

# HUMANITIES

Your first-year guide



University  
of Victoria

[uvic.ca/humanities](http://uvic.ca/humanities)











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**PHOTOS** (clockwise from upper left): History field school with the Stó:lō; a co-op student snaps a photo for BC Forests; Hispanic and Italian Studies study abroad program in Spain; a co-op student works with BC Wildfire Service; Greek and Roman Studies field school conducting an excavation in Greece.

We acknowledge and respect the Ləkʷəŋən (Songhees and X̱wsep̓əm̓/Esquimalt) Peoples on whose traditional territory the University of Victoria stands, and the Ləkʷəŋən and W̱SÁNEĆ Peoples whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.

# The Faculty of Humanities

In the Humanities, we ask complex questions of what it means to be human, both past and present, what our relationships with each other and our environments require of us, and what responsibilities we hold to the world and its future. We study products of human thought and creativity: languages, literatures, media, material cultures, histories and beliefs across peoples, places and times. We uphold justice and diversity. We promote global knowledges and cultivate intercultural acumen. We confront how humanity engages with natural and constructed environments, both real and imagined.

Through UVic's world-class co-op program, our students benefit from paid work experience while earning their degrees. Our field schools, study abroad programs and exchanges take students around the world to encounter languages, cultures and histories. We are home to a vibrant Indigenous Studies program. Our language-testing centres provide internationally recognized accreditations. We are leaders in integrating students in our research from their first years on campus.

## OUR VALUES

We dedicate ourselves to:

- collaborating in the spirit of innovation, collegiality, respect and trust
- working towards decolonization and Indigenous, environmental, social, racial, gender and disability justice
- fostering an ethic of social engagement, intellectual curiosity, incisive critique and moral courage
- differentiating between what is right and what is easy, and challenging things we take for granted





L-R: Alicia Ulysses teaches Spanish through dance; Humanities students participate in an arts workshop.

## OUR VALUES

### **Provoke Critical Inquiry**

by exploring the meanings and methods of reason and critique, including how they vary across time and culture and how they impact our understandings of the world and its survival

### **Engage Myriad Voices**

by valuing multilingualism as well as differences of language, culture and ways of being in a transnational world

### **Inspire Innovative Expression**

by addressing the breadth of human expression, including the full plurality of media

### **Enrich Human Dignity**

by addressing what it means (and has meant) to be human, as well as humanity's relationship to the non-human

# Co-operative Education

Co-operative education (co-op) lets Humanities students try out different jobs, explore their career options and gain paid work experience during your degree. More than half of students who participate in co-op graduate with a job offer.

Humanities students can participate in a wide range of co-op jobs, including:

- Marketing and Outreach - Topsoil Urban Agriculture
- Public engagement and events assistant - Greater Victoria Art Gallery
- First Nations and Indigenous Relations Coordinator - BC Wildfire Service
- Festival Assistant - Victoria Jazz Festival
- Environmental and Social Analyst - Two Worlds Consulting

## WHERE TO START

Most students apply to join the co-op program in the fall of their second year.

In your first year, you can prepare for success in co-op by participating in student groups like clubs and course unions, volunteering on- and off-campus, connecting with Academic Advising and Career Services, and completing the Academic Writing Requirement (AWR) by taking **ATWP 135: Academic Reading and Writing**, **ENSH 101: Contemporary Literature**, **ENSH 102: Literary Traditions** or **ENSH 103: Writing, Power, Culture**.



# Field Schools and Study Abroad

*Break out of the classroom. Explore the world.*

Field schools are experiential, intercultural short-term courses that take you out of the classroom to conduct hands-on study across Canada and around the world. You'll apply what you learn in the classroom to the outside world and learn about the world in a fundamentally different way.

The Faculty of Humanities boasts a wide array of field school and study abroad opportunities. Where will your Humanities degree take you?

## **FIELD SCHOOLS**

I-Witness Holocaust Field School  
Eastern Boeotia Archaeological Project  
Excavation at Ilduro, Spain  
EU Study Tour  
Semester in Greece  
Paris on Stage Field School

## **STUDY ABROAD & EXCHANGES**

Hispanic Studies: Spain  
Pacific and Asian Studies: China, Taiwan, Indonesia

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The Faculty of Humanities boasts nearly a dozen exchange, study-abroad and field school opportunities.

[uvic.ca/humanities/fieldschools](http://uvic.ca/humanities/fieldschools)



Students and faculty conduct an archaeological dig of ancient Eleon in Greece.





Scholars Program students share original research at an end-of-year research fair.

# Humanities Scholars Program

In three elective courses taught by award-winning faculty, exceptional students from across the Humanities explore what it means to “do research” in the humanities. You’ll work with leading research on nationally-recognized Humanities projects and design and present your own unique research project. Our scholars gain transferable critical thinking and leadership skills that are essential for life in the 21st century by learning from the Faculty’s top instructors and working closely with world-class researchers on cutting-edge research projects.

Students with a high school GPA of 90% or above are invited to apply beginning in March of each year.

[uvic.ca/humanities/scholars](https://uvic.ca/humanities/scholars)

# Academic and Technical Writing Program (ATWP)

*Reading. Writing. Research.*

Strong reading, writing and research skills are essential to your success in university-level classes. That's why we offer classes that allow you to develop these skills while also taking into account your individual needs and interests.

Whether you are a confident or an anxious writer, a native speaker of English or someone who learned English as an additional language, you will get life-long benefits from developing the communication skills associated with university studies. Being able to find and think critically about information sources will help you learn new things beyond the classroom. Effectively communicating your ideas allows you to contribute to projects you value. You'll also build your understanding of academic integrity, setting you up for success throughout your university career.

Courses delivered by the ATWP meet, build on or prepare students for the university's Academic Writing Requirement (AWR), which is the only requirement that all undergraduate UVic students must fulfill in order to complete a degree program.

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[uvic.ca/atwp](https://uvic.ca/atwp)





Get the skills you need for effective written communication, critical thinking and information literacy. The Academic and Technical Writing Program will support your academic success while preparing you to be a life-long learner.

# American Sign Language

*Talk with your hands.*

The American Sign Language certificate is offered by the Department of Linguistics in partnership with the Division of Continuing Studies. You will develop a conversational-level of communicative competence in ASL, as well as knowledge, understanding and appreciation of the culture of the Deaf community. Students will develop an awareness of and sensitivity to linguistic and cultural diversity, leading ultimately to enhanced cultural competence. Studying ASL benefits students with a diverse range of career goals, especially those pursuing work in community outreach and engagement, education, government and public policy, public services, and work with equity-deserving groups.

All the American Sign Language (ASL) courses are taught using an immersion method, which results in experiential learning. By immersing yourself in the language and culture of the ASL classroom, you will develop language skills and an appreciation of Deaf culture.

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[uvic.ca/humanities/linguistics/undergraduate/programs](https://uvic.ca/humanities/linguistics/undergraduate/programs)



Students practice their vocabulary in ASL 100.

## **WHERE TO START**

In your first year, you should take **ASL100A: American Sign Language I** and **ASL100B: American Sign Language II**.



# English

*Read on. Write now.*

Literature captures us and urges us to reflect upon our relation to the world, to our culture and to ourselves. In stories, poems and plays; in epics, romances and sacred texts; in films, graphic novels and even video games, we represent ourselves through imagination and language. The English Department at UVic offers a wide range of both traditional and innovative courses that tackle literature from a variety of perspectives, with the purpose of feeding your imagination, challenging your intellect and offering the pleasures of reading.

English courses develop your ability to write well, to analyze texts effectively and to create your own works. These courses also prepare you for reading and writing in contexts beyond the classroom and university, wherever clear, competent communication is valued. Our department also excels in Digital Humanities, offering a number of exciting courses that bring together literary and digital studies. English students go on to careers in writing and editing, social media management, community outreach, government, libraries and more.



Illustration from the title page of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (courtesy UVic Archives and Special Collections).

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Student-led journals; hands-on research experience; digital and archival skills development; co-op opportunities

[uvic.ca/english](http://uvic.ca/english)



Students browse through 19th-century texts from the library's Special Collections for ENGL 479: Victorian & Edwardian Children's Fiction.

## WHERE TO START

If you are thinking of majoring in English, we recommend taking **ENSH 101: Themes in Literature** and **ENSH 102: Literature in Action** or **ENSH 103: Writing, Power, Culture**. All courses will satisfy the Academic Writing Requirement. We also advise taking one or more of the following: a second-language course, a course in classical literature and/or mythology (such as **GRS 200: Greek and Roman Mythology**), an introductory course in Philosophy (such as **PHIL 100: Introduction to Philosophy**) and any of the literature courses offered by the Humanities programs in languages and culture.

# European Studies

*Give your major a boost with European Studies!*

Are you looking for opportunities to study and work in Europe? Are you interested in European culture, society and politics? Do you want to pursue an international career?

A minor or concentration in European Studies provides a deep engagement with the fabric of European cultures and institutions through the study of cultural, historical, political and economic trends. Our graduates gain a great advantage when entering the workforce, whether it be in Europe or in European Union organizations around the world.

Recognized by the EU as a Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence (JMCE), UVic has one of the top European Studies programs in Canada. We offer students an exciting academic program made up from a slate of interdisciplinary courses from across the Humanities and Social Sciences, as well as a number of experiential learning, study-abroad and internship opportunities.

We are especially proud of the rich partnerships between our academic program and a dynamic community of researchers and international experts in the field. With the most EU funding of any Canadian institution, we are able to offer students substantial financial support for our experiential learning programs. Students selected to participate in the EU Study Tour and Internship Program will receive a JMCE award that significantly cuts the costs of international travel—and the West Coast Model EU is fully JMCE funded!

Many of our students have gone on to study in Europe or to participate in EU internships that have opened the doors to exciting career opportunities in public policy, international law, journalism, media, arts and culture and more. Come launch your career with European Studies!

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EU Study Tour and Internship Program; West Coast Model EU; European Studies Course  
Union; undergraduate student journal

[uvic.ca/europe](http://uvic.ca/europe)





UVic students in the Court of justice of the European Union in Luxembourg with EU Study Tour host Dr. Amy Verdun.

## WHERE TO START

Students wishing to do a minor in European Studies are strongly recommended to take **EUS 200: Introduction to European Cultures and Identities** and a first-year course in any European language, such as French, German, Italian, Russian, Spanish, or Ukrainian. During their first year, students may also take **EUS 200: Introduction to European Cultures and Identities** towards their minor, as well as some electives, such as **HSTR 240A: Europe, Renaissance to the French Revolution**, **HSTR 240B: Europe, Napoleon to the European Union**, **GRS 101: Discovering the Ancient Greeks**, or **GRS 102: Discovering the Ancient Romans**.

We recommend that you complete the Academic Writing Requirement (AWR) in your first year by taking **ATWP 135: Academic Reading and Writing**, **ENSH 101: Themes in Literature**, **ENSH 102: Literature in Action** or **ENSH 103: Writing, Power, Culture**.

# French and Francophone Studies

*French is now spoken worldwide by over 325 million people: join the conversation!*

By majoring in French, you can secure positions in French immersion education, government and public services, diplomacy, hospitality and catering, law, translation and public relations, as well as communications and writing.

The French and Francophone Studies program at UVic grants undergraduate degrees (B.A. and B.A. with Honours) and a Certificate in Language and Cultural Proficiency. To help you develop your communication and intercultural skills, we offer four intensive entry-level French courses offering a university immersion experience. Most importantly, you will have the flexibility to create a program tailored to your specific interests and needs—for instance, French and Sciences or French and Linguistics, French and History, French and English and so on.

Our students develop a high level of written and spoken French in a total-immersion environment. In order to encourage fluency, we also support students' learning in gaining experience outside the UVic community. Come and talk to us!

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Field Schools; co-op; exchanges with francophone universities; community involvement in Canada's second official language

[uvic.ca/french](http://uvic.ca/french)



Students navigate Parisian culture in Paris, France, for FRAN360: French Field School Seminar.

## WHERE TO START

If you plan to major in French, we recommend that you take **FRAN 180: Intensive French IV** during your first year. If you are a resident of BC, we advise you to take three courses in French per term in order to qualify for a BC bursary. For instance, you can take **FRAN 180: Intensive French IV** with **FRAN 265: Global French Connections**, **FRAN 240: Intermediate Oral French** or **FRAN 335: Cinema of the French-Speaking World**, which is taught in English. Taking an introductory Linguistics course such as **LING 100A: Foundations in Linguistics** is also an excellent preparation for success in French. While majoring in French, we suggest you take elective courses in other languages, History courses (such as **HSTR 101A: Ten Days that Shook the World**), Anthropology courses (such as **ANTH 100: Introduction to Anthropology**) or Writing courses (such as **WRIT 100: Introduction to Writing**).

We recommend that you complete the Academic Writing Requirement (AWR) in your first year by taking **ATWP 135: Academic Reading and Writing**, **ENSH 101: Themes in Literature**, **ENSH 102: Literature in Action** or **ENSH 103: Writing, Power, Culture**.



# Gender Studies

*Shift your view, change your world!*

The Department of Gender Studies focuses on pressing local and global social-justice issues. Gender Studies courses encourage you to examine how gender, in relation to other categories of difference (such as race, class, sexuality, ability, age and citizenship), shapes people's lives, experiences, knowledge and possibilities. In Gender Studies classrooms, you acquire a unique perspective on the world and your place in it, on how power works and on how systems of inequality can be resisted. The knowledge you gain will be relevant and applicable to your whole life, while you also develop essential academic, professional, leadership and activist skills.

Key areas of interdisciplinary focus include colonialism and globalization, Indigenous politics and resurgence, human rights and international development, health and medicalization, anti-racism and nationalism, social movements and the environment, girlhood studies, cultural and media production and masculinities, as well as queer and trans studies. Major, minor, general and certificate programs are available in Gender Studies.

Gender Studies alumni work in diverse sectors of the job market, including government, education, health, law, social work, child and youth care, communications and media, marketing, and non-profit and social-justice organizations.

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Classroom and community-based experiential learning; co-op and work experience

[uvic.ca/gender](http://uvic.ca/gender)



Students and faculty share knowledge about pressing local and global social justice issues in GNDR 100: Gender, Power & Difference.

## WHERE TO START

If you are thinking of majoring in Gender Studies, we recommend taking **GNDR 100: Gender, Power and Difference** as well as one or two 200-level GNDR courses in your first year. 200-level GNDR courses explore themes like food, popular culture and social media, the environment, sexuality, Indigenous feminisms, and the family as they relate to gender, power and justice.

To enrich your degree, consider taking **IS 100: Responsibilities to Coastal Indigenous Peoples and Lands**, **IS 101: Indigenous Foundations**, **HSTR 100: History, Power and Justice**, **HSTR 120: History of Human Rights** and/or **SJS 100: Introduction to Social Justice Studies**.

We recommend that you complete the Academic Writing Requirement (AWR) in your first year by taking **ATWP 135: Academic Reading and Writing**, **ENSH 101: Themes in Literature**, **ENSH 102: Literature in Action** or **ENSH 103: Writing, Power, Culture**.

# Germanic and Slavic Studies

*Build bridges and create connections through Germanic and Slavic Studies!*

With us, you can gain an understanding of the languages and cultures of key European players and discover how memories of the past inform present-day conflicts about history, national identity and human rights. We offer the only degree in Slavic Studies in B.C. and have faculty recognized internationally for their work on modern Ukraine, Holocaust Studies, community-engaged research and cultural studies. Our courses invite you to explore language, culture, history, current events, literature and film, and will prepare you for success in the legal profession, curation and the museum sector, policy analysis and international policy, and more. We offer undergraduate degrees (B.A. and B.A. Honours) in Germanic Studies and Slavic Studies as well as Certificates in Language and Cultural Proficiency in German and Russian.

German and Russian are among the most spoken languages in Europe, and Ukrainian is one of Canada's main heritage languages, with 1.2 million speakers living in the country. We continue to stand collectively in solidarity with the people of Ukraine and to offer learning opportunities to all, based on sharing cultural and linguistic knowledge, compassion and intercultural understanding.

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I-witness Field School; Tallinn Summer School in Estonia; exchange programs in Germany, Austria and Hungary; co-op; service learning opportunities with the Victoria German School and Victoria Russian School

[uvic.ca/geru](http://uvic.ca/geru)





Students are guided through the signs and sites of Budapest by field school leaders.

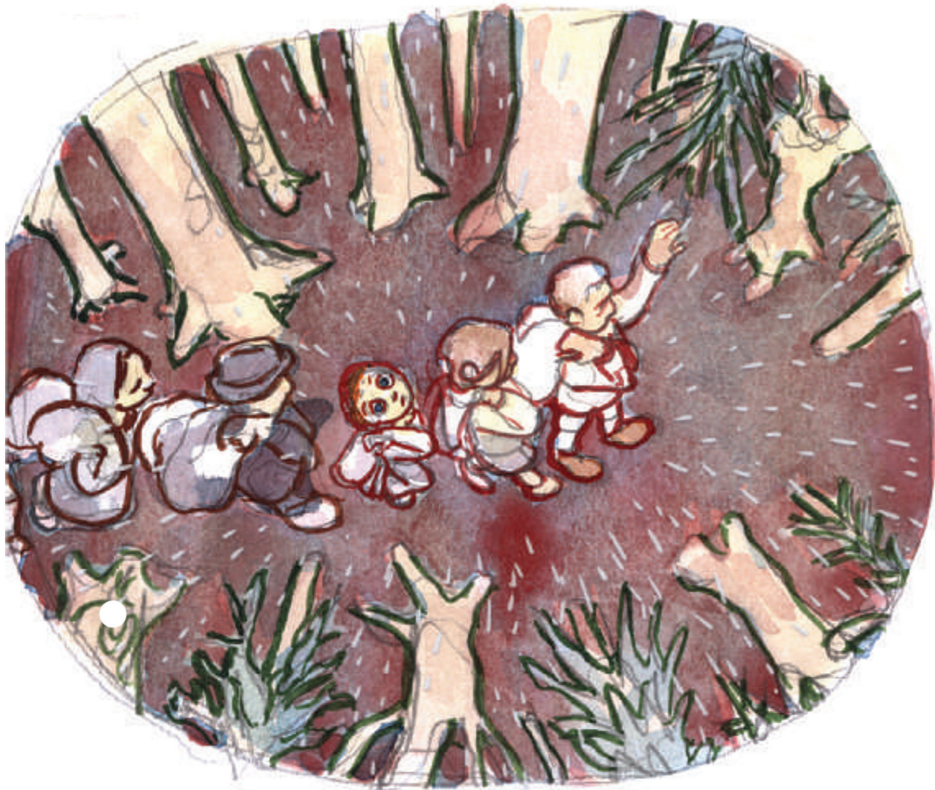
## WHERE TO START

To prepare for our majors programs, consider taking one or more of **EUS 200: Introduction to European Cultures and Identities**, **GNDR 100: Gender, Power and Difference**, **HSTR 115: The Second World War**, **HUMA 120A: Humanities and the Making of the Intellectual Life**, **HUMA 120B: Post-Medieval Humanities and the Making of the Modern Mind**, and **LING 100A: Foundations in Linguistics**. We also strongly encourage our students to explore other language and literature courses in the Faculty of Humanities.

We advise that you complete an academic writing (AWR) course in your first year by taking **ATWP 135: Academic Reading and Writing**, **ENSH 101: Themes in Literature**, **ENSH 102: Literature in Action** or **ENSH 103: Writing, Power, Culture**.

If you are thinking of majoring in Germanic Studies, we recommend taking **GMST 100: Introduction to Germanic Studies** and **GMST 101/102: Beginning German I and II**. Consider adding **GMST 108: Introduction to Translating German Texts**, **GMST 153: Representations of the Holocaust in Popular Culture** or **GMST 180: Myths, Fairy Tales and Fantasy Fiction**.

If you are thinking of majoring in Slavic Studies, we recommend taking **SLST 100: Introduction to Russian Society and Culture**, plus either **SLST 101/102: Beginning Russian I and II** or **SLST 111/112: Beginning Ukrainian I and II**. Consider adding **SLST 180: Magic and the Fairy Tale World**.



An image by graphic artist Miriam Libicki, taken from *"But I Live: Three Stories of Child Survivors of the Holocaust"* (New Jewish Press, 2022). This collection of graphic novels was edited by Germanic and Slavic Studies professor Charlotte Schallié for the UVic-based Narrative Art & Visual Storytelling in Holocaust & Human Rights Education project.

# Greek and Roman Studies

*The past informs our present and creates our future!*

Ancient Greek and Roman cultures are strikingly similar to contemporary Western cultures, but also dangerously different. Our department explores these diverse and multicultural societies through a mixture of compelling perspectives in language and literature, history and archaeology. We enable our students to practice an interdisciplinary engagement with these fascinating cultures, while not ignoring Greek and Roman interactions with the other important cultures around the Mediterranean. We encourage our students to learn ancient Greek and Latin in order to explore more directly these literature and cultures that inform our own world in many, often surprising, ways. Our students learn to assess a variety of sources critically, to communicate effectively and to argue persuasively. They also develop excellent research skills, all of which prepare them for a wide range of career options.

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Field schools in Greece and Spain; semester in Greece program (full semester UVic credit); co-op opportunities; digital and archival skills development; language skills

[uvic.ca/greekroman](http://uvic.ca/greekroman)



Students gain hands-on experience of the past in this archaeological dig at the ancient site of Eleon, in the Greek village of Arma.

## WHERE TO START

If you are thinking of majoring in Greek and Roman Studies, we recommend that you take **GRS 101: Discovering the Ancient Greeks**, **GRS 102: Discovering the Ancient Romans**, **GRS 203: Unearthing the Ancient Mediterranean**, and **GRS 200: Greek and Roman Mythology**. We also strongly advise students with an interest in the field to begin either Latin (**LATI 125**) or ancient Greek (**GREE 125**).

Other Humanities courses that will prepare you for success in our program include **HUMA 120A: Humanities and the Making of the Intellectual Life**, **PHIL 201: Critical Thinking**, and **EUS 200: Introduction to European Cultures and Identities**.

We also recommend that you complete an academic writing (AWR) course in your first year by taking **ATWP 135: Academic Reading and Writing**, **ENSH 101: Themes in Literature**, **ENSH 102: Literature in Action** or **ENSH 103: Writing, Power, Culture**.



# Hispanic and Italian Studies

*Dive into the cultures of over 620 million people: ¡Hablemos! Parliamo!*

More than 560 million people speak Spanish and over 64 million speak Italian. Shape your future by learning their languages and exploring their rich and diverse cultures!

Our department offers film, culture, literature and language courses from a multidisciplinary perspective, covering an area that stretches from Latin America over the Atlantic to Spain and Italy. Our study-abroad program in Alcalá (Spain) and offers real-time experience with the cultures and languages of the Spanish-speaking world. You'll take immersive language courses, participate in cultural activities and field trips, and explore the local region. After you come back, gain experience in academic publishing by contributing to PLVS VLTRA, our student-run undergraduate journal. We also offer a Certificate in Language and Cultural Proficiency in Spanish.

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Study abroad at Universidad de Alcalá (Spain); experiential learning opportunities; undergraduate journal; languages.

[uvic.ca/hisp](http://uvic.ca/hisp)



Students take a break to strike a pose in Xalapa, Mexico while spending a year abroad at the Universidad Veracruzana.

## WHERE TO START

If you are thinking of majoring in Spanish, we recommend **SPAN 100A/100B: Beginners' Spanish I and II** or **SPAN 149: Intensive Beginners' Spanish** as well as **SPAN 185: Film in the Hispanic World**.

To complement our offerings, consider taking **EUS 200: Introduction to European Cultures and Identities**, **GNDR 100: Gender, Power and Difference**, **IS 101: Indigenous Foundations**, **LAS 100: Introduction to Latin American Studies**, **HSTR 110: Conquest and Encounter in the Atlantic World, 1492-1700**, **LATI 101/102: Introductory Latin I and II**, **LING 100A/100B: Foundations in Linguistics I and II**, **PHIL 100: Introduction to Philosophy**, or **SJS 100: Introduction to Theories of Social Justice**.

We also recommend that you complete an academic writing (AWR) course in your first year by taking **ATWP 135: Academic Reading and Writing**, **ENSH 101: Themes in Literature**, **ENSH 102: Literature in Action** or **ENSH 103: Writing, Power, Culture**.

# History

*Dive into the past. Shape the future.*

History is essential to both understanding the past and navigating the future. Many of today's crises and conflicts are the result of historical myths passed off as truths to those without the tools to evaluate them critically. The ability to recall and evaluate the past is fundamental to the functioning of a healthy human society. We need to understand the paths that brought societies to where they are today. An understanding of the histories of violence, persecution and genocide across time and continents, for example, helps us understand the roots of human rights today. History also shows how thriving societies have consumed and polluted their way to extinction in the past. History gives us the tools to reflect on who we are, where we have come from and where we might go.

Our students build skills in research, critical thinking, writing and communication. Our graduates have built successful careers as educators, authors, legal professionals, politicians, archivists, information management professionals, researchers and more.

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Field schools; co-op; volunteer opportunities with local historical organizations

[uvic.ca/history](http://uvic.ca/history)



Dr. Gavin Hanke gives Jason Colby's students a tour of whale history at the Royal BC Museum.

## WHERE TO START

Students interested in History should plan to enroll in **HSTR 100: History, Power, and Justice** in their first year and **HSTR 201: Introduction to Historical Research** in their second. In addition, first-year students can choose from a range of other introductory courses offered at the 100 and 200 levels. The difference between them is that 100-level courses are global and/or thematic in scope, while 200-level courses are national and regional surveys. All are suitable for students with a general interest in the subject as well as those intending to major in History.

Introductory courses in Gender Studies, Indigenous Studies, Greek and Roman Studies, Philosophy, as well as language courses or any of the culture courses offered by the language and culture departments will all support your History major.

We also recommend that you complete an academic writing (AWR) course in your first year by taking **ATWP 135: Academic Reading and Writing**, **ENSH 101: Themes in Literature**, **ENSH 102: Literature in Action** or **ENSH 103: Writing, Power, Culture**.



# Humanities 120A and 120B

*Connect with big ideas!*

HUMA 120A: Humanities and the Making of the Intellectual Life and HUMA 120B: Post-Medieval Humanities and the Making of the Modern Mind offer a little taste of everything in Humanities, including methodology, collaborative enquiry and writing skills! These two courses are delivered as a conversation with great thinkers from the Faculty, from the library shelves and from our cultures.

Designed for first-year students, with your continued success in mind, the HUMA 120 courses are conceived as an introduction and an initiation to the disciplines now called Humanities, but also as a discussion about humanism. Combining breadth with expertise, they address the making of intellectual life in our culture by following, across centuries and philosophies, the debates about learning.

Come and meet guest lecturers from our 17 Humanities programs and from our invited colleagues in Fine Arts or Music. From Socrates to Aquinas, from Petrarch to Derrida, you'll trace a path through great references and big ideas, presented through lectures, debates and team activities.

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[uvic.ca/humanities/departments/humanities/](http://uvic.ca/humanities/departments/humanities/)

# Indigenous Studies

*Honouring excellence and community.*

The Indigenous Studies (IS) program invites both Indigenous and non-Indigenous students to study the social, political, cultural and historical contexts that have shaped the ongoing existence and resistance of Indigenous peoples locally and around the world. Indigenous Studies at UVic offers a major, minor and general program.

Our program is centred on Indigenous knowledges and pedagogies and fosters intercultural understanding on campus, in community and on the land. IS creates a space for students from across the university to undertake challenging work supporting Indigenous issues in respectful ways. The program prepares students for careers in community education and advocacy, public policy, cultural consulting, activism and the non-profit sector and more, as well as post-graduate study in law, history, language studies and language revitalization, Indigenous governance and more.

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Place-based learning; community engagement; critical analysis, multiple forms of knowledge

[uvic.ca/indigenoustudies](https://uvic.ca/indigenoustudies)



Students explore Indigenous knowledge through experiential, land-based learning.

## WHERE TO START

Students in the program are required to complete two 1.5-unit introductory courses unless they can demonstrate that course content has been covered through presenting relevant transfer credit or through lived experiences. If you are unsure about whether this applies to you, please contact our advisors.

**IS 101: Indigenous Studies Foundations** provides you a basic introduction to Indigenous Studies, including key concepts, themes and topics relevant to Indigenous histories and contemporary practices within Canada. Emphasis is placed on the formation, maintenance and diversity of Indigenous identities. **IS 201: Introduction to Indigenous Studies** gives an interdisciplinary approach to Indigenous subject matters, with special emphasis on cultural and socio-political processes that shape Indigenous experiences and realities in local and global spheres. You will be introduced to key thinkers, events, policies and practices relevant to Indigenous Studies.

# Intercultural Studies and Practice

*Build a more equitable and inclusive world.*

The diploma in Intercultural Studies and Practice (ISP) provides students with the skills to engage with cultural diversity in communities and workplaces and work to make those places more welcoming and inclusive. Students in the program will develop a clearer understanding and awareness of the complex issues at play in a multicultural society so they can exercise their social responsibilities. Courses cover a range of current issues such as cross-cultural relations, intercultural communication and cultural diversity, as well as issues of power, privilege and oppression.

Through hands-on learning and work experience, the diploma prepares students for careers in nonprofit, government, development and education sectors. Students pursue careers as employment equity and diversity officers, immigration and settlement officers, community service workers, government administrators, educators and more.

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Co-op; practicum; experiential learning

[continuingstudies.uvic.ca/isp/](https://continuingstudies.uvic.ca/isp/)





The ISP program prepares students to play a productive and socially responsible role in an increasingly multicultural and diverse world

## WHERE TO START

If you are interested in the diploma in Intercultural Studies and Practice, we recommend you take **ISP 200: Introduction to Intercultural Studies** in your first year. This course will provide a useful foundation for the upper-level courses needed in the diploma program.

# Latin American Studies

*Experience the diversity.*

The Latin American Interdisciplinary program can open the doors to exciting careers in education and research, governmental agencies or non-governmental organizations, international relations, media, law or commerce. Our programs offer an interdisciplinary perspective on a geo-cultural area of increasing importance to Canada. The programs include co-op opportunities in Chile and Brazil, international experiential learning opportunities as well as Spanish-language skills. You'll graduate with in-depth knowledge of the region, sophisticated skills in critical thinking and analysis, as well as in oral and written communication.

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Co-op; study-abroad programs; experiential learning

[uvic.ca/las](http://uvic.ca/las)



Students discover Latin American rich cultural history through dynamic classes and exciting field schools.

## WHERE TO START

If you are interested in the Latin American Studies programs, we recommend taking **LAS 200/ HSTR 276: Latin America** plus **SPAN 100A/B: Beginner's Spanish I and II**.

Courses that complement Latin American Studies include **ANTH 210: Visual Anthropology: A Global Perspective**, **AHVS 120: Exploring World Art**, **ES 200: Introduction to Environmental Studies**, **GDS 201: Global Development**, **GEOG 288: World Regional Geography**, **GNDR 202: Globalization and Resistance**, **HSTR 101A: Ten Days that Shook the World**, **HSTR 101F: Food in World History**, **HSTR 110: Conquest and Encounter in the Atlantic World**, **HSTR 112A: World History 1900-1945**, **HSTR 112B: The World Since 1945**, **HSTR 276: Modern Latin America**, **POLI 217: Global Development**, and **SJS 100: Introduction to the Theory of Social Justice**.

We also advise that you complete an academic writing (AWR) course in your first year by taking **ATWP 135: Academic Reading and Writing**, **ENSH 101: Themes in Literature**, **ENSH 102: Literature in Action** or **ENSH 103: Writing, Power, Culture**.

# Linguistics

*Explore language myths and mechanisms.*

Are you wondering how to pronounce words in Kwak'wala? Aiming for a career as a language teacher or a speech-language pathologist? Linguistics has a place for you! Our programs explore everything from how the world's languages are structured to how language is organized in our minds and how best to teach languages.

We are also leaders in offering Indigenous language-revitalization programs, including the Certificate in Indigenous Language Revitalization, offered by the Department of Linguistics and the Division of Continuing Studies in partnership with the En'owkin Centre of the Okanagan Nation. This program is offered mostly off campus, in partnership with Indigenous nations, communities and organizations.

Studying linguistics prepares students for careers as translators, audiologists, speech language pathologists, language teachers, legal professionals, technical writers and more. Our programs pair well with Language and Cultural Proficiency certificates.

Our department offers the following Bachelor's degree programs, as well as Honours, General, Minor and co-op programs:

- Linguistics BA: linguistic description and analysis
- Linguistics BSc: phonetic, cognitive, and biological aspects of language
- Applied Linguistics BA: additional-language teaching and learning





Linguistics researchers at UVic use modern technologies to support Indigenous language revitalization across the country.

## WHERE TO START

For potential majors, we recommend our introductory Linguistics courses, **LING 100A/B: Foundations in Linguistics I and II** (both required courses) or **LING 181: Introductory Linguistics for Language Revitalization** in the first year of study.

Both the Linguistics BA and BSc programs include courses from other departments. For the BA, these include courses from Psychology and English, while the BSc includes courses from Psychology, Biology, Math and Physics. We also recommend taking one or more language courses in American Sign Language, French, Spanish, Latin, Ancient Greek, Russian, Ukrainian, Mandarin, Japanese or Korean. Other recommended courses include **GRS 250: Greek and Latin Roots of Medical and Bioscientific Terminology**, **PHIL 201: Critical Thinking** and **PHIL 203: Elementary Formal Logic**. For recommendations that will suit your interests and degree aspirations, please contact our undergraduate advisor.

We advise you to complete an academic writing (AWR) course in your first year by taking **ATWP 135: Academic Reading and Writing**, **ENSH 101: Themes in Literature**, **ENSH 102: Literature in Action** or **ENSH 103: Writing, Power, Culture**.

# Media Studies

*Study games, radio, television, film, comics, books, zines, photography, social media, podcasts, blogs and more!*

Media Studies is an interdisciplinary certificate program that draws on courses from across the Humanities, Fine Arts, Social Sciences, and more. We offer you a credential in media literacy to expand your career options and enrich your studies in any discipline. Our courses focus on experiential learning and the people skills of media, communication and culture. The program is open to all UVic students, and there are no prerequisites to enter it.

This program offers media skills in:

- critical, innovative, and decolonial thinking
- anti-racist, inclusive, and collaborative communication
- managing and stewarding source materials (both digital and analog)
- mutual understanding and informed civic engagement
- Indigenous-engaged practices that promote respect through reciprocity
- lifelong learning that adapts to change over time

[uvic.ca/mediastudies](https://uvic.ca/mediastudies)



Testing a location-based mobile game created in a course about play and independent media.

## WHERE TO START

If you are interested in a certificate in Media Studies, take a first-year Indigenous Studies course like **IS 100: Responsibilities to Coastal Indigenous Peoples and Lands**. The following first-year courses meet requirements for the program: **CSC 110: Fundamentals of Programming I**, **CSC 103: Introductory Programming and Software Development**, **CSC 130: World Wide Web and Mobile Applications**, **AHVS 121: Understanding Visual Communication**, **GNDR 100: Gender, Power and Difference** and **PAAS 101: Text, Manipulation, Propaganda**. First year students may also take **MDIA 200: Media in the 21st Century**, which is required for the certificate and is open to first-year students.

We recommend that you complete an Academic Writing Requirement (AWR) course in your first year by taking **ATWP 135: Academic Reading and Writing**, **ENSH 101: Themes in Literature**, **ENSH 102: Literature in Action** or **ENSH 103: Writing, Power, Culture**.

# Medieval Studies

*New old worlds.*

Medieval Studies involves interdisciplinary explorations of past worlds that still feed our dreams and works of art with ideas of romance, travel, adventure, myths and marvels. Through interdisciplinary and experiential learning from eight academic units, our students build skills in communication, writing, researching, collaboration and networking. Graduates from our program succeed in careers in schools, government, archaeology, industry and, of course, museums and libraries.

Our first-year courses are designed as gateways and as samplers, presenting the diversity of disciplines and objects addressed in Medieval Studies. Try your hand at calligraphy, discover the thrill of transcribing medieval manuscripts, and travel through periods of time and civilizations around the world. Discover how history, literature, philosophy, history of science and other disciplines interconnect in Medieval Studies. You will join a vibrant, inclusive community of students and researchers known for its events and community engagement.

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Conviviality; experiential learning; co-op; community involvement

[uvic.ca/medieval](http://uvic.ca/medieval)



Students dive into history with a collection of original manuscripts in Special Collections at the library.

## WHERE TO START

If you are thinking of majoring in Medieval Studies, we recommend that in your first year you take **MEDI 100: Entering the Middle Ages**, **MEDI 200: Myths and Legends of the Middle Ages**, **HUMA 120A: Making of Intellectual Life** and **HUMA 120B: Making of the Modern Mind**.

We also recommend that you complete an academic writing (AWR) course in your first year by taking **ATWP 135: Academic Reading and Writing**, **ENSH 101: Themes in Literature**, **ENSH 102: Literature in Action** or **ENSH 103: Writing, Power, Culture**.



# Pacific and Asian Studies

*Your PAAS to China, Japan, Oceania and Southeast Asia.*

Pacific and Asian Studies (PAAS) will challenge you to think critically about the cultures, histories and languages of one of the world's most dynamic regions, encompassing an area that includes China, Japan, Korea, India, Oceania and Southeast Asia.

From literature, media and pop culture to technology, communications and economic transformation, PAAS addresses today's most pressing issues—engaging with the conflicts, compromises and connections that link the Asia-Pacific region to the rest of the world. We also offer Certificates in Language and Cultural Proficiency in Japanese and Chinese.

The Department of Pacific and Asian Studies seeks to increase global cultural knowledge by offering students challenging and dynamic classes centered around this ever-changing region, all taught from an interdisciplinary perspective.

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Study abroad; field schools; co-op; conversation cafés

[uvic.ca/pacificasia](http://uvic.ca/pacificasia)



Students practice their calligraphy skills while immersing themselves in the complex histories, cultural traditions and vibrant languages of the Asia-Pacific.

## WHERE TO START

If you are thinking of majoring in Pacific and Asian Studies, we recommend that in your first year you take **PAAS 100: Introduction to Pacific and Asian Studies**, and at least one of the following: **PAAS 151: Modern Chinese Culture**, **PAAS 153 Chinese Food Culture**, **PAAS 171: Modern Southeast Asian Cultures**, or **PAAS 181: Modern Japanese Culture**. Students should also consider a beginner course in Korean, Filipino, Indonesian, Japanese, or Mandarin.

# Philosophy

*Ask the big questions. Think the big ideas.*

Philosophy explores the most fundamental questions of life—the questions that people across all ages and cultures have always asked themselves about the world and their place in it: What is the meaning of life? What is the ultimate nature of reality? Does God exist? Are there objective standards of right and wrong? What is truth? What can we know?

Philosophy is highly theoretical—philosophers love thinking about thinking—but because there is hardly any aspect of life where basic philosophical issues do not arise, the big questions of philosophy are also frequently examined in relation to urgent practical issues and problems in medicine, the environment, law, politics, business and science. Our students develop keen critical thinking skills and find success in the law, education, business, research, and beyond.

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Co-op; undergraduate student research journal; minor in applied ethics

[uvic.ca/philosophy](http://uvic.ca/philosophy)



Philosophy students explore the complex and ever-evolving questions about the nature of truth, knowledge, justice, meaning and beauty.

## **WHERE TO START**

If you are thinking of majoring in Philosophy, we advise that you take **PHIL 100: Introduction to Philosophy**, **PHIL 103: Five Big Ideas** and/or **PHIL 201: Critical Thinking** in your first year.

Other complementary courses include **GNDR 100: Gender, Power and Difference**, **GRS 101: Greek Culture**, **HSTR 122: Hoaxes, Conspiracies and Moral Panics**, **LING 110: Language and Thought**, **PAAS 204: Introduction to Asian Religions**, **RS 200A: Introduction to Judaism, Christianity and Islam** and **SPAN 108: The First Global Culture** (in English).

We also recommend that you complete an academic writing (AWR) course in your first year by taking **ATWP 135: Academic Reading and Writing**, **ENSH 101: Themes in Literature**, **ENSH 102: Literature in Action** or **ENSH 103: Writing, Power, Culture**.

# Religion, Culture and Society

*Beyond belief! Studying worldviews, studying humankind.*

Curious about contemporary religions, their practices, and their importance for global life and affairs? Interested in learning about, and perhaps even trying to experience mysticism? Want to understand the significance of religion for questions ranging from environmental harm and preservation, to sexuality, to food?

In the interdisciplinary RCS program, we engage with a diversity of religious and spiritual traditions to explore their pivotal role in humankind's cultural, social, political and artistic spheres

Our close ties with a range of UVic units, including the Centre for Studies in Religion and Society, will help provide you with exposure to historical as well as current religious practices, together with an innovative research community.

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[uvic.ca/religious](http://uvic.ca/religious)





Students explore the labyrinth of both traditional and spiritual dimensions of religions in society.

## WHERE TO START

Courses that offer a gateway to exploring Religion, Culture and Society include **RS120: The People, Practices and Politics of Contemporary Yoga**; **RCS 200: Greek and Roman Mythology**; **RS200A: Introduction to Judaism, Christianity and Islam**; **RS200B: Introduction to Asian Religions** and **RCS 260: The Bible As Literature**. This exploration may be complemented by introductory electives in other UVic units such as **AHVS 230: Monuments of South and Southeast Asia**; **AHVS 251: Introduction to the Arts of Islam**; **MEDI 200: Myths and Legends of the Middle Ages**; **PAAS 207: Ghosts and Spirits**; **PHIL 208: Introduction to Arabic Philosophy**; and **PHIL 261: Philosophy of Religion**.

We recommend that you complete an academic writing (AWR) course in your first year by taking **ATWP 135: Academic Reading and Writing**, **ENSH 101: Themes in Literature**, **ENSH 102: Literature in Action** or **ENSH 103: Writing, Power, Culture**.

# University and Faculty Requirements

## THE ACADEMIC WRITING REQUIREMENT

All AWR-designated courses will give you tools to succeed in a university classroom and beyond. Most students complete the AWR in their first year.

Some academic programs require their students to take particular AWR courses, so you should check your program requirements or consult with an academic advisor before deciding. If you don't need to fulfill specific program requirements, you can simply sign up for the course that best matches your interests and needs! Details for this year's ENSH courses are on the English department website.

**ATWP 110: Academic Writing Support and Development** is a 3.0-credit, year-long course. In the first term, you'll prepare for university-level writing with a focus on sentences and paragraphs. In the second term, you'll meet the AWR with more multi-faceted readings and tasks.

**ATWP 135: Academic Reading and Writing** supports students working towards degrees in all academic programs, providing you with the reading, writing and research skills that you will need to thrive in upper-level courses. A designated section of ATWP 135 is available to members of the Indigenous community.

**ENSH 101: Themes in Literature** examines literature through a particular theme.

**ENSH 102: Literature in Action** introduces literary and cultural criticism through a focused study of a small set of texts.

**ENSH 103: Writing, Power, Culture** examines social justice issues through literature.

Not yet ready to tackle an AWR course? **ATWP 101: Fundamentals of Academic Literacy** is for students who need to strengthen their reading and writing skills. The small class size enables students to build proficiency in academic reading and writing through extensive practice and individualized instruction.

## THE GLOBAL LANGUAGE AND CULTURE REQUIREMENT

Expand your understanding of global histories, cultures and languages!

The Faculty of Humanities' Global Language and Culture (GLC) requirement is designed to provide students with a solid foundation of knowledge, experiences and intercultural skills that will prepare them for life after graduation. It reflects the value of language immersion, experiential learning and intercultural exchange for the development of global-ready graduates in the 21st century.

You can satisfy the GLC either by completing 4.5 units of coursework in language and culture outside your primary area of study (the “on campus” option) or by completing an exchange at an international university, a study-abroad program, field school or international exchange (the “off-campus” option).

We recommend that you begin planning how you will balance your degree requirements with your electives as early as possible—your first year is not too early!

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For more information about the GLC, visit:

[uvic.ca/humanities/student-resources/degree-requirements](https://uvic.ca/humanities/student-resources/degree-requirements)

# Contact Us

If you would like any additional information about the faculty, please contact us:

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