Liberal Studies

at Arcadia University

Global Perspectives…Personal Attention…Real-World Integrative Learning Experiences

Faculty

Dean of Continuing Studies
Dr. Erik Nelson (adviser)

Degree

Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies
Applied Social Science for the Global Citizen
Individualized Concentration

Pathways to Study Abroad in Liberal Studies

Liberal Studies majors are encouraged to spend time studying overseas. Exciting opportunities are available through the University's College of Global Studies. With prior approval, courses taken at foreign universities can be transferred to Arcadia to fulfill Undergraduate Curriculum, including major, requirements. In addition, Arcadia periodically offers ID 181 international experience courses, which involve on-campus instruction before and after a period of a week or two of experiential learning in a host country. These experiences may be particularly appealing for a Liberal Studies major.

Visit the University's website for Pathways to Study Abroad (www.arcadia.edu/pathways). Since it is important that students plan ahead for study abroad, they should consult with their advisers as soon as possible and make their intentions known to the Department Chair and the Associate Dean of International Affairs.

About the B.A. in Liberal Studies

The Liberal Studies program is an interdisciplinary course of study that integrates a liberal arts education across the social studies, the arts and the humanities. The program provides students with the opportunity to shape an individualized course of study and to integrate academic and career interests, or to select a concentration in Applied Social Science for the Global Citizen. By drawing connections across disciplines, students gain a broader awareness of the world around them and a better understanding of the human condition in contemporary society. To meet the needs of the adult learner, most of the courses within this program are available online to allow for even greater flexibility.

The broad scope of the program allows students the opportunity to choose a wide range of courses across academic departments in order to understand multiple modes of inquiry and approaches to knowledge. Students, in conjunction with the adviser, will develop a cohesive concentrated course of study and a concentration that will allow them to meet their educational and career goals.

All students majoring in Liberal Studies are required to take four courses specifically designed for the major. These are LB 200 Introduction to Liberal Studies, LB 330 Evaluating Research, LB 385 Social Theory and LB 490 Capstone Seminar. LB 200, 330 and 385 are prerequisites for LB 490.

In order to be accepted into the program, students must complete an application that includes a short description of why the program meets their needs and an outline of their intended program of study. All students applying to the Liberal Studies major must have a current GPA of 2.0 or higher.

Acceptance to the program is determined by the program coordinator.

Requirements for the B.A. in Liberal Studies

Liberal Studies requirements	13
Other Undergraduate Curriculum requirements	39
Concentration	30–40
Free electives	28–38
Total credits:	120

Individualized Concentration

Suggested Individualized Concentrations include social sciences (including Sociology, Anthropology, Women's Studies, Communications and Political Science), applied social sciences (including Business, Health Administration, Sociology, Anthropology and Communications), and

humanities (including History, English, and Theater, Communications and Art and Design). Courses must be distributed over the 100, 200 and 300 levels and across at least two disciplines.

Beyond the four required courses in the concentration, courses will be selected according to the following guidelines: no more than four 100-level courses and a minimum of six additional courses selected from among 200- and 300-level courses, three of which must be 300-level courses.

Concentration in Applied Social Science for the Global Citizen

This concentration unites coursework in Anthropology, Sociology, Business, Ethics and Communications in order to create a unique, globally focused academic experience. These courses will be distributed over the 100, 200 and 300 levels and across the disciplines mentioned above.

Liberal Studies Courses (LB)

200
Introduction to Liberal Studies
(3 credits; Fall; online)

This course introduces students to perspectives on and methods for understanding disciplines in the humanities and the social sciences, exploring the ways in which thinking and writing in different disciplines complement each other and provide a basis for understanding the nature of being human. Students discover the nature of learning as an open-ended process through readings, collaborative discussions, oral presentations, and written assignments. This course begins and ends with two questions: What does it mean to acquire a liberal arts education? And what is the relationship between a liberal arts education and an understanding of what it means to be human? To this end, the readings selected and the writing assignments included do not provide definitive answers to these questions but provide a forum for students to begin exploration.

330
Evaluating Research
(3 credits; Fall; online)

This course examines the methodologies available for collecting information in the social sciences, such as experiments, survey research, field research, unobtrusive research and evaluative research and how these methodologies can help answer questions about society. Students learn to critically analyze published research findings through a series of structured exercises, culminating in a portfolio of written reflections.

371
Liberal Studies Internship Experience
(4 credits)

The general focus of the course is to provide a student with the opportunity to complete an internship experience or business project at his or her current employer that is connected with the student's coursework in Liberal Studies. Depending upon a student's current employment situation, he or she will have one of two options by which to complete the experiential component of this course, either through a traditional internship or a business research project. In the internship, or development of the business project, the student works with his or her supervisor to create a long-term project that must be utilized by the company, and the supervisor corresponds with the professor regarding progress and project completion. The culminating project in the course relates the internship experience or business project to the present course of study and career goals of the student. **Prerequisites:** LB 200, LB 330 and junior or senior standing in the Liberal Studies major.

385
Social Theory
(3 credits; Fall; online)

This survey of the contributions of major classical, modern and post-modern theorists, presented within their social and historic context considers the works of Marx, Weber, Durkheim, Freud, Parsons, Mead and Goffman, Habermas, Bourdieu as well as Appadurai, Butler, Hooks, Foucault, Baudrillard and Haraway and other theorists. Reviews critiques and elaborations of the theories and assesses their influences on contemporary thought in the social sciences and humanities.

490
Liberal Studies Capstone: Conversations on Being Human
(4 credits; Spring; online)

As the Capstone course for the Liberal Studies program, this course charts a number of current conversations on what exactly makes us human. Students are asked to engage with advanced material that links recent findings in the natural and social sciences with those of visual arts, literature, economics and philosophy. The main objective of the course is for students to integrate their own intellectual collegiate experience by confronting fundamental questions about the nature of humanity, and critically thinking about

the current answers offered by scientists, scholars and artists.
Prerequisite: A GPA of 2.0 or higher in the major, or with permission of the Department required.