

Master of Arts in
Liberal Studies

SUMMER & FALL 2020 COURSE BOOKLET

CONTACT US:

(305)284-8783

malsadmissions@miami.edu

mals.miami.edu

MASTER OF ARTS IN LIBERAL STUDIES PROGRAM
SUMMER A COURSE (2205)
MAY 18 – JUNE 24, 2020

MLS 612 Y19 *“Race Relations in Contemporary America”*
Professor George Wilson
Tuesday & Thursday **6:00-9:35 pm** **Online**

This course examines the dynamics of racial inequality in contemporary America. It examines, specifically, (1) theoretical perspectives that explain racial disparities and inequality across a variety of institutional contexts including the labor market, schools, and residence, (2) the nature of ideologies that justify this inequality, and (3) how theory can inform social policy to rectify inequality.

MLS 631 Y19 *“Spirituality and Education”*
Professor Henry Green
Monday & Wednesday **6:00-9:35 pm** **Online**

This course explores the nature of spirituality and the differences from religion. Sacred literature, music and images from varied traditions (eastern and western) will be gleaned both for instructional as well as inspirational values. By focusing on spiritual literacy, several themes will be addressed such as charity, spiritual practice and community service. The course is limited to 12 students.

MLS 696 01 *“Directed Readings”*
Professor Daniel Pals
Hours arranged

A Directed Readings course allows you to work independently with a MALS professor, researching a topic of your choice. The student must find a professor in the field that is willing to act as the advisor.

Only students with a 3.0 GPA or higher will be able to enroll in a Directed Readings course. In order to register for the course you will need to submit a 2 page proposal along with a bibliography of 10 academic sources to the IPS office *before* registering.

The final paper must be a minimum of 15 pages, and be submitted to both the professor and the IPS office by the last day of class

Students are allowed two directed readings courses during their studies in the program.

MASTER OF ARTS IN LIBERAL STUDIES PROGRAM
SUMMER B COURSES (2205)
JUNE 29 – AUG. 5, 2020

MLS 799 Y19

“Visual Thinking”

Professor Tom Lopez

Monday & Wednesday

6:00-9:35 pm

Online

A graduate seminar introducing a variety of critical and analytical methods, from formalism to deconstruction. The class is designed to expand the knowledge of students in the areas of critical theory, esthetics, media theory, psychology and politics. With a concentration focus on expanding the vocabulary of thinking and talking about art, television, film and media within the plethora of ism’s (Modernism, Post-Modernism, Feminism etc.). The goal of the class is for the student to be able to view and understand image function as sign and metaphor from a variety of theoretical positions. The class will view and discuss paintings, photography, film, advertising, television and computer as an analytical background for value, sign and structural systems.

MLS 696/697

Directed Readings

Professor Daniel Pals

Hours arranged

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MLS 810
Thesis Committee
Hours arranged

“Master Thesis”

Before registering for a MALS Thesis students must submit a proposal and meet with Dr. Pals to discuss the project. Students are advised to also check the guidelines for writing a thesis on the Graduate School website: www.miami.edu/gs

MLS 815
Professor Daniel Pals
Hours arranged

“MALS Project”

Before registering for a MALS Project students must submit a proposal and meet with Dr. Pals to discuss the project.

MLS 820
Professor Daniel Pals
Hours arranged

Research in Residence

Used to establish research in residence for the thesis for the master's degree after the student has enrolled for the permissible cumulative total in MLS 810 (usually six credits). Credit not granted. May be regarded as full time residence and mandatory fees will apply.

MASTER OF ARTS IN LIBERAL STUDIES PROGRAM
FALL 2020 COURSES (2208)
Aug. 24 – Dec. 8, 2020

MLS 601 KL *"Aspects of Creative and Reflective Thought"*
Professor Henry Green
Mondays **6:35-9:20 pm** **MB 214F**

Selected aspects of creative and reflective thought, based on materials from the arts, the humanities, the sciences, the social sciences and history. The focus will be on themes and issues represented in a variety of cultural traditions.

**This is a MALS required core course*

MLS 602 UV *"Perspectives on Human Nature"*
Professor George Wilson
Tuesdays **6:35-9:20 pm** **MB 214F**

Basic theories of human nature proposed by the humanities, the sciences, and the social sciences. The course deals with insights, provided by different perspectives into human nature and related issues, such as the nature of the self and its relation to society, the impact of culture on self-perception, and the relation of thought to human action. Special attention will be given to the historical development of theories of human nature and their implications for social and political policy.

**This is a MALS required core course*

MLS 611 UV *"Age of Augustus"*
Professor David Graf
Thursdays **6:35-9:20 pm** **MB 214F**

When Caesar adopted Gaius Octavius, he brought about the transition from Republic to Empire of Rome, and the Augustan Principate. The Age of Augustus saw revolutionary changes that transformed Rome, Romanized the provinces, and witnessed an unequalled era of peace and prosperity across the Mediterranean world. The course will track these developments between 27 BCE and 68 CE, from Augustus to Nero, by analysis of the major sources, films, and a survey of the archaeological remains of the early empire.

**Limited to 5 MALS students only.*

MLS 621 UV

“Medieval World; Tolkien and Martin”

Professor Goodmann

Thursdays

6:35-9:20 pm

TBD

“One Ring to rule them all . . .” “When you play the game of thrones, you win or you die.” In this course we will examine medievalism in two globally popular fantasy fictions, J. R. R. Tolkien’s *The Lord of the Rings* and George R. R. Martin’s *A Game of Thrones*, the first volume in *A Song of Ice and Fire*. Our objectives include learning about some of the pre-modern sources and themes that contribute to the “world-making” of each novel in its respective quasi-medieval setting. We’ll explore the ways in which each writer deploys such sources, as well as conceptions of fictitious “history” to lend depth to a foreground narrative and to suggest the pressure of the past on the fictive present.

MLS 799 UV “Modernism, Photography and the Mechanical Paradise”

Professor Tom Lopez

Tuesdays

6:35-9:20 pm

MB 309

The term “Modernism”, especially when applied to Art is generally accepted to have its beginning in the mid-nineteenth century. The transition from the “Romantic” to the “Modern” is the starting point of this seminar. The invention of photography, the end of monarchies, the rise of a bourgeois class and the concept, “a mechanical universe” is one of the great paradigm shifts in how we view the world. This class will consider the changes to the world of art over two centuries and attempt to articulate how those changes have led to the post-modern esthetic currently at play in the world of esthetics. This seminar offers the opportunity to revise and reframe the (R)evolution of Art, especially after the invention of Photography and to debate its importance for current practices of an understanding of historical precedent. Many believe the avant-garde and post-modern are interchangeable, we will explore if this is an accurate consideration. The works of Goya, Melville and Manet are starting points for understanding the global shift in thinking and seeing these artists contributed to esthetics.

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