

The New Accelerated Master of Arts in Humanities with a Concentration in Women's Studies

The new accelerated MA Program in Humanities allows exceptional majors in Women's Studies to count up to 12 hours of graduate courses toward both an undergraduate and graduate degree. This degree program makes it possible for students with a demonstrated record of academic excellence to earn both a B.A. or B.S. in Women's Studies and a M.A. in Humanities in five years.

Admission Requirements

To be admitted to the program, students must declare a major in Women's Studies (B.A. or B.S.) and complete a minimum of at least 60 undergraduate credit hours, including at least 6 hours of 300/400 level courses in the major. At the time of admission to the accelerated program, students must have an overall undergraduate GPA of 3.00 or better.

Admission Procedure

Interested students who meet the admission requirements should apply to the Humanities Graduate Program Director as soon as possible after completing the required 60 undergraduate hours. In consultation with the Chair of Women's Studies and the Humanities Graduate Program Director, students will:

1. Draft a schedule of graduate courses to be taken as an undergraduate, which will be placed in the student's undergraduate and graduate advising files.
2. Submit an ODU graduate application, a 500-word personal statement, a sample critical/analytical essay or research paper, two letters of recommendation, and GRE scores to the Office of Admission during their senior year.

Students will be officially admitted into the M.A. in Humanities program once they have been awarded their Bachelor's degree and have fulfilled all regular admission requirements for the M.A. in Humanities. (Please refer to the appropriate section of the catalog for information on the requirements for the Bachelor's degree in Women's Studies.)

Bridge Courses

Students admitted to the accelerated program may count up to 12 hours of Bridge courses (graduate courses taken as an undergraduate) for which they have earned a grade of B (3.0) or better toward both the Women's Studies B.A. or B.S. and the M.A. in Humanities. These courses may be 500 or 600 level courses within or cross-listed with the discipline, or approved graduate courses. Any 500-level course (eg. WMST 501, 550, 560, 570) that is cross listed with a 400-level course may be substituted for the 400 level-course. Students who complete less than 12 Bridge course credits may fulfill Humanities program requirements by taking courses during summer sessions and/or an additional semester; however all students are required to fulfill a minimum of 6 Bridge course credits in order to be eligible to continue in the Accelerated Program.

The M.A. in Humanities

Students in the accelerated program will fulfill all normal admission and curricular requirements for either a B.A. or B.S. in Women's Studies and a M.A. in Humanities.

All students are required to take:

HUM 601 The Subject of the Humanities: Introduction to Research, Methodology, and Theory

3 credits. An introduction to the basic elements of humanities research, methodology, and critical theory. The course will provide essential instruction on how to conduct graduate level research in the Humanities, how to access data bases and resources, print and electronic journals, bibliographies and archives. At the same time, the course will provide a survey of current methodological approaches to humanities research. Lastly, the course will be organized around fundamental theoretical questions which will provide a context for weekly discussions and activities.

HUM 602 The Humanities on Trial: Postmodernity, Technology, Globalization

3 credits. This course will focus on the transformation and development of humanities knowledge in the age of postmodernism, post-nationalism, and technology. At the same time, HUM 602 will reinforce and expand students' research skills, critical thinking skills, and understanding of methodological approaches.

HUM 694 Interdisciplinarity and the Humanities: Theory and Practice

3 credits. This is the capstone seminar for accelerated MA students, taken in the final semester of graduate

study. Readings and discussions on the problems and challenges of doing interdisciplinary work in the humanities. Students are required to complete an interdisciplinary research paper as the culmination of their academic work leading to the M.A. in Humanities.

Other Guidelines That Apply

1. No more than 12 hours of graduate credit at the 500-level may be applied to the M.A. in Humanities.
2. Students will not be permitted to take any 500 level courses that they have already taken at the undergraduate 400 level.
3. Women's Studies students will be required to take graduate-level courses that focus on women and/or gender in relation to various aspects of culture and the humanities. Students may elect graduate courses in Women's Studies, as well as courses that are cross-listed with Women's Studies, from any designated Humanities or Social Science Department, such as History, Linguistics, Literature, Sociology, Psychology, Criminal Justice, Foreign Languages, or courses approved by the Chair of Women's Studies. However, no more than 6 credit hours may be concentrated in any one discipline other than Humanities and Women's Studies.
4. There is no thesis option for students in the Accelerated M.A. in Humanities program. Students who wish to write a thesis may elect at any time to change over to the standard 33 credit, thesis-track, Humanities program.
5. Upon completion of 30 graduate credits students will be awarded the M.A. in Humanities.

Additional Elective Courses Include:

HUM 696 Popular Culture in the United States

3 credits. An introductory course that examines the shaping influence of popular culture on American life. The course explores the historical roots and early influences of U.S. popular culture, the arguments both for and against it, 20th century theories of mass cultural production, and specific genres of pop culture, including horror films, television sitcoms, comic books, game shows, and romance fiction. The course also focuses on pop culture images of race and gender

HUM 697 Tutorial Work in Humanities

1-3 credits. Independent reading and study on a topic to be selected under the direction of a humanities faculty member.

WMST 501: Women: A Global Perspective

WMST 550: Remote Control: Women and Global TV Culture

WMST 560: Feminist Thought

WMST 570: Women's Ways of Knowing, Ways of Knowing Women: Feminist Research Methods

WMST 695: Women in World Cinema

Contacts for Further Information:

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