



**HUMANITIES
AND
SOCIAL SCIENCES
ADVISING
HANDBOOK
2006–2007**

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PLEASE NOTE:

In February 2006, the Harvey Mudd College faculty approved a proposal from the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences to change its curriculum. The changes are effective as of July 1, 2006. Students of the Class of 2006 are not affected by the changes. Students of the Classes of 2007, 2008 and 2009 may choose to graduate under the old requirements (as represented by the Advising Handbook for 2005–2006, which will remain available on the Department’s web site as long as needed) or under the new ones (represented in this and succeeding documents). Students of the Class of 2010 and beyond must graduate under the new requirements.

The Humanities and Social Sciences Advising Handbook is published by the Harvey Mudd College Department of Humanities and Social Sciences.

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THE MISSION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

The members of the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences (the Department) seek to foster the intellectual and personal growth of Harvey Mudd College students by exposing them to the subjects and methods associated with our disciplines. We do this in order to promote an appreciation of different kinds of knowledge so as to enable critical analysis and synthesis, and to encourage the development of increased self-knowledge, a humane concern for society, and an examined and evolving set of values.

THE ROLE OF THE HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES ADVISOR

Each student is assigned a Humanities and Social Sciences (HSS) advisor who will help her/him plan a coherent program of study that reflects the educational goals of the Department as well as the particular interests of the student. Typically, the advisor is the student's Humanities 1 professor, although a student may request reassignment from the Department's Advising Coordinator. One Humanities 1 class meeting during the fall will be devoted to a discussion and explanation of the HSS program in preparation for preregistration for the second semester.

Each student should visit his/her HSS advisor each semester in order to go over program options and to secure approval before preregistration. To facilitate this, the Department will schedule advising appointments during the week before preregistration. In the unlikely event that a student's normal advisor is unavailable, the Advising Coordinator or Department Chair may act in her/his place.

During the spring semester of the junior year, each student formally declares his/her concentration. During the fall semester of the senior year, each student confers with her/his HSS advisor about remaining requirements. If the student is on-track to graduate in the spring, the advisor prints out an HSS Graduation Application from the advising database, and the advisor's signature acknowledges that the program meets the requirements for graduation.

FIRST-YEAR REQUIREMENTS

Each student takes Introduction to Humanities and Social Sciences (Hum 1) in the fall semester of the first year. There are usually 11 or 12 sections of Hum 1, each with a different theme. The Registrar assigns students to sections on the basis of their preferences, and students typically receive one of their top choices. Hum 1 does not satisfy any of the upper-division requirements.

In the spring semester of the first year, each student takes an elective in the humanities and social sciences. This course may be taken departmentally or at one of the other Claremont Colleges and may count toward the concentration or distribution requirements described on page 4.

BEYOND THE FIRST YEAR

In addition to Hum 1 and the required second-semester elective, each student completes a program of at least 10 full courses. These courses are selected in consultation with the HSS advisor. A full course refers to a course for three or four credit hours, although courses for fewer hours that are in the same discipline may be combined to form a full course. A student's humanities and social sciences program should fulfill the following requirements:

A. Concentration

In order to achieve depth and intellectual development in the humanities and social sciences beyond the introductory level, each student must complete a concentration of at least four courses in a single discipline or interdisciplinary field chosen from the distinct areas of liberal arts study offered at The Claremont Colleges (a list of these areas is available at <http://www.humsoc.hmc.edu/hssconcentrations.html>). The concentration represents progress in a field of study, and even though that field might be interdisciplinary, the concentration should typically advance beyond introductory level courses. A concentration in the fine or performing arts must include at least two courses that focus on theory, criticism or historical analysis. Students who intend to concentrate in areas not covered by the Department's faculty should plan their HSS program carefully in order to be able to fulfill all requirements. Courses that form the concentration may also satisfy other departmental requirements.

B. Distribution

In order to obtain breadth in the humanities and social sciences and an understanding of the varieties of approaches that inform these disciplines, each student must fulfill the distribution requirement by completing coursework in three different areas:

1) Arts, Languages and Literatures

Disciplines could include Art, Dance, Drama, Film, Foreign Languages, Literature (in any language), Music. One of the two courses in this distribution area must focus on theory, criticism or historical analysis.

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- 2) Humanities
Disciplines could include Classics, History, History of Ideas, Philosophy, Religion.
 - 3) Social Sciences
Disciplines could include Anthropology, Economics, Government, International Relations, Political Science, Psychology, Sociology.

The concentration completes one of these distribution areas. For instance, a student concentrating in anthropology has met the distribution requirement for social sciences. Beyond the area represented by the concentration, students must take two courses in different disciplines or interdisciplinary fields in each of the remaining distribution areas. The anthropology concentrator, then, could meet the remaining distribution requirements with courses in art history and dance (which would complete the arts, languages, and literatures distribution) and courses in history and religious studies (which would complete the humanities distribution).

The appropriate distribution credit for courses in all fields (including interdisciplinary fields such as American Studies, Asian American Studies, Black Studies, Chicano Studies, Environmental Studies, Gender Studies, Media Studies, and Science, Technology and Society) depends on the discipline of the instructor and/or the focus of the course. A student registering for courses should consult with her/his HSS advisor about appropriate distribution. Disciplinary history courses typically count within the parent discipline (that is, Art History counts as Art, Music History as Music, and so on).

It is the Department's intention that every course it offers and that every course that it will accept from the other Claremont Colleges could satisfy one of the distribution requirements. Courses taken to meet distribution requirements may also be used to satisfy other departmental requirements.

C. Departmental Requirement

The Department is responsible for ensuring that exploration of the humanities, the social sciences and the arts constitutes an integral component of the life of the HMC community. This means that HMC students and faculty should explore these disciplines together to a significant extent. Accordingly, the Department requires that at least six of a student's HSS courses (including Hum 1) be taken with departmental faculty. Remaining coursework may be done at the other Claremont Colleges, and the Department encourages students to take advantage of this opportunity.

In addition, the Department encourages students to include course work in their humanities and social sciences programs that represents an exposure to cultural diversity, and it is committed to offering courses that meet this goal.

To promote academic and cultural experiences that cannot be directly obtained at HMC, the Department will waive one departmental requirement for students who study abroad or who concentrate in an area not regularly supported by coursework at HMC. However, unless transferring to HMC, a student may not take fewer than five departmental courses.

Students should plan their programs and strategies for satisfying all of the HSS requirements as early as possible. Students are strongly encouraged to take at least one HSS course each semester in order to fulfill these requirements and in recognition of the fact that the humanities and social sciences form a central and on-going part of the Harvey Mudd College curriculum. The Department tries to offer a balanced mix of introductory level and upper-division courses each semester. Students may also arrange for directed readings with individual faculty members, subject to their permission, in order to pursue particular interests that are not covered by regular courses.

GUIDELINES FOR SENIOR PROJECTS AND EXPERIENCES

Each of the following options is available only to seniors. They must build on previous course work, and they must be taken under the supervision of a faculty member in the humanities and social sciences at Harvey Mudd College or the other Claremont Colleges. In the cases of internships or artistic projects, this is to be distributed between “hands-on” activities and related academic work. Students need to formulate a detailed proposal describing their project and their plan of work, and to submit these to the HSS Department Advising Coordinator for review by the department’s committee on senior projects and experiences before preregistration. In addition to the approval of the student’s HSS advisor and the sponsoring faculty member(s), these options also require the endorsement of that committee. For all of these options, the expectation is that senior projects and experiences in the humanities and social sciences will include some form of public presentation (half-courses under the Senior Tutorial option will fulfill this expectation).

1. Internships
Internships may involve service in education, the community, or non-profit organizations. The student should distribute her/his work between “hands-on” activities and related academic work. Internships may focus on the social dimensions of science and technology, but they cannot be primarily technical in nature. These courses typically receive three credit hours and should involve an average of 12 hours of work per week.
2. Recitals, Performances, and Artistic Productions
These must continue previous artistic work or study and combine academic work and creative efforts. These courses receive between one-and-a-half and three credit hours.
3. Senior Theses
Senior theses for students completing a double major or an off-campus major in the humanities or social sciences may be included in this option. These courses receive between one-and-a-half and three credit hours.

4. Senior Tutorials

Students complete a reading course on a topic of interest in the fall, which prepares them to co-teach a half-course in the spring with a departmental faculty sponsor. These half-courses are open to Harvey Mudd College students who may take up to two of them for credit. Seniors pursuing this option receive three credit hours for the reading course and one-and-a-half credit hours for co-teaching the half-course.

In cases where one semester is not enough to accomplish the student's goals, the Department's committee on senior projects and experiences will entertain exceptional proposals that span two semesters' worth of work. The course number should be "HSS 190. Senior Experience: [title]." Half-courses offered under the senior tutorial option should be listed as "HSS 179: Special Topics: [title]."

LIMITATIONS AND RESTRICTIONS

To further assure the intellectual rigor and quality of the students' programs, there are limits on the types of courses and the numbers taken pass/fail or at summer school that may be counted.

A. Pass/Fail

In keeping with college policy, no more than one HSS course may be taken pass/fail during a given academic year. The student needs to inform his/her advisor of any courses that are taken pass/fail.

B. Transfer of Course Credits

For first-year matriculants to HMC, the Department does not accept college courses taken prior to matriculation. After matriculation only two courses may be transferred from non-Claremont colleges or universities for HSS credit. These courses, generally taken during the summer, must be taken at an approved academic institution and be comparable to courses at The Claremont Colleges, representing a minimum of four weeks and forty hours of work, and students must receive a grade of 'B' or better. Courses taken at two-year institutions must be transferable to four-year institutions within that state system (e.g., courses taken at California community colleges must be "UC transferrable"). Students planning to take such courses need prior approval from their HSS advisor and should bring him/her the catalogue description of the course and the appropriate form from the Registrar's office or the Department's web page (http://www2.hmc.edu/www_common/humsoc/transfer.htm) for a signature. In three special circumstances additional courses will be accepted for transfer credit. These are courses stemming from study abroad, participation in exchange programs with other U.S. colleges, or readmission after a medical leave of absence, a withdrawal or an ITR. Students who receive a grade of "5" on Advanced Placement tests or comparable scores in similar programs, or who have taken college-level course work while in high school, may not need to fulfill prerequisites for advanced courses in the same subjects, but the Department does not waive any of its requirements in these cases.

C. Transfer Students

A transfer student applies to HMC after matriculation at another college or university where he or she has completed some academic work. Courses taken at the other institution are evaluated by the Department Chair at the time of admission. Some courses are transferred for unit credit only, but others may take the place of portions of the HSS program. The student receives full information on this distribution of transfer credit prior to entering the college. When portions of the required HSS program remain to be taken, the Department allows up to half of these to be taken at the other Claremont Colleges. In special cases of advanced admission to HMC and where few, if any, required courses remain, the department requires the student to take one HSS course per semester. These are elective courses and half of them can be taken at the other Claremont Colleges.

D. Courses Not Accepted by the Department

The HSS program does not provide for training in business and does not accept courses in accounting, management or other business administration subjects, even though they may be offered at the other Claremont Colleges. On the other hand, courses in psychology and economics provide an excellent basis for later studies in business administration, and interested students should consult appropriate faculty members for advice. Given the strong mathematical backgrounds of most HMC students, statistics courses given in economics, psychology or other social science departments are generally not acceptable for distribution credit, although they may function as part of a concentration with advisor approval. The same rule applies to courses in logic or critical thinking given in philosophy departments.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS AND THE PETITION PROCESS

While the Department has given a great deal of thought and consideration to the design of its curriculum, we also recognize that, in certain cases, our requirements can pose unusual difficulties. With this in mind, the Department will entertain petitions from students who seek an exception to or a waiver of particular requirements. A form for petitions is available on the Department's web page (http://www2.hmc.edu/www_common/humsoc/petition.htm). The petition should be clearly written and should fully articulate the reasons for the student's request, and it should be submitted to the Chair of the Department who will convene the Petition Committee in order to consider it as quickly as possible. If the Committee cannot reach a decision, the petition will be brought before the Department as a whole at its next meeting.

Petitions from students who have made a good faith and long-term effort to complete the Department's requirements but are prevented from doing so because of reasons beyond their control will usually be considered favorably by the Committee.

The Department does not normally waive its graduation requirements for students taking a major or a second major in a field of humanities and social sciences at the other Claremont Colleges.

HONORS AND AWARDS

Departmental Honors in Humanities and Social Sciences are awarded to several seniors at the time of graduation. Honors students are selected on the basis of their dedication to the Humanities and Social Sciences, the quality of their HSS program, the excellence of their HSS grades, and in recognition of their contributions to the Department and their fellow students.

The William and Margaret Radley Prize in the Humanities and Social Sciences is awarded annually to honor the Harvey Mudd College student whose study of the humanities and social sciences best exemplifies the college's goal that all HMC students should gain an understanding of themselves and their fellow human beings as well as the physical world around them.

The Department also offers a writing prize for the best paper in Humanities 1.

THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

The Department of
Humanities and Social Sciences

William Alves (Music)
Isabel Balseiro (Comparative Literature)
Hal S. Barron (History)
Marianne de Laet (Anthropology, STS)
Gary R. Evans (Economics)
Jeffrey D. Groves (Literature)
Charles Kamm (Joint Music)
Michael Deane Lamkin (Joint Music)
Debra Mashek (Psychology)
Rachel Mayeri (Media Studies)
Richard G. Olson (History, STS)
Paul Steinberg (Environmental Policy, Politics)
Lisa M. Sullivan, Chair of the Department (Economics, History)
Christopher Tirres (Religious Studies)
Darryl Wright (Philosophy)

The Department is joined each year by an eminent scholar from another institution who serves as the Hixon-Riggs Visiting Professor of Science, Technology and Society.

Department of Humanities and Social Sciences Web Page—
Information on current course offerings and faculty as well as
copies of the advising handbook and departmental forms can be
found on the Department's web page:
http://www2.hmc.edu/www_common/humsoc/index.html

PERSONAL ADVISING RECORD

Name _____ Advisor _____

Humanities 1 _____

Concentration ¹	Departmental ²
1. _____	
2. _____	
3. _____	
4. _____	
Distribution ³	
1. _____	
2. _____	
3. _____	
4. _____	
Electives	
1. _____	
2. _____	
3. _____	

¹ The concentration consists of at least four courses in a single discipline or interdisciplinary field chosen from the distinct areas of liberal arts study offered at The Claremont Colleges; see page 4 for details.

² The departmental requirement consists of at least six HSS courses (including Hum 1) taken with departmental faculty; see page 6 for details.

³ The distribution requirement consists of two courses in different disciplines or interdisciplinary fields in each of the distribution areas outside the one represented by the concentration; see page 4 for details.



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