Master of Arts in Liberal Studies

Director: James N. Jordan

MALs Advisory Committee: Alberto Cordero, John M. O'Brien

Dept. Office: Powdermaker Hall 350E, 997-3280

The Master of Arts in Liberal Studies program makes possible a structured study of issues and problems outside the usual graduate school disciplines. Its interdisciplinary approach encourages students to see a specific problem, theme, or topic from a broad perspective by focusing on it through more than one methodology. The base of the 30-credit program is three team-taught core seminars that provide an intense examination of the sources and development of Western values.

While completing the core seminars (which comprise 9 credits), students, in consultation with a faculty advisor, select 18 credits of elective courses from existing college graduate offerings. This allows for a focused yet interdisciplinary approach at the master's level of study.

Faculty

The core faculty is drawn primarily but not exclusively from the departments of History and Philosophy. Recent participants include:

- Jordan, James N., Director, Professor of Philosophy, PhD 1966, University of Texas at Austin: Kant studies, ethics
- Cordero, Alberto, Professor of Philosophy, PhD, University of Maryland: philosophy of natural science; history of science
- Hicks, Steven V., Professor of Philosophy, PhD 1990, Columbia University: Kant and Post-Kantian continental philosophy
- Pine, Martin L., Professor Emeritus of History, PhD 1965, Columbia University: ancient, Medieval, and Renaissance history
- Purnell, Frederick, Professor of Philosophy, PhD 1971, Columbia University: ancient, Medieval, and Renaissance philosophy

Admissions

Students must satisfy the general requirements for admission to the Graduate Division. The Graduate Record Exam is not required. The MALs Advisory Committee recommends candidates to the Dean.

Requirements for MALs Degree

These requirements are in addition to the general requirements for the Master of Arts degree:

1. Each student must complete the three core seminars.
2. The course of study must be approved by a faculty advisor.
3. Of the six elective courses, no more than three can be in the same department.
4. Thesis or project required (3 credits).

MALs Core Seminars

- Liberal Studies 700. Western Values I. 2 hr. plus conf.; 3 cr. An intensive examination of the philosophical, religious, and political ideas of the ancient and Medieval world in their historical context.
- Liberal Studies 701. Western Values II. 2 hr. plus conf.; 3 cr. A continuation of LS 700 from the Renaissance to the middle of the twentieth century.
- Liberal Studies 702. Western Values III. 2 hr. plus conf.; 3 cr. Topics in twentieth-century philosophy, politics, and science.