

HUMANITIES, BPHIL

Curriculum

Within the scope of the humanities major, students explore related disciplines, including art history, English, history, and philosophy, to develop cultural literacy and analytical, interpretive, communication, and research skills that can be applied to complex problems and issues. In curriculum taught by Northwestern University faculty, humanities disciplines are equally represented in the core courses, while research and methods courses foster engagement with key texts, scholarly sources, and academic inquiry. Advanced elective courses offer the opportunity to emphasize certain academic subjects and to engage in exploring others including black studies, classics, music history, philosophy, religious studies, theatre studies, and film/media studies.

The bachelor's degree requirements are 45 units total and include the major requirements, writing and foundational disciplines requirements, and elective courses.

Humanities Major Requirements

Course	Title
Core Courses	
<i>Art History</i>	
One 200-level ART_HIST course	
<i>English</i>	
One 200-level ENGLISH course	
<i>History</i>	
HISTORY 250-A	Global History: Early Modern to Modern Transition
HISTORY 250-B	Global History: Modern World
<i>Philosophy</i>	
PHIL 110-CN	Introduction to Philosophy
Research/Methods Courses	
ENGLISH 300-CN	Seminar in Reading and Interpretation
<i>Research Seminar</i>	
One of the following:	
ART_HIST 390-0	Undergraduate Seminar
ENGLISH 397-0	Research Seminar for Literature Majors
HISTORY 395-CN	Research Seminar
Electives	
Six 300-level courses in English, history, art history, classics, comparative literary studies, philosophy, or religious studies ¹	

¹ At least two courses must be selected from English, history and art history. At least one course must focus on a non-western culture or non-dominant U.S. culture. At least one course must engage with culture or history primarily before 1830. Courses in black studies with a humanities focus may also be included with academic adviser approval. An additional research seminar may be counted as an elective.

Degree Requirements

Bachelor of Philosophy

The Bachelor of Philosophy (BPhil) is conferred by the Judd A. and Marjorie Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences (<https://weinberg.northwestern.edu/>). To earn the BPhil degree, students must complete a total of 45 units*, including a writing requirement, a foundational disciplines requirement, two years of study in a language

other than English (or demonstration of equivalent language proficiency), a major, and electives. Language proficiency may be demonstrated by completion of a second-year language sequence with a grade of C or better at an accredited college or university. Minors are optional.

*Each course carries 1 unit of credit unless otherwise noted in academic catalog.

Courses	Units Earned
English 111 and 205	2
Language	6
Humanities	4
Scientific Inquiry and Quantitative Reasoning	4
Social Sciences	4
Major Requirements	10-22
Electives	Up to 15
Total	45

About the Writing Requirement

The writing requirement ensures that students have the skills necessary to meet the rigorous writing demands of subsequent SPS courses in all majors, degrees, and disciplines. Expository writing courses – ENGLISH 111 Writing Seminar II and ENGLISH 205 Intermediate Composition – provide the tools to meet the demands of advanced academic writing. Completion of ENGLISH 111 Writing Seminar II and ENGLISH 205 Intermediate Composition with a grade of C or higher satisfies the writing requirement in all SPS bachelor's degree programs.

Writing requirement courses may not be audited or taken on a pass/no credit basis. Performance-Based Admission students are required to complete ENGLISH 111 and ENGLISH 205 as two of their first four courses.

Writing Requirement Appeals

Students who have been admitted into the degree program as transfer admits may appeal the writing requirement. The writing requirement appeal is reserved for students who can demonstrate the necessary skills for writing university-level research and analytical papers by submitting previous college research papers written within the last three to five years. The papers submitted for the appeal will be evaluated for standards of good expository writing, including: a fully developed thesis; sound logic and adequate evidence in support of the thesis; effective organization, coherent structure, and an overall unity; correct grammar, punctuation, and spelling. A successful appeal does not result in credit for the writing requirement courses; the requirement for ENGLISH 111 and 205 is waived. Students must complete other courses in place of the writing requirement that meet the curriculum requirements of their program. Performance-Based Admission students may not appeal the writing requirement. To appeal the writing requirement, see instructions in the Undergraduate Academic Policies and Procedures (<https://catalogs.northwestern.edu/sps/undergraduate-academic-policies-procedures/>).

About the Foundational Disciplines Requirements

Students complete coursework in three foundational disciplines – humanities, scientific inquiry and quantitative reasoning, and social sciences – to obtain broad experience in the liberal arts. Included in the foundational disciplines requirement are two courses that apply perspectives on power, justice, and equity: one course focused within the

United States and one course focused globally. A philosophy course on professional ethics is required for one of the four humanities courses.

Students in the BPhil degree select courses from the following areas that satisfy the foundational disciplines requirement, including the two U.S. and global perspectives courses and one business ethics philosophy course (PHIL 264 or PHIL 364).

Humanities

Art history, classics, comparative literary studies, English literature, languages other than English (up to two units), history, humanities (HUM), music history, philosophy, religion, and some courses in black studies, languages with literature, gender studies, performance studies, radio/television/film, and theatre.

Scientific Inquiry and Quantitative Reasoning

Astronomy, biological sciences, chemistry, computer information systems, earth and planetary sciences, engineering, mathematics, physics, and some courses in anthropology, communication sciences and disorders, psychology, radio/television/film, and statistics.

Social Sciences

Anthropology, economics, history, linguistics, political science, social sciences, sociology, and some courses in black studies, communication sciences and disorders, gender studies, psychology, and statistics.