studies in-the-Social and Natural Sciences
LIBA 203	Interdisciplinary Studies in Natural Science and the Humanities
LIBA 204	Ordinary America

Note: students may substitute LIBA 200 for one of the courses above if approved by the Program Coordinator.

B. Electives (15-18 units)

Fifteen or eighteen units required, depending on whether 12 or 9 units were selected in Section A. Electives are to be selected in consultation with the current program coordinator (contact the Graduate Center for coordinator's name).

C. Culminating Requirement (3 units)

(3) LIBA 500 Culminating Experience

Note: before advancing to candidacy, the student must have an approved prospectus on file in the Program office.

GRADUATE COURSES

200. Introduction to Interdisciplinary Research Methods.

A survey of the techniques and types of interdisciplinary writing for the non-specialist, with attention to various purposes and audiences, and a reading of sample books, essays, and articles drawn from a number of disciplinary and cross-disciplinary fields. Course reviews principles of critical thinking and rhetoric as they apply to interdisciplinary discourse. Students will be required to write at least 5,000 words in several kinds of papers. 3 units.

201. Interdisciplinary Studies in Humanities and Social Science. Seminars combining two or more discipline areas in the Humanities and the Social Sciences. Topics and approaches will vary. May be repeated for credit if seminar topic is not repeated. 3 units.

201A. Images of America at Home and Abroad. A study and analysis of uniquely American cultural patterns, social institutions, and core values, and how they are perceived both in America and abroad. 3 units.

201B. Historical Reflections on the American Dream. A multicultural exploration of how our nation's history has been constructed, experienced, told and valued from varying ethno-cultural points of view, including each student's personal history. 3 units.

202. Interdisciplinary Studies in the Social and Natural Sciences. Seminars combining two or more discipline areas in the Natural and Social Sciences. Topics and approaches will vary. Students may repeat for credit if seminar topic is not repeated. 3 units.

202A. Moral Dilemmas in Modern Medicine. A philosophic investigation of moral problems in the medical world, including decision making, rights and values pertaining to human life, and the principles of justice applied to the health care field. 3 units.

203. Interdisciplinary Studies in the Humanities and Natural Sciences. Seminars combining two or more discipline areas in the Humanities and Natural Sciences. Topics and approaches will vary. Students may repeat for credit if seminar topic is not repeated. 3 units.

203A. Foundations of Contemporary Consciousness. Advanced overview of western civilization development from 1650 to the present, examining basic ideas, assumptions, and commonplaces shared by modern people, including modern scientific attitudes, notions of privacy, self, love and work. 3 units.

203B. Politics in the Age of Antichrist: Prophecy and Society, 1500-1800. An examination of the role of the Judeo-Christian apocalypse in the creation of modern realms of discourse, including political thought, modern science, and secular values generally. 3 units.

203C. Versions of the Self in Western Literature and the Arts. Course traces the stages through which the concept of the "self" emerges in Western literature, philosophy and the arts, from Antiquity to the 20th Century. Focus is on the transformation of moral identity as the West moves from a divinely ordered cosmos to a relativized universe. 3 units.

204. Ordinary America. An inquiry into the issues, theories, and methods associated with popular and material culture studies in order to provide students with insights into the past and present nature of American experience. The course is intended to be an exploration of the ways in which popular and material culture both reflect and contribute to the search for meaning in everyday life. 3 units.

204A. Politics and Performance. A study of the relationship between the three discourses of politics, aesthetics, and live performance. Critical theories drawn from new technologies and ideologies will be applied to theatrical representations, both classical and contemporary. 3 units.

299. Special Problems. Individual projects or directed reading. **Note:** open only to students who have demonstrated competence in undertaking individual work. Enrollment requires approval of the supervising faculty member and the program director. No more than 6 units total of LIBA 299 may be counted toward the major. 1-3 units.

500. Culminating Experience. Completion of a thesis, project or comprehensive examination. Open only to students who have been advanced to candidacy and have secured the permission of the graduate coordinator. Graded Credit/No Credit. 3 units.