Why Study Humanities at San Francisco State?

We are a small, friendly, dedicated group of scholar-teachers who offer a flexible M.A. degree program and a unique range of interdisciplinary courses in the global humanities.

In the broadest terms, our curriculum offers the critical study of diverse forms of cultural expression—including literature, film, visual culture, music, philosophy and cultural theory, architecture and urban space—within global contexts. Our courses give students the opportunity to explore theoretical, historical and aesthetic questions across boundaries of discipline and geography, while promoting depth of study in a series of electives taken within our program or in related programs. Students in their final semester complete a thesis or exam as a culmination of their studies.

Program Curriculum (30 units)

Core Seminars (12 units)
- Humanities 700 Introduction to Integrative Study
- Humanities 705 Text and Context: The Word and the World
- Humanities 706 Image and Culture: Picturing the World
- Humanities 720 Current Topics in the Humanities

Electives (15 units)
Fifteen units selected on advisement with the graduate coordinator and advisor.

Culminating Experience (pick one of the following)
- Humanities 896: Directed Study in Selected Humanistic Works, to include comprehensive written and oral examinations
- Humanities 898: Master's Thesis and Oral Defense

Admissions Requirements
- Official Transcripts
- GPA of 3.0 in last 60 semester units*
- Statement of Purpose
- Writing Sample (8-10 page paper on a humanities-related topic)
- Two letters of recommendation

*Conditional acceptance may be offered to students who fall below the GPA and GRE requirements if they show exceptional promise.

Ready to Apply?
Admission Deadlines:
- Spring Admission: November 1
- Fall Admission: April 15th

For more information about the program, please contact either the M.A. Coordinator, Professor Tanya Augsburg (tanya@sfsu.edu) or the Director of the School of Humanities and Liberal Studies, Cristina Ruotolo (ruotolo@sfsu.edu).