

Summer Experiences

Humanities Institute: Politics and the Arts

Please note this a sample schedule only and all activities are subject to change.

Schedule

- Morning Session (9:00am-12:00pm)
- Lunch (12:00-1:30pm)
- Afternoon Session (1:30-3:30pm)
- Independent Study/Academic Support Time (3:30-4:30pm)

Literature and the fine arts can transform individual lives, but can they change the world? The Humanities Institute will focus on the political impact of the arts in the past and in the present – on the role of artists as activists, social critics, visionaries, and, in some cases, creators of propaganda. We will also study how the relationship between politics and the arts has been understood at different historical moments and in different cultural traditions, and consider the arguments made for and against placing limits on artists' freedom of expression.

The institute is divided into morning and afternoon sessions that include assigned readings, hands-on activities, and a final project. Morning sessions will give you the opportunity to hone your critical reading and thinking skills through seminar-style discussions with leading Washington University humanities faculty. Afternoon sessions will offer a chance to enhance your understanding through field trips, performances, guest lectures, museum visits, and film screenings. A concluding panel discussion will provide an overview of humanities majors and the different career paths to which they can lead.

Final Project

Throughout the two weeks, you will work together in teams to create a podcast related to the theme of politics and the arts. A selection of possible topics will be distributed on the first day of the seminar and time will be set aside each evening to ensure that you make steady progress on the project. Consultations with Washington University communications professionals and a visit to St. Louis Public Radio studios will provide practical instruction in podcasting. Your instructor will provide further details.

Attendance

Timeliness and earnest engagement in all sessions is imperative to the general success of the institute and of your performance. Take care to attend each session on time every time. Teaching Assistants will take attendance at all sessions. You are required to attend every session unless otherwise approved.

Participation in Class Activities

Students are expected to actively participate in discussion, ask questions, and contribute during active learning sessions. While it is sometimes difficult to speak in class, your comments are valued as contributions to the collective understanding of course materials; actively participating will reinforce your grasp of the concepts, correct misunderstandings, and inspire deeper thought.

Professionalism

Please remember to treat everyone with patience and respect. Acknowledge and respect diversity and difference of opinion. Give your classmates the benefit of the doubt and express your concerns in a respectful way. Respect also includes using technology appropriately and considerately. Our classroom is a cellphone and internet free environment. Individual permission may be given for using word-processing programs in class. Please respect the rights of others to learn.

Academic Integrity

As a member of our academic community you are bound by honor regarding your academic work. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, fabricating information or citations, facilitating acts of academic dishonesty by others, submitting work of another person or work previously used as your own, or tampering with the academic work of others. **Plagiarism will not be tolerated.** To view the policy visit: studentconduct.wustl.edu/academic-integrity/policies-and-procedures/.

Student Performance Evaluation

Students are evaluated based on attendance, participation in class activities, interaction with peers, professionalism, quality of work produced, asking for assistance when needed, as well as their ability to adhere to academic integrity standards and program policies. At the end of the program, students who have met the expectations of the program will receive a certificate of completion, letter of endorsement, and a completed performance evaluation. This is a noncredit program. Grades are not issued. A copy of the student performance evaluation is attached.

Schedule and Reading Assignments

July 2, 2018 – Introduction to the Institute

Leader(s): Matt Erlin (Germanic Languages and Literatures)

Morning: What do the arts have to do with politics?

Afternoon: Overview of Institute, introduction to podcast projects

Readings: TBD

July 3, 2018 – Shock Art, Censorship, Freedom of Expression

Leader(s): Eric Brown (Philosophy), Charlie Kurth (Philosophy)

Morning: Why (not) censor? Harmful versus offensive expression

Afternoon: Museum visit and extended discussion

Readings: TBD, but possibly including Plato (Republic X) and Mill (excerpts from On Liberty), or Mozi (“A Condemnation of Musical Performances”), Xunzi (“Discourse on Music”), Joel Feinberg (Ride on a Bus), or recent contributions in Arguing about Art.

July 4, 2018 – Holiday no class

July 5, 2018 – Comedy and Politics

Leader(s): Tim Moore (Classics)

Morning: The politics of Roman comedy and Japanese kyōgen. How do they compare to modern comedy?

Afternoon: Watch videos of and perform together scenes from the two plays read for class.

Readings: Plautus, *The Haunted House*; Anonymus, *Busu (The Delicious Poison)*

July 6, 2018 – Artists as Visionaries? Utopian and Dystopian Literature

Leader(s): Matt Erlin (German), Joe Loewenstein (English)

Morning: Classical and Renaissance utopias; contemporary dystopian teen fiction

Afternoon: Design your own utopia!

Readings: More, *Utopia* (selections); Collins, *The Hunger Games*

July 7, 2018 – Radio as a Political Medium (half-day)

Leader(s): Caroline Kita (German)

Morning: Lecture and discussion on radio, politics and storytelling

Late Morning: Visit to studios of STL Public Radio

Readings: Excerpts from Rudolf Arnheim, *Radio* (1936), Brecht, “The Radio as a Means of Communication” (1932), [DeMair, “Sounds Authentic: The Acoustic Construction of Serial’s Storyworld” (2016), *Serial* (2014) season 1, episode 1]

July 9, 2018 – Opera and Politics

Leader(s): Tili Boon Cuillé (Romance Languages)

Morning: Gender Politics: Women in Opera

Afternoon: Screening and discussion of Donizetti’s *Lucia di Lammermoor*

Readings: Hadlock, “Sonorous Bodies: Women and the Glass Harmonica” (507-13, 528-35); Smart, “The Silencing of Lucia” (119-22, 127-30); Flaubert, *Madame Bovary*, pt.II, ch.15 (222-30)

July 10, 2018 – Propaganda, Art, and Self-Expression: Youth and Politics in Totalitarian Societies

Leaders: Erin McGlothlin (German), Anika Walke (History)

Morning: Introduction: Education, indoctrination, and growing-up under authoritarian regimes.

Afternoon: Critical film analysis: Youth movements rejecting authoritarian regimes.

Readings/ Sources: German Propaganda Archive (research.calvin.edu/german-propaganda-archive/), Natsional’naia

Elektronnaia Detskaia Biblioteka (<http://arch.rgdb.ru/xmlui/>), Soviet Poster collection (<http://www.sovietposters.com>), Swing Kids (US 1993, Dir. Thomas Carter), Napola, (GER 2004, Dir. Dennis Gansel), Stilyagi (RUS, Dir. Valery Todorovsky, 2008), excerpts from Patricia Heberer, Children During the Holocaust (Lanham, MD: AltaMira Press/USHMM, 2011).

July 11, 2018 – Artists as Activists

Leader(s): Joanna Dee Das (Performing Arts)

Morning: Discussion of Katherine Dunham's anti-lynching dance drama Southland (1950); short movement workshop to learn a little Dunham Technique; relate to artists and entertainers today (Beyoncé, Kendrick Lamar, NFL players)

Afternoon: Tour the East St. Louis Dunham Museum and Children's Workshop.

Readings: Constance Valis Hill, "Katherine Dunham's Southland: Protest in the Face of Repression" and Joanna Dee Das, "Between the 'Culture of Poverty' and the Cultural Revolution: Katherine Dunham's Performing Arts Training Center in East St. Louis, 1965-1973."

July 12, 2018 – Wrap up; Presentation of Final Projects

Leader(s): Matt Erlin (German) and other faculty leaders

Morning: Podcast presentations

Afternoon: Why study the humanities? Panel of current undergraduate humanities majors