

**Minimal Course Content Criteria for Meeting Humanities/Fine Arts Distribution Gen Ed Requirement
(Approved 11-14-14)**

HUMANITIES:

The humanities represent the intellectual tradition which studies the human condition using methods that are primarily critical or speculative, and have a significant historical element – as distinguished from the mainly empirical approaches of the natural and social sciences. Courses that satisfy the UNLV Humanities distribution credits must satisfy the following **five** criteria:

- 1) Must be introductory or survey courses accessible to students outside the major with few or no prerequisites.
- 2) Must include course material that identifies the fundamental assumptions, goals and methods of the humanities.
- 3-5) Humanities distribution courses must also contribute to **one of the first three**, and **one of the last two**, following UNLV General Education University Undergraduate Learning Outcomes (UULO) listed below. Specifically, humanities distribution courses will:

Contribute to the ***Intellectual Breadth and Lifelong Learning*** UULO by (minimum of two of the following):

- a) Demonstrating proficiency in skills that sustain lifelong learning, particularly the abilities to think both critically and responsibly.
- b) Demonstrating the necessary skills for proficiency in accessing, evaluating, and integrating information.
- c) Understanding the basic principles, theoretical models, and research methods of at least one discipline within the Humanities.

Contribute to the ***Inquiry and Critical Thinking*** UULO by (minimum of two of the following):

- a) Critically analyzing modes of writing and writing components in public, popular and academic texts.
- b) Recognizing how contexts for the production of intellectual inquiry and ideas play a critical role in shaping their presentation.
- c) Understanding and applying a variety of documentation styles to cite research in written compositions for specific purposes and designated audiences.

Contribute to the ***Communication*** UULO by (minimum of two of the following):

- a) Communicating ideas and/or advancing intellectual positions via the use of both creative and academic writing genres.
- b) Analyzing how strategies of communication can guide the organization, interpretation, and presentation of messages to the public, and understand their possible effects.
- c) Effectively organizing, developing, and presenting work in public settings, including persuasive and informational presentations.
- d) Developing a basic understanding of how various technologies can enhance or affect public communication.

Contribute to the ***Global/Multicultural Knowledge and Awareness*** UULO by (minimum of three of the following):

- a) Analyzing, interpreting, evaluating, and appreciating human intellectual and imaginative creations via the context of their production.
- b) Recognizing how various works of cultural production illuminate both enduring human concerns and changes in the human condition, and understand and appreciate the diversity of cultures that exists in local, national, and international contexts.
- c) Identifying and analyze the significance human beings attach to their differences and politics of identity, and be able to describe and analyze the effects of prejudice, exclusion, subordination, and ideologies of racial superiority upon all human groups.

d) Understanding the historical development, cultural and linguistic frameworks, and societies of peoples in various regions of the world.

e) Understanding the growing interconnectedness of various regions of the world since the advent of human societies, and its ramifications for the future.

Contribute to the ***Citizenship and Ethics*** UULO by (minimum of three of the following):

a) Describing and analyzing diverse value systems and the historical, social, and psychological backgrounds from which they emerge.

b) Developing an ability to situate and critique one's own values within existing value systems and their social contexts.

c) Learning the various types of argumentation, logical reasoning, and philosophical thinking, and develop independent positions toward issues by applying these skills.

d) Understanding the responsibilities associated with citizenship, community engagement, and social responsibility

e) Describing and analyzing the social issues relevant to various communities, and what strategies might improve the human condition.

FINE ARTS:

The fine arts are those creative traditions, including (but not limited to) architecture, visual art, film, music, theater, and dance, whose products are to be appreciated primarily or solely for their imaginative, aesthetic, or intellectual content. Courses that satisfy the UNLV fine arts distribution credits must satisfy the following **four** criteria:

1) Must be introductory, survey, or introductory to advanced performance courses accessible to students outside the major with few or no prerequisites.

2-4) Fine arts distribution courses must also contribute to **two of the three** UNLV General Education University Undergraduate Learning Outcomes (UULO) listed below. Specifically, fine arts distribution courses will:

Contribute to the ***Intellectual Breadth and Lifelong Learning*** UULO by (minimum of one of the following):

a) Developing the skills to appreciate various forms of artistic expression, and develop the skills necessary to evaluate such works in a critical fashion.

b) Developing an appreciation for artistic endeavor that will lead to continued patronage of the arts as a lifelong pursuit

Contribute to the ***Inquiry and Critical Thinking*** UULO by (minimum of two of the following):

a) Understanding the disciplinary underpinnings, concepts, and strategies that undergird various forms of artistic presentation.

b) Constructing and defending viable critiques and evaluations of various forms of artistic production.

c) Recognizing the impact of various innovations, controversies, and influences drawn from various contexts in various forms of artistic production.

Contribute to the ***Citizenship and Ethics*** UULO by (minimum of two of the following):

a) Understanding how artistic works play critical roles in addressing problems and issues in human society.

b) Understanding how artistic production is an integral part of community life, and recognize the roles that various forms of artistic production have in articulating community issues.

c) Understanding the ethical implications that can arise when various forms of artistic works are presented to diverse audiences on contested topics.