HUMANITIES

Program Director
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Classes are offered at our Newport campus.

About the Ph.D. Program

The Ph.D. offers the humanities as a foundation for understanding a world of accelerating and complex change. Cultivating expertise in traditional humanities fields and building skills as contemporary interdisciplinary scholars, students pursue doctoral research that makes a difference; bridging disciplines and exploring questions of human meaning in a dynamic study of the past, present and future. The humanities Ph.D. was inaugurated in 1989 as an interdisciplinary investigation of the question, "What does it mean to be human in an age of advanced technology?" In one form or another, this question still commands attention in the 21st century. The human-technology relationship remains at the heart of the curriculum allowing students to draw insights and integrate knowledge from a variety of fields: religion, philosophy and ethics; art, literature and new media; history, politics and cultural theory. Students begin by choosing a program area of inquiry that is relevant to their preliminary research problem or issue. Building upon previous studies, professional and life experience, students choose their concentration from four areas of inquiry rooted in the scholarly expertise of faculty, the history of the doctoral program and Mercy mission of Salve Regina University:

- Technology, Science and Society
- Culture, Language and Memory
- Global Ethics and Human Security
- Community, Self and Social Transformation

Each area presents a different web of possible relationships linking a range of theoretical issues, debates and practical problems with relevant methodologies and modes of inquiry from the humanities and social sciences. Students use the program area of inquiry to leverage prior knowledge and study, work and life experience in developing their own individualized foundation that leads to problem-focused and integrated interdisciplinary research and a distinguished doctoral dissertation.

Humanities (Ph.D.) Student Learning Outcomes

At the completion of the program, students will be able to:

1. Interpret and evaluate primary evidence and literature, to explain and critique subject matter and perspectives from the Humanities and from the area of inquiry and specific concentration fields. Students will be able to succinctly explain and summarize state of knowledge in fields relevant to the area of inquiry and dissertation research in oral and written form.
2. Engage in research that crosses the boundaries of traditional academic disciplines.
3. Demonstrate advanced knowledge of a focused area in the Humanities and in their chosen area of inquiry.

4. Be adept at clearly formulating and defending a complex argument for a thesis. They will be able to choose a methodology that is appropriate to proving their thesis.
5. Bring a specific area of the Humanities into dialog with a particular area of technology and/or science.

(Source: Assessment Report 2022)

Doctorates

- Humanities Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) (https://catalog.salve.edu/graduate/academic-programs/humanities/humanities-phd/)

HUM-600: Humanities Problems and Perspectives (3 Credits)
Focused on the history of ideas, students survey core readings in the humanities. Perspectives, problems and debates concerning the human relationship to culture and technology are considered in the fields of philosophy, religion, literature, history and art. This course lays the interdisciplinary foundation for the related methods course, HUM-618, and later dissertation work. Students prepare an interdisciplinary bibliographic essay on a significant humanities problem or debate.

HUM-605: Philosophical Perspectives on Digital Age (3 Credits)
Pre-requisite(s): HUM-600 and HUM-618 or permission of program director are required.
This course provides opportunities for students to investigate technology in historical context as the organization and institutionalization of knowledge for practical purposes. Students examine the effects of technology on the traditional human wisdom that has served as a stabilizing force throughout history.

HUM-610: Religion, Culture and Technology (3 Credits)
Pre-requisite(s): HUM-600 and HUM-618 or permission of program director are required.
This course examines the interaction between religion, culture, the human person and the earth, using both general theories of religion and particular traditions. Areas explored include interpretations of technology, science, work, social justice, spirituality, morality, evil and death.

HUM-617: Political Philosophy and Technology (3 Credits)
Pre-requisite(s): HUM-600 and HUM-618 or permission of program director are required.
This course examines the role that technology plays in creating political systems that are just and fair. After looking at the origins of the Western liberal tradition in the political philosophy of Plato and Aristotle, we then trace a line of thinking through Locke, Jefferson, and Kant. We close with readings from the contemporary political philosopher John Rawls. Our final objective is to determine the effects particular technological advances have had on the evolution of Western political liberalism and on the adaptability of modern liberal democracy to the developing world.

HUM-618: Humanities Theory, Method and the Disciplines (3 Credits)
This course surveys research methods and theoretical frameworks in the humanities. Students review basic critical and empirical research methods, pure vs. applied research, and quantitative vs. qualitative approaches. Models that combine scholarly perspectives are emphasized, as well as major debates concerning the uses of evidence, theory and method within and across disciplines. Case studies focus on humanities approaches and questions as they intersect with the dilemmas of technological society.

HUM-620: Social Transformation Through Art (3 Credits)
Pre-requisite(s): HUM-600 and HUM-618 or permission of program
director are required.
Students examine social change as reflected in, and caused by, the
imagery of art. The course critiques important connections among
art, technology and philosophical ideas expressed during periods of
significant technological progress.

HUM-621: A History of Technology (3 Credits)
This course investigates technology's impact on the human condition
throughout history. Considered in this investigation are advances in
technology based on human ingenuity, observation, and experimentation.
Practical examples are taken from fields such as agriculture,
communication, education, manufacturing, medicine, and business.

HUM-625: Ethics and Modern Technology (3 Credits)
Pre-requisite(s): HUM-600 and HUM-618 or permission of program
director are required.
Guided by the key principles of traditional western ethics - human
dignity, justice, freedom, goodness, the common good and truth telling
- this course considers how modern technology affects the human
experience. Selected moral questions arising from the use of science-
based and capital-driven technology are examined, e.g., the search for a
more comprehensive ethic than the cost-benefit calculations of popular
utilitarianism.

HUM-630: Modern Literature and the Human Condition (3 Credits)
Pre-requisite(s): HUM-600 and HUM-618 or permission of program
director are required.
This course is based on imaginative works that reflect conflicting moral
and technological dilemmas of contemporary life. Classes focus on a
range of major authors whose fiction, drama and poetry illumine the
human situation in the 21st century.

HUM-635: Culture, Society and the Global Condition (3 Credits)
This course offers a final opportunity for students to integrate
perspectives drawn from coursework in the broader humanities with work
in their chosen program areas. Students and faculty work to develop a
synthetic understanding of the global condition relative to accelerating
technological changes and diverse cultural and societal influences. This
course precedes the comprehensive examination and admission into
the dissertation phase. It must be taken as the last 600-level humanities
course.

HUM-645: Research Colloquium (1-3 Credits)
Research colloquium may be taken for 1-3 credits to fulfill the doctoral
research requirement.

HUM-680: Dissertation Research & Writing (3 Credits)
Pre-requisite(s): HUM-670 is required.
Students are expected to enroll in Dissertation Research and Writing
each fall and spring until the final version of the dissertation is accepted.
Mentoring and guidance is provided to the student during the process of
researching, writing, revising and defending the dissertation.