



# UMIALS

Master of Arts in Liberal Studies

## SPRING 2020 COURSE BOOK

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MIAMI

# COLLEGE of ARTS & SCIENCES

Interdisciplinary & Professional Studies



**MASTER OF ARTS IN LIBERAL STUDIES PROGRAM**  
**SPRING COURSES**  
**JANUARY 13 – MAY 6, 2020**

**MLS 601-KL**                      *"Aspects of Creative and Reflective Thought"*  
**Professor John Kirby**  
**Wednesday**                      **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 is on themes and issues represented in a variety of cultural traditions. The course is intended to equip the student for participation in higher academic discourse generally, and specifically for graduate-level academic work in liberal studies.

*\*This is a MALS required core course*

**MLS 602-UV**                      *"Perspectives on Human Nature"*  
**Professor George Wilson**  
**Tuesday**                      **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 603-KL**                      *"Theories of the Physical Universe"*  
**Professor Massimiliano Galeazzi**  
**Monday**                      **6:35-9:20 pm**                      **KPB 109**

This course will examine a variety of theories and models of the physical universe including perspectives from various physical sciences and disciplines such as philosophy, religion, and history.

*\*This is a MALS required core course*

**MLS 611-KL**                      *"Human Rights: Walls and Justice"*



**Professor Henry Green**

**Monday**

**6:35 - 9:20 pm**

**MB 214F**

Over the last 75 years, millions of people have been displaced from North Africa and the Middle East: Copts (Egypt), Jews (from the Atlantic Ocean to the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers) and most recently, Kurds and Yazidis in Iraq and Syrians of all stripes. The migration of the displaced has created a crisis in Europe. This course examines the reasons why this has transpired and the plight of the refugees. Highlighting the International Declaration of Human Rights ratified by the United Nations in the wake of the Holocaust (1951), the course engages students in documenting the stories of these refugees. The narratives include life in their countries of origin, their story of leaving and their experience of resettling in a new country. Core themes such as transnational identity, exile, diaspora, migration and the “other” are central to the course.

The course is part of an international project, Sephardic Voices mirroring Spielberg’s Holocaust/Shoah Project but with an emphasis on non-Europeans and Islamic countries.

**MLS 625-UV**

***“The Archaeology of the Holy Land”***

**Professor David Graf**

**Thursday**

**6:35-9:20 pm**

**MB 214F**

In the past half century, exciting new archaeological discoveries have revolutionized our understanding of Jewish identity in the Second Temple period. This course is designed to familiarize you with the most significant of these new finds in the material culture of ancient Israel during Persian suzerainty, Jewish Independence, and the dramatic events that led to the integration of the Holy Land into the Roman state.

**Enrollment limited to 7 MALS students.**

**MLS 631-UV**      ***“Nazi Germany through Novels, Diaries and Autobiographies”***      **Professor Hermann Beck**

**Thursday**

**6:35-9:20 pm**

**MM 214**



This course explores politics, society, and daily life, as well as tragedies and upheavals, in Hitler's Third Reich through the lens of autobiographies, diaries, and novels. Under the repressive conditions of one of the most watertight dictatorships in World History, the pen was often the only way to give vent to one's feelings, frustrations, and indignations. A number of powerful, fascinating, and also eminently readable personal accounts tell us much about how human beings function under extreme and repressive conditions.

**MLS 799 UV**                      *War and Propaganda*

**Professor Tomas Lopez**

**Tuesdays**

**6:35-9:20 pm**

**MB 309**

A graduate seminar exploring how War and Propaganda are depicted in Art, Film and Media. The celebration and condemnation of war and violence has been explored by artists since the beginning of recorded history. The class will concentrate on the function and obsession with these topics in art and film. The goal of the class is for the student to be able to analyze how different cultures view war, preparing for war and the aftermath of occupation and/or withdrawal.

**MLS 696-01/697-01**            *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. Professor Pals will be the advisor for all Directed Readings in Religion.

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*



**MLS 810 01**                      *MALS Thesis*  
**Professor Daniel Pals**  
Hours arranged

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](http://www.miami.edu/gs)

**MLS 815 01**                      *MALS Project*  
**Professor Daniel Pals**  
Hours arranged

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

**MLS 820 01**                      *Research in Residence*  
**Professor Daniel Pals**  
Hours arranged

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.