

# 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; Greek laws written in stone on a wall at the site of Gortyn on Crete.; Hispanic and Italian Studies study abroad program in Spain; illustration from *A Midsummer Night's Dream*; Greek and Roman Studies field school conducting an excavation in Greece.

We acknowledge and respect the lək'wəŋən peoples on whose traditional territory the University of Victoria stands, and the Songhees, Esquimalt and WSÁNEĆ peoples whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.

# The Faculty of Humanities

Universities today are constantly being pushed away from their original mission. That mission was to provide a space for an education that encouraged students to make a journey of transformation, enabling them to reflect on themselves and their societies, equipping them to change the world into a better place. Universities were places for heroism and leadership, for grand adventures and stunning revelations. This mission has been preserved most powerfully in the Humanities, where students can explore human creativity, expression and potential in all their wonderful diversity. Here in the Faculty of Humanities at the University of Victoria, we are driven by this grand vision of purpose.

You might be interested in attending university because of the kinds of jobs that become available to graduates. An education in the Humanities does indeed open doors into hundreds of different careers: you will graduate highly skilled, highly literate and in great demand. Studies consistently show that the earnings of Humanities graduates are amongst the highest in the country; you will be valued for your mastery of languages and technologies, your skills in critical and analytical thinking, your free-thinking and creativity. But more importantly, you will graduate having adventured through yourself, your society and the wider world. You should emerge provoked, engaged and inspired to lead a life worth living.

Join us in the Humanities at UVic! As our slogan says: open your mind, transform our world.



L-R: Japanese Canadian parade in Vancouver, courtesy of Nikkei National Museum; Early Wearable Kit made by the Humanities Maker Lab.

## A Vision of the Humanities

The Humanities are concerned with the complex, ever-evolving questions of what it means to be human. They speak to issues of human dignity, creativity, thought and value amidst myriad peoples and places. Hence, the Humanities build the foundations of freedom, well-being and justice; they cultivate an ethic of social engagement, intellectual openness, incisive critique and moral courage.

The Humanities equip us to make critical and difficult choices, to recognize the difference between what is right and what is easy and to take responsibility for our choices as constitutive of ourselves. The Humanities enable us to reflect on how we are shaped by our language, our culture, our technology, our environment—and to recognize the richness offered by diversity, difference, distance and place. They force us to challenge those things that we take for granted. They require disciplined awareness, courageous compassion and skillful curiosity.

The Humanities are the foundation of the university's historic mission to make humanity better. They inspire the university to move beyond the provision of instrumental skills, to move beyond the commodification of learning as training and to embody the highest ideal: that education elevates the human condition itself.

Dr. Annalee Lepp  
Dean of Humanities

# 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.

Whether in literature or Professional Communication, 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.



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**

Chair: Dr. Michael Nowlin  
Advisor: Dr. Erin Ellerbeck

[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 ENGL 146: Contemporary Literature and ENGL 147: Literary Traditions. Both 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 departments of 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**

Director: Dr. Elena Pnevmonidou  
Program Coordinator: Kristina Wallace

[uvic.ca/interdisciplinary/europe/index.php](http://uvic.ca/interdisciplinary/europe/index.php)

## **WHERE TO START**

If you wish to do a minor in European Studies, we recommend that you take EUS 100: Introduction to European Studies and EUS 200: Introduction to European Cultures and Identities during your first year. We also recommend first-year courses in any European language, such as French, German, Italian, Spanish, Russian or Ukrainian.

Additional courses that would help prepare you for the program include introductory history courses 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. Students planning to do a concentration in European Studies should also consider POLI 211: European Integration and the European Union.

We recommend that you complete the Academic Writing Requirement (AWR) in your first year by taking ATWP 135: Academic Reading and Writing, ENGL 146: Contemporary Literature or ENGL 147: Literary Traditions.

# 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 education, government and public services, diplomacy, hospitality and catering, law, translation and public relations, as well as communications and writing.

The Department of French and Francophone Studies 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.

We are proud of our students' high level of written and spoken French, and so encourage a total-immersion environment, from our departmental office operations to the classroom or language laboratory. 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**

Chair and undergraduate advisor: Dr. Marc Lapprand

[uvic.ca/humanities/french](http://uvic.ca/humanities/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 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 also recommend that you complete the Academic Writing Requirement (AWR) in your first year by taking ATWP 135: Academic Reading and Writing, ENGL 146: Contemporary Literature or ENGL 147: Literary Traditions..

# 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.

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**

Chair and advisor: Dr. Laura Parisi

[uvic.ca/humanities/gender](http://uvic.ca/humanities/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. In 2022-23, the 200-level courses offered are GNDR 219 Topics: Gender & Environmental Justice, and GNDR 219: Topics: Womb Matters: The Contested Terrains of Reproduction (in the fall term); GNDR 201: Gender, Food, and Power; GNDR 203: Indigenous Womxn in Canada; GNDR 219 Topics: Reimagining the World: Transnational Speculative Fiction (in the spring term); and GNDR 219 Topics: Critical Media Practices and the Body.

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

We advise that you complete your Academic Writing Requirement (AWR) in your first year by taking ATWP 135: Academic Reading and Writing, ENGL 146: Contemporary Literature or ENGL 147: Literary Traditions.

# 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. 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 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 to find your way in a dynamic and changing Europe. 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; community involvement; and the potential for studying at the Peoples' Friendship University of Russia (currently suspended due to safety issues) and/or summer-study program in Kyiv (currently suspended due to safety issues).**

Chair: Dr. Charlotte Schallié

Advisors: Dr. Olga Pressitch (Slavic Studies), Dr. Elena Pnevmonidou (Germanic Studies)

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



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

## WHERE TO START

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 one of GMST 108: Introduction to Translating German Texts 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 Russian (SLST 101/102: Beginning Russian I and II) or Ukrainian (SLST 111/112: Beginning Ukrainian I and II). Consider adding SLST 180: Magic and the Fairy Tale World.

To prepare yourself for success in our majors programs, consider taking one or more of EUS 100: Introduction to European Studies, 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 100: Introduction to Linguistics I. We also strongly encourage our students to explore other language and literature courses in the Faculty of Humanities.

We advise that you complete your Academic Writing Requirement (AWR) in your first year by taking ENGL 135: Academic Reading and Writing, ENGL 146: Contemporary Literature or ENGL 147: Literary Traditions.



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**

Chair: Dr. Ingrid E. Holmberg

Advisor: Dr. Alejandro Sinner

[uvic.ca/humanities/greekroman](http://uvic.ca/humanities/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 101) or ancient Greek (GREE 101).

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 your Academic Writing Requirement (AWR) in your first year by taking ATWP 135: Academic Reading and Writing, ENGL 146: Contemporary Literature or ENGL 147: Literary Traditions.

# 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 programs in Cuenca (Ecuador), Alcalá (Spain) and Recanati (Italy) offer real-time experience with the cultures and languages of the Italian- and Spanish-speaking world. After you come back, gain experience in academic publishing by contributing to PLVS VLTRA, our student-run undergraduate journal.

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**Study abroad at Universidad de Alcalá (Spain), Universidad de Cuenca (Ecuador), or Campus L'Infinito (Italy); experiential learning opportunities; undergraduate journal; languages.**

Chair: TBA | [hispchair@uvic.ca](mailto:hispchair@uvic.ca)  
Advisor: Rosa Stewart

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



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 100: Introduction to European Studies, 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

# 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.

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## **Field Schools; co-op; community involvement**

Chair: Dr. Jason Colby

Advisors: Drs. Mariel Grant & Simon Devereaux

[uvic.ca/humanities/history](http://uvic.ca/humanities/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 your Academic Writing Requirement (AWR) in your first year by taking ATWP 135: Academic Reading and Writing, ENGL 146: Contemporary Literature or ENGL 147: Literary Traditions.

# 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 15 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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Contact: Dr. Michael F. Reed

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



Students and faculty come together to reflect on how languages, cultures, technologies and environments shape who we are.

## **WHERE TO START**

HUMA 120A: Humanities and the Making of the Intellectual Life

HUMA 120B: Post-Medieval Humanities and the Making of the Modern Mind

We advise that you complete your Academic Writing Requirement (AWR) in your first year by taking ENGL 135: Academic Reading and Writing, ENGL 146: The Literature of Our Era, or ENGL 147: Great Moments in English Literature.

# 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.

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.

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

Director: Dr. Lisa Kahaleole Hall

Advisors: IS Administrative Assistant: Ruth Parrish

Indigenous Academic Advising Consultant: Bobbielee Copeland ([uvic.ca/services/advising/](http://uvic.ca/services/advising/))

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



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. A list of approved electives offered in other departments is available online through the Indigenous Studies webpage.

# Latin American Studies

*Experience the diversity. Get the whole enchilada.*

The Latin American Interdisciplinary and the Latin American Literary and Cultural Studies programs can open the doors to exciting careers in education and research, governmental agencies or non-governmental organizations, international relations, media, law or commerce. The LAS programs offer an interdisciplinary perspective on a geo-cultural area of increasing importance to Canada. The programs include co-op and international experiential learning opportunities as well as Spanish-language skills.

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**Co-op; study-abroad programs; experiential learning**

Director and advisor: Dr. Beatriz de Alba-Koch

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



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 your Academic Writing Requirement (AWR) in your first year by taking ATWP 135: Academic Reading and Writing, ENGL 146: Contemporary Literature or ENGL 147: Literary Traditions.

# 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 department offers programs exploring 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.

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

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Chair: Dr. Martha McGinnis  
Undergraduate Advisor: Dr. Li-Shih Huang

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



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 and 100B: 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 English, 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 your Academic Writing Requirement (AWR) in your first year by taking ATWP135: Academic Reading and Writing, ENGL 146: Contemporary Literature, or ENGL 147: Literary Traditions.

# Medieval Studies

*New old worlds.*

The program of 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. Thanks to their skills (communication, writing, researching, teaming, networking) and their adaptability (interdisciplinary and experiential learning from eight academic units), graduates from our program go places (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. Come and try your hand at calligraphy, discover the thrill of transcribing medieval manuscripts, travel through periods of time and civilizations around the world and 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 for its community engagement.

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**Conviviality; experiential learning; co-op; community involvement**

Director and advisor: Dr. Allan Mitchell

[uvic.ca/humanities/medieval](http://uvic.ca/humanities/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: Humanities and the Making of the Intellectual Life and HUMA 120B: Post-Medieval Humanities and the Making of the Modern Mind.

We also recommend that you complete your Academic Writing Requirement (AWR) in your first year by taking ATWP 135: Academic Reading and Writing, ENGL 146: Contemporary Literature or ENGL 147: Literary Traditions.

# 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.

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**

Department chair: Dr. Richard Fox  
Advisor: Dr. Martin Adam

[uvic.ca/humanities/pacificasia](http://uvic.ca/humanities/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 one of PAAS 100: Introduction to Pacific and Asian Studies, PAAS 151: Modern Chinese Culture, PAAS 171: Modern Southeast Asian Cultures, PAAS 181: Modern Japanese Culture, PAAS 200: Introduction to Theories and Methods in Pacific and Asian Studies, and PAAS 202: Topics in Asian Cinema.

You should also take a language course, such as PAAS 120/121 Introduction to Indonesian, PAAS 118 /218: Intensive Beginner Chinese I and II, PAAS, 138/238: Intensive Beginner Japanese I and II, or PAAS 128/129: Beginner Korean I and II.

Other Humanities courses that best prepare you for success in our programs include RS 200B: Introduction to Asian Religions, HSTR 265A: China and the Premodern World, HSTR 265B: China and the Modern West, PHIL 100: Introduction to Philosophy and PHIL 201: Critical Thinking.

We also recommend that you complete your Academic Writing Requirement (AWR) in your first year by taking ATWP 135: Academic Reading and Writing, ENGL 146: Contemporary Literature, or ENGL 147: Literary Traditions.

# 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.

Come and join the search for wisdom.

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**“The unexamined life is not worth living.” – Socrates**

Department Chair: Dr. Colin Macleod  
Undergraduate Advisor: Dr. Scott Woodcock

[uvic.ca/humanities/philosophy](http://uvic.ca/humanities/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 in the first year you consider taking PHIL 100: Introduction to Philosophy and/or PHIL 201: Critical Thinking.

Other complementary courses include GNDR 200: Popular Culture and Social Media, GRS 101: Greek Culture, HSTR 120: History of Human Rights, HSTR 101A: 10 Days that Shook the World, HSTR 130: History of Science, LING 100A: Introduction to Linguistics and RS 200A: Introduction to Judaism, Christianity and Islam.

If you are interested in questions in practical ethics but do not anticipate majoring in Philosophy, we recommend that you explore the Minor in Applied Ethics and the wide variety of elective courses from Humanities and Social Sciences that are part of that program. For more information about this minor, visit [uvic.ca/humanities/philosophy/undergraduate/programs/minappeth](https://uvic.ca/humanities/philosophy/undergraduate/programs/minappeth).

We also recommend that you complete your Academic Writing Requirement (AWR) in your first year by taking ATWP 135: Academic Reading and Writing, ENGL 146: Contemporary Literature or ENGL 147: Literary Traditions.

# 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 the COVID-19 pandemic?

In the interdisciplinary RSC 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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Director and advisor: Dr. Andrew Wender

[uvic.ca/humanities/religious](https://uvic.ca/humanities/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 RCS 101: Selected Topics in Religion, Culture and Society, which focuses during 2022-2023 on the theme, "Religion and Food"; 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 your Academic Writing Requirement (AWR) in your first year by taking ATWP: Academic Reading and Writing, ENGL 146: Contemporary Literature, or ENGL 147: Literary Traditions.

# American Sign Language Certificate

*Talk with your hands.*

This program is offered by the Department of Linguistics in partnership with the Division of Continuing Studies. The goal of the certificate is to 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.

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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Director and advisor: Sandra Kirkham ([aslprogramcoordinator@uvic.ca](mailto:aslprogramcoordinator@uvic.ca))

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



Students develop a conversational level of communicative competence of ASL, along with a knowledge, understanding and appreciation of the culture of the Deaf Community.

### **WHERE TO START**

Complete a certificate program request specifying the American Sign Language Certificate here: [uvic.ca/services/advising](http://uvic.ca/services/advising)

In your first year, you will be required to take **ASL100A - American Sign Language I** and **ASL100B - American Sign Language II**.

# Intercultural Studies and Practice

*Contribute to building 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.

Program participants complete 4 required courses, 4 electives and a 3.0-unit practicum or project. UVic students may complete their undergraduate degree concurrently with the ISP diploma, unless they are enrolled in a program that limits the number of additional courses that may be taken concurrently with that program's required courses.

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**Co-op; practicum; experiential learning**

Program Coordinator: Maxine Reitsma

[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 in first year. This course will provide a useful foundation for the upper-level courses needed in the diploma program.

A list of core courses and approved electives is available on the ISP website.

# 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.

But we also think (whether you are a confident or an anxious writer, a native speaker of English or someone who learned English as an additional language) that you will get life-long benefits from developing advanced literacy practices 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.

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. See the next page for more information about the AWR.

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Director: Dr. Erin E. Kelly

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

# University and Faculty Requirements

## THE ACADEMIC WRITING REQUIREMENT

All AWR-designated courses will give you tools to succeed in a university classroom and beyond.

Which course should you take? Note that 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 fulfil specific program requirements, however, you can simply sign up for the course that best matches your interests and needs!

**ATWP 135: Academic Reading and Writing** has been designed to support students working towards degrees in all academic programs across the university. This course will provide you with the reading, writing and research skills that you will need to thrive in upper-level courses.

**ENGL 146: Contemporary Literature** is for students interested in exploring contemporary literature.

**ENGL 147: Literary Traditions** will interest you if you are passionate about capital "L" Literature. Lectures focus on aesthetic values as well as cultural and historical contexts of featured works.

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!

All Humanities bachelor's degrees have 6 requirements in common, which specify the range of types of courses that must be completed in order to obtain the degree. These requirements allow students as much choice as possible while ensuring that they gain the knowledge, skills and abilities appropriate for their credential.

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.

Students can satisfy the GLC either by completing 4.5 units of coursework in language and culture (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](http://uvic.ca/humanities/student-resources/degree-requirements)

# Field Schools and Study Abroad

*Break out of the classroom.*

Along with co-op work terms, practica and international exchanges, field schools provide a gateway to dynamic learning opportunities at UVic—helping you apply what you learn in the classroom to the outside world and learn about the world in a fundamentally different way.

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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.

## **FIELD SCHOOLS**

I-Witness Holocaust Field School  
Eastern Boeotia Archaeological Project  
Excavation at Eleon  
Classical Studies Abroad  
Paris Field School

## **STUDY ABROAD & EXCHANGES**

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

# Contact Us

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

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250-472-4677

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