LIBERAL STUDIES (BLS)

BLS 300 Seminar in Humanities 3
Interdisciplinary online seminar designed to introduce students to substantive concerns in the Humanities and methods of investigation they employ. Topics vary by semester.
**Prerequisites:** Admission to the major.
**Notes:** May be repeated for credit when topics vary.

BLS 301 Pathways: Reading and Writing in the Humanities 3
Introduction to different modes of enquiry that make up the Humanities: Literature, Fine Arts, Philosophy/Religion/Ethics, and History. Emphasis on the development of academic skills in an online learning environment.
**Prerequisites:** SPLS major, Humanities concentration, junior or senior standing (minimum 60 s.h.), or permission of the instructor.

BLS 320 Selected Topics: Literature 3
Online course that examines selected topics in world literature exploring works of prose and/or poetry from diverse cultural traditions and periods. Topics vary by semester.
**Prerequisites:** Junior standing (60 s.h.), or permission of instructor;
**Notes:** May be repeated for credit when topics vary.

BLS 321 Reading and the Human Experience 3
Exploration of individual experience, interpersonal relationships, and cultural identity through the reading and critical analysis of works of short fiction from the 19th through the 21st centuries.
**Prerequisites:** Sophomore Standing or permission of instructor.

BLS 322 Revolutionary Lives 3
Examination of 19th–20th century Russian novels of conscience within their historical contexts and as related to the broader struggle between authority and conscience throughout history.
**Prerequisites:** Junior or senior standing (minimum 60 s.h.), or permission of the instructor.

BLS 323 Contemporary Short Stories 3
Examination of the contemporary short story as a literary art form and as a reflection of the human experience. Includes both critical/analytical and creative writing assignments.
**Prerequisites:** Junior or senior standing (minimum 60 s.h.), or permission of the instructor.

BLS 325 Mystery, Mayhem, and Murder 3
Examination of mystery and detective fiction from British and American authors throughout the history of the genre. Considers theory about narrative and mystery, and genre fiction as social commentary.
**Prerequisites:** Junior or senior standing (minimum 60 s.h.), or permission of the instructor.

BLS 326 Telling Stories: The Memoir 3
Examination and analysis of contemporary book-length memoirs, personal memory essays, and self-portrait paintings; includes some creative writing.
**Prerequisites:** Junior or senior standing (minimum 60 s.h.), or permission of the instructor.

BLS 327 Contemporary Asian Literature 3
Exploration of novels by major authors from South Asia and East Asia in the last half century. Examines cultures and politics, and relationships with the Western world.
**Prerequisites:** SPLS major, Humanities concentration, junior or senior standing (minimum 60 s.h.), or permission of the instructor.

BLS 340 Selected Topics: Fine Arts 3
Online course that examines selected topics in the fine arts exploring the aims and methods of artistic expression and the role of cultural traditions and artistic values in human society.
**Prerequisites:** Junior standing (60 s.h.), or permission of instructor;
**Notes:** May be repeated for credit when topics vary.

BLS 342 Painting on the Page 3
Studies literary texts about works of Western art; explores the relationship between the interpretation of pictures and written texts, and considers questions about art, beauty, truth, and aesthetic experience.
**Prerequisites:** SPLS major, Humanities concentration, junior or senior standing (minimum 60 s.h.), or permission of the instructor.

BLS 343 Big Plays, Big Ideas 3
Examines great plays, classic to modern, that grapple with significant issues and ideas, and illuminate the human experience on the page and on the stage.
**Prerequisites:** Junior or senior standing (minimum 60 s.h.), or permission of the instructor.

BLS 345 Photography: Contexts and Illusions 3
Examines the history, theory, and contexts of photography since its development. Explores uses and abuses of photography in science, art, and media; examines how photography crosses and confuses visual genres.
**Prerequisites:** Junior or senior standing (minimum 60 s.h.), or permission of the instructor.

BLS 346 The Art of Life 3
Explores the relationship between the creative arts and human values, ideas, and emotions. Theme of "getting lost" in the creative process, which leads to discovery and insight—the accidental masterpiece.
**Prerequisites:** Junior or senior standing (minimum 60 s.h.), or permission of the instructor.

BLS 347 Shakespeare Off the Page 3
Examines a selection of Shakespeare's major plays not only as universal and timeless works of literature, but as blueprints for live theatre productions and film performances for modern audiences.
**Prerequisites:** Sophomore Standing or permission of instructor.

BLS 348 Representing Women 3
Focuses on women as producers, consumers, and subjects of visual culture. Examines the Feminist art movement, Feminist critiques of popular culture, and the significance of visual representation to political representation.
**Prerequisites:** Sophomore Standing or permission of instructor.

BLS 360 Selected Topics: Philosophy/Religion/Ethics 3
Online course that examines selected topics in philosophy, religion, and ethics; compares assumptions, modes of thought, and attendant practices, and analyzes their effects on behavior and human society.
**Prerequisites:** Junior standing (60 s.h.), or permission of instructor.
**Notes:** May be repeated for credit when topics vary.

BLS 361 American Dreams 3
Study of the "American Dream," its origins and historical development through its contemporary relevancy. Themes include freedom, immigration, nationalism, commercialism, class in America, the Dream's corollary: the American Nightmare.
**Prerequisites:** Sophomore Standing or permission of instructor.
BLS 362 Vice, Crime, and American Law 3
An examination of the moral concept of "vice" and its application in American criminal law. Topics include gambling, prostitution, pornography, drugs, hate speech, and laws prohibiting gay marriage.
**Prerequisites:** Junior or senior standing (minimum 60 s.h.) or permission of the instructor.

BLS 363 Ethics and Technology 3
An examination of ethical problems created by technology. Additional emphasis given to the historical, legal, and cultural impacts technology has had on our society.
**Prerequisites:** Junior or senior standing (minimum 60 s.h.), or permission of the instructor.

BLS 364 Mystics in America 3
Investigation of popular trends in contemporary American spirituality with attention to the historical roots that may or may not lie behind them.
**Prerequisites:** Junior or senior standing (minimum 60 s.h.) or permission of the instructor.

BLS 365 Divided We Stand 3
Exploration of the relationship between religion and democracy in America. Topics include religion in the nation's founding, America as a secular state, religious pluralism, and religion in public discourse.
**Prerequisites:** Junior or senior standing (minimum 60 s.h.), or permission of the instructor.

BLS 366 Life, Death, and Meaning 3
An examination of philosophical writings concerning death and the meaning of life. Plays, poems, art, literature, and films that apply or illustrate the philosophical works are also examined.
**Prerequisites:** Junior or senior standing (minimum 60 s.h.) or permission of the instructor.

BLS 380 Selected Topics: Historical Perspectives 3
Online course that examines selected topics in history and explores the context of events (social structure, economics, political systems, culture, or beliefs) in a specific region and period.
**Prerequisites:** Sophomore Standing or permission of instructor.
**Notes:** May be repeated for credit when topics vary.

BLS 381 Old Europe/New Europe 3
Interdisciplinary cultural history of Europe from the French Revolution to the present. Introduction to key historical figures, cultural movements, and artistic developments.
**Prerequisites:** Junior or senior standing (minimum 60 s.h.), or permission of the instructor.

BLS 383 Religious Resistance to Political Power 3
Explores religious resistance to atheist Soviet doctrine within the Soviet Union itself, in Communist Poland, and in Soviet-occupied Afghanistan. Examines relationships between religion and society in each context.
**Prerequisites:** Junior or senior standing (minimum 60 s.h.), or permission of the instructor.

BLS 384 Great Trials in American History 3
Explores changes in American culture, society, and legal customs through the study of specific trials throughout American history, from the colonial period through the twentieth century.
**Prerequisites:** Junior or senior standing (minimum 60 s.h.), or permission of the instructor.

BLS 385 American Motherhood 3
Examines representations of motherhood throughout American history in the media and in scholarly and creative literature. Explores the mothering experiences of women of different races, classes, and generations.
**Prerequisites:** Sophomore Standing or permission of instructor.

BLS 386 Women, War, and Terror 3
Examines women as victims and critics of war and terror in the 20th century, primarily through autobiographical writings, and explores broader questions of gender, language, power, and resistance.
**Prerequisites:** Junior or senior standing (minimum 60 s.h.), or permission of the instructor.

BLS 400 Senior Seminar in the Humanities 3
Online, capstone experience for majors. Students compile Web portfolio of work from classes in the major. Course serves as a method of assessment for majors.
**Prerequisites:** Admission to major.

BLS 401 Individual Study 1-3
Directed program of reading and/or research in the humanities. Available to majors upon recommendation of an instructor and approval of the program directors.
**Prerequisites:** Admission to major. Successful completion of one semester of course work at UNCG; permission of an approved, cooperating instructor.