

---

---

## LIBERAL STUDIES (M.A.)

---

*Executive Officer:* Professor Joseph Dauben

The Graduate Center

365 Fifth Avenue

New York, NY 10016

Email: [Liberalstudies@gc.cuny.edu](mailto:Liberalstudies@gc.cuny.edu)

URL: <http://web.gc.cuny.edu/Liberalstudies/>

### **FACULTY (AS OF JULY 2009)**

Stanley Aronowitz ■ Bernard H. Baumrin ■ Marshall Berman ■ Felicia Bonaparte ■ Mehdi Bozorgmehr ■ Rachel Brownstein ■ Clare L. Carroll ■ Sarah E. Chinn ■ Blanche Wiesen Cook ■ Sandi E. Cooper ■ Joseph W. Dauben ■ Jacqueline Di Salvo ■ Morris Dickstein ■ Marc Dolan ■ Joseph B. Entin ■ Michelle Fine ■ Wayne Finke ■ Joyce Gelb ■ Jane S. Gerber ■ Marilyn Gittell ■ Anthony J. Gottlieb ■ Linda M. Grasso ■ Tomohisa Hattori ■ Gerhard Joseph ■ Thomas Kessner ■ Marie C. Marianetti ■ Oscar J. Montero ■ Susan Gushee O'Malley ■ Glenn Petersen ■ Debra Popkin ■ Richard Gid Powers ■ Joan T. Richardson ■ Bethany L. Rogers ■ William M. Sherzer ■ Robert Singer ■ Jacob Stern ■ David M. Traboulay ■ Mark D. Ungar ■ Manuel Vivero ■ Julia C. Wrigley

*For the most up-to-date faculty listings and specializations, see the program's Web site.*

### **THE PROGRAM**

The program leading to the degree of Master of Arts in Liberal Studies is designed to meet the needs of persons who have completed the undergraduate degree and who have the ability and the desire to engage in advanced study, but for whom the traditional graduate curricula are too restrictive. It offers the capable student the opportunity for advanced interdisciplinary graduate study focusing on contemporary programmatic themes that reflect his or her interests and talents without restriction to a specific discipline or division and at a level of scholarship fully comparable with the academic standards of the Graduate Center.

The program faculty includes distinguished scholars in the humanities, social sciences, and sciences, each knowledgeable about the special nature of the program. Students are encouraged to take full advantage of the resources of the Graduate Center and to explore various avenues of interdisciplinary cooperation.

The active involvement of faculty and students in advanced study and research is promoted in a number of centers and institutes, including the Center for Advanced Study in Theatre Arts, the Center for Jewish Studies, the Center for the Study of Women and Society, the Ralph Bunche Institute for International Studies, the Barry S. Brook Center for Music Research and Documentation, and the Victorian Committee of the Ph.D. Program in English.

---

## **SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSION**

Applicants must have completed a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university or its equivalent. A transcript of all college or graduate work and two letters of recommendation are required with the application for admission. All applicants are required to take the Graduate Record Exam (GRE) General Test. An interview with the Executive Officer of the program may also be required. The purpose of this interview is to discuss the suitability of the program to the individual's needs and strengths. Admission to the program must ultimately be approved by the Executive Committee.

## **SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MASTER OF ARTS IN LIBERAL STUDIES**

*Course of Study* With the advice of the Executive Officer, each student will design a course of study built around a programmatic theme or area of specialization, such as American Studies; Approaches to Modernity; Bioethics, Science, and Society; Film Studies; International Studies; Jewish Studies; Landmarks in Western Thought; Latin American, Caribbean, and Latino Studies; Studies in Contemporary Urban Education; Translation; Women's Studies, and Biography, Autobiography, and Memoir. Students in the International Studies specialization must demonstrate a reading knowledge of at least one foreign language. Students in the Translation specialization must demonstrate advanced knowledge of one foreign language; reading knowledge of a second foreign language is strongly recommended. The program of study includes courses offered by the various disciplines at the Graduate Center as well as special core courses created for the Master of Arts in Liberal Studies.

Thirty credits of graduate study are required for the degree. Each student will be required to complete at least two seminars designed for a given specialization (at least 6 credits) and an approved distribution of course work in pertinent disciplines. A final project or master's thesis will also be required.

---

## **Courses**

Unless otherwise stated, all courses are *30 hours plus conferences, 3 credits*

MALS 70500 Classical, Medieval, or Renaissance Culture

MALS 70600 Enlightenment and Critique

MALS 70700 The Shaping of Modernity, 1789–1914

MALS 70800 Transformations of Modernity, 1914–present

MALS 70900 Biography, Autobiography, and Memoir I: Biography: Theories, History, and Kinds

MALS 71000 Biography, Autobiography, and Memoir II: Life Writing: Autobiographies, Memoir, and the  
"Minor" Genres

MALS 71100 Theory of Translation

MALS 71400 Introduction to International Studies

MALS 71500 Critical Issues in International Studies

MALS 72100 Feminist Texts and Contexts

MALS 72200 Contemporary Feminist Theories

MALS 73100 American Culture and Values: Selected Topics

MALS 73200 American Social Institutions: Selected Topics

MALS 74100 The Conceptual Structure of Science

MALS 74200 The Practice of Science and Medicine

MALS 74300 Bioethics: Policies and Cases

MALS 75100 The Computer in Translation

MALS 75200 Terminology and Documentation

MALS 76100 Traditional Patterns of Jewish Behavior and Thought

MALS 76200 Continuities and Discontinuities in Modern Jewish Life

MALS 77100 Aesthetics of Film (cross-listed with THEA 71400)

MALS 77200 History of the Cinema I, 1895–1930 (cross-listed with THEA 71500)

MALS 77300 History of the Cinema II, 1930 to the Present (cross-listed with THEA 71600)

MALS 78100 Issues in Urban Education

MALS 78200 The Politics of Contemporary Urban Education

MALS 79000 Thesis/Final Project Research

MALS 79600, Thesis Workshop

*1 credit*

MALS 79700 Independent Study

*1-4 credits*

### **Additional Courses**

Students in this program have access to a wide variety of course offerings in various disciplines, depending on the specialization. Consult the Executive Officer for additional details.