

What makes us human?



THE HUMANITIES SEQUENCES

Engage in a double-credit, year-long exploration of Western literature, philosophy, history, music and art.

This year-long sequence counts as four courses and fulfills four general education requirements. Guided by a team of faculty from the humanities and social sciences, students examine pivotal texts, events, and artifacts of European civilization from antiquity to the present day as part of an ongoing cultural conversation with modernity and with the world. We pay close attention to societal change, upheaval and transformation, as well as to continuities that help us frame our moment and test our values.

You will get to know your fellow students well, not only in seminars, but also in informal discussions, weekly lunches, and excursions to cultural events. Students find that these bonds endure throughout their years at Princeton and often, beyond. Close contact with twelve faculty members is a key attraction of this sequence and a decided advantage when it comes to choosing a major later on.

To reserve a seat, visit: humstudies.princeton.edu.

When you enroll in the Sequence, you instantly become part of a spirited community of students, professors, and upper-class mentors.

SELECTED READINGS

All texts will be read in English translation.

Homer
The Odyssey

Sappho
Poems and Fragments

Plato
Republic

Ovid
Metamorphoses

Augustine
Confessions

Marie de France
Lais

Dante
Inferno

Montaigne
Essays

Cervantes
Don Quixote

Shakespeare
The Tempest

Milton
Paradise Lost

Frederick Douglass
My Bondage and My Freedom

Wollstonecraft
A Vindication of the Rights of Woman

Shelley
Frankenstein

Dostoyevsky
Notes from Underground

Freud
Civilization and Its Discontents

Woolf
To the Lighthouse



Romare Bearden,
*Poseidon, the Sea God—
Enemy of Odysseus, 1977*

Experience the literature, art, religion, and history of East Asia, from antiquity to today.



Tosa Mitsunobu,
The Bluebell (Asagao),
Illustration to Chapter 20 of
The Tale of Genji
(*Genji monogatari*)

SELECTED
READINGS

*All texts will be read
in English translation.*

Confucius
The Analects

Laozi
*The Classic of the Way
and Its Power*

Murasaki Shikibu
The Tale of Genji

Ban Zhao
Lessons for Women

*The Abandoned
Princess*
(A SHAMAN'S SONG)

Hayao Miyazaki
Princess Mononoke

Yi Injik
Tears of Blood

Wu Cheng'en
Journey to the West

So Kwangje
The Military Train

Han Kang
The Vegetarian

Lu Xun
Medicine

With a team of professors from Chinese, Japanese, and Korean studies, students in HUM 233: The Classical Foundations read texts of East Asian culture and come to understand the ways that East Asian traditions continue to shape the modern world. In HUM 234: Traditions and Transformations, students examine the narratives of modernity, colonialism, urban culture, and war and disaster, learning to see East Asia as a space for encounters, contestations, cultural currents, and countercurrents.

HUM 233–234 lays the foundation for a major or minor in East Asian Studies, as well as the minor in Humanistic Studies, and fulfills a distribution requirement for ethical thought and moral values. No previous background in East Asia is required. Students are encouraged to take both courses in the sequence but may take one. No pre-enrollment is required.

The Sequences sharpen your analytical skills of textual interpretation and transnational understanding of modernity.

Explore Near Eastern cultures from ancient Egypt and Mesopotamia through the present day.

HUM 247 begins with the great early civilizations of the Near East, examining such achievements as ancient Egyptian art, the Epic of Gilgamesh, and the rise of Babylonian science. It follows the emergence of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam through the 10th century. HUM 248 explores the classical flourishing of Near Eastern Islamicate civilizations in the Middle Ages — in philosophy, politics, poetry, and religion — through works produced in Arabic, Persian, Hebrew, and Turkish. It concludes with an interdisciplinary study of the traditions of thought and culture that continue to shape the Middle East today.



Plate with a hunting scene from the tale of Bahram Gur and Azadeh, ca. 5th century CE

SELECTED
READINGS

All texts will be read in English translation.

W.K. Simpson
The Literature of Ancient Egypt: An Anthology of Stories

B.R. Foster
Before the Muses: An Anthology of Akkadian Literature

M.D. Coogan
The New Oxford Annotated Bible

Prods Oktor Skjaervo
The Spirit of Zoroastrianism

M.A.S. Abdel Haleem
The Qur'an: A New Translation

Maimonides
Guide for the Perplexed

Ibn 'Arabi
Bezels of Wisdom

Evliya Chelebi
The Travels of Evliya Chelebi

Tayeb Salih
Season of Migration to the North

Fairuz
The Flowers of All Cities

Marjane Satrapi
Persepolis

This sequence is taught by faculty from the departments of Near Eastern Studies, Art and Archeology, Classics, History, and Religion, and can lay the foundations to a major in any of these areas as well as to certificates in Near Eastern Studies and Judaic Studies. There are no prerequisites and pre-enrollment is not required.

All courses include extracurricular events
such as museum trips and performances.

For information about the Humanities Sequences,
visit the Program in Humanistic Studies at
humstudies.princeton.edu

