Liberal Studies

at Arcadia University

Global Perspectives…Personal Attention…Real-World Integrative Learning Experiences

Faculty

Dean of Continuing Studies
Dr. Erik Nelson (adviser)

Degree

Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies
Applied Social Science for the Global Citizen
Individualized Concentration
Leadership Concentration

Pathways to Study Abroad in Liberal Studies

Liberal Studies majors are encouraged to spend time studying overseas. Exciting opportunities are available through the University's College of Global Studies. With prior approval, courses taken at foreign universities can be transferred to Arcadia to fulfill Undergraduate Curriculum, including major, requirements. In addition, Arcadia periodically offers ID 181 international experience courses, which involve on-campus instruction before and after a period of a week or two of experiential learning in a host country. These experiences may be particularly appealing for a Liberal Studies major.

Visit the University's website for Pathways to Study Abroad (www.arcadia.edu/pathways). Since it is important that students plan ahead for study abroad, they should consult with their advisers as soon as possible and make their intentions known to the Department Chair and the Associate Dean of International Affairs.

About the B.A. in Liberal Studies

The Liberal Studies program is an interdisciplinary course of study that integrates a liberal arts education across the social studies, the arts and the humanities. The program is designed for adult learners and provides students with the opportunity to shape an individualized course of study and to integrate academic and career interests, or to select a concentration in Applied Social Science for the Global Citizen, or Leadership. By drawing connections across disciplines, students gain a broader awareness of the world around them and a better understanding of the human condition in contemporary society. To meet the needs of the adult learner, most of the courses within this program are available online to allow for even greater flexibility.

The broad scope of the program allows students the opportunity to choose a wide range of courses across academic departments in order to understand multiple modes of inquiry and approaches to knowledge. Students, in conjunction with the adviser, will develop a cohesive concentrated course of study and a concentration that will allow them to meet their educational and career goals.

All students majoring in Liberal Studies are required to take four courses specifically designed for the major. These are LB 200 Introduction to Liberal Studies, LB 330 Evaluating Research, LB 385 Social Theory and LB 490 Capstone Seminar. LB 200, 330 and 385 are prerequisites for LB 490.

In order to be accepted into the program, students must complete an application that includes a short description of why the program meets their needs and an outline of their intended program of study. All students applying to the Liberal Studies major must have a current GPA of 2.0 or higher.

Acceptance to the program is determined by the Dean of the School of Continuing Studies.

Requirements for the B.A. in Liberal Studies

(A total of 120 credits as listed below.)

Liberal Studies requirements (12 credits)

LB	200	Introduction to Liberal Studies
LB	330	Evaluating Research
LB	385	Social Theory
LB	490	Liberal Studies Capstone

Other Undergraduate Curriculum requirements (10 to 39 credits)

Concentration (30 to 40 credits)

Free electives (28 to 38 credits)

Individualized Concentration

Suggested Individualized Concentrations include social sciences (including Sociology, Anthropology, Women's Studies, Communications and Political Science), applied social sciences (including Business, Health Administration, Sociology, Anthropology and Communications), and humanities (including History, English, and Theater, Communications and Art and Design). Courses must be distributed over the 100, 200 and 300 levels and across at least two disciplines.

Beyond the four required courses in the concentration, courses will be selected according to the following guidelines: no more than four 100-level courses and a minimum of six additional courses selected from among 200- and 300-level courses, three of which must be 300-level courses.

Concentration in Applied Social Science for the Global Citizen

This concentration unites coursework in Anthropology, Sociology, Business, Ethics and Communications in order to create a unique, globally focused academic experience. These courses will be distributed over the 100, 200 and 300 levels and across the disciplines mentioned above.

Concentration in Leadership

The Leadership Concentration offers students the opportunity to study the theories and the practical skills underlying successful leadership. They learn from faculty and their fellow students in interactive, adult-oriented classes focusing on the competencies identified today as being critical for successful leaders to possess.

These courses are distributed over the 100, 200 and 300 levels and across the disciplines mentioned above.

Liberal Studies Courses (LB)

1XX
Leadership Theories
(3 credits; 7 week online and blended)

Pending Approval

Decisions today about leadership are based on long-term icons of leadership theories as researched by Hersey, Blanchard, Blake-Mouton, Fiedler, Vroom and others. The concepts of trait, behavioral and situational theories are studied and used in today's most successful organizations leading to an understanding that one static style may not fit all occasions. Students will understand the way leaders can balance their attention to people issues and task issues. They will also be introduced to the top leadership experts of today, including Blanchard, Covey, and others. Students will be able to incorporate these practices into their later classes, their work life and their personal life.

1XX
Dynamic Communications
(3 credits; 7-week online and blended)

Pending Approval

Through exercises and observations, students will learn how communication has an energy level. How we speak and how we go about encouraging others to share their thoughts, feelings and beliefs will either inspire others to take action, or will deflate others who will not take action. A main objective of any leader is to influence others toward the achievement of goals and results. Engaging others to take a path toward success is done by creating open and direct dialogue. Learning to listen actively and seeking to fully understand are two other aspects to this highly interactive course. Business writing—the ability to clearly express an idea in writing—will also be addressed.

1XX
Leader as Coach and Mentor
(3 credits; 7-week online and blended)

Pending Approval

In this course, students will look at the leader as coach and mentor. A first step in developing others is understanding what motivates their behavior, so we will look at the most respected theories of motivation put forward by Maslow, Herzberg, McClelland, McGregor, Vroom, Adams and Skinner. Students will learn a variety of techniques for motivating others toward the achievement of their goals. They will also learn how to communicate expectations and how to give performance feedback, thereby assuring that their employees are developed to reach their

highest potential and that their performance is aligned with organizational strategy. The importance of development at a system-wide level will address the succession planning needs of organizations, one of the key responsibilities of leaders – to provide their organizations with leaders to replace themselves.

200
Introduction to Liberal Studies
(3 credits; Fall; online)

This course introduces students to perspectives on and methods for understanding disciplines in the humanities and the social sciences, exploring the ways in which thinking and writing in different disciplines complement each other and provide a basis for understanding the nature of being human. Students discover the nature of learning as an open-ended process through readings, collaborative discussions, oral presentations, and written assignments. This course begins and ends with two questions: What does it mean to acquire a liberal arts education? And what is the relationship between a liberal arts education and an understanding of what it means to be human? To this end, the readings selected and the writing assignments included do not provide definitive answers to these questions but provide a forum for students to begin exploration.

2XX
Strategy Design and Implementation
(3 credits; 7-week online)

Pending Approval

The leader is key in inspiring an organization to develop a mission, vision and values. Students will learn the value of strategic planning; how to conduct a SWOT analysis, and how to set long range objectives. But putting a strategy into action can be more difficult, so we will also study implementing the strategy through short term objectives, action plans, and assigning resources. We will use real world examples of how to implement strategy in complex organizations.

2XX
Emotional Intelligence
(3 credits; 7-week online and blended)

Pending Approval

Daniel Goleman writes that our emotions play a much greater role in thought, decision making and individual success than is commonly acknowledged. His theory of Emotional Intelligence describes the ability or skill to identify, assess, manage and control the emotions of self, others and of groups. Traditional types of intelligence, as measured by IQ, fail to fully explain cognitive ability. We will look at the idea of multiple intelligences which includes interpersonal intelligence (the capacity to understand the intentions, motivations and desires of others) and intrapersonal intelligence (the capacity to understand oneself, to appreciate one's feelings, fears and motivations. Class participants will read Daniel Goleman's best seller Emotional Intelligence: Why It Can Matter More Than IQ, and will learn the ability-based model and debate the validity of this concept.

2XX
Diversity in Leadership
(3 credits; 7-week online and blended)

Pending Approval

The goal of this course is for students to undergo a paradigm shift in the way that diversity is viewed in today's increasingly global workforce. In order for an organization to capitalize on its employees' potential, both leaders and followers must understand and value the diversity within the organization. In this course, students will develop an increased multicultural awareness through readings and class discussions. Students will incorporate previous knowledge of Emotional Intelligence and other theories, and will explore various leadership frameworks that support diversity leadership.

2XX
Building and Sustaining a High Performance Team
(3 credits; 7-week online and blended)

Pending Approval

A key to an organization's success is their leader's ability to assemble a high-performing team with complementary skills and styles; once a team is formed, clear expectations on goals and behavior must be communicated. Leaders must create environments where different styles are respected and collaboration is rewarded. What about the inevitable conflict that will arise? We will learn how to identify and resolve conflict on a team, gaining cooperation from others and strengthening workplace relationships. Group decision-making will also be studied.

3XX
Change Management
(3 credits; 7-week online and blended)

Pending Approval

Leaders are described as transformational, not transactional. By that very definition, they must embrace change. We will look at how leaders can initiate and sustain change; how they can lead innovation and create climates which encourage creativity in their organization, how they can create and sustain meaningful change that will position their organizations to thrive.

3XX
Leading in a Global Environment
(3 credits; 7-week online and blended)

Pending Approval

Leading in a global environment requires additional competencies. A leader must be aware of and show respect for differences in culture. We will study how leaders can instill this sensitivity and adaptability throughout their organizations. How can they assure that diversity is valued? How should an organization align corporate vision and core values across localities and regions? We will also look at what's involved in managing a global, virtual team located throughout the world.

3XX
Ethics in Leadership
(3 credits; 7-week online and blended)

Pending Approval

This course will focus on leaders creating a code of conduct and bringing ethics into the forefront of decision making. Regulatory compliance and following the letter of the law are required to avoid penalties, but is this all that is needed to be considered ethical? Research shows that only 36% of employees believe their leaders act with honesty and integrity. Ken Blanchard has written that leadership is more of what you don't see (character) than what you do see (skills) and that character may be as much as 80% of what is needed to be successful leading others. Students will research high trust leaders and high trust organizations; the will examine current events to determine the financial impact of high or low trust leadership on their organizations.

330
Evaluating Research
(3 credits; Fall; online)

This course examines the methodologies available for collecting information in the social sciences, such as experiments, survey research, field research, unobtrusive research and evaluative research and how these methodologies can help answer questions about society. Students learn to critically analyze published research findings through a series of structured exercises, culminating in a portfolio of written reflections.

371
Liberal Studies Internship Experience
(4 credits)

The general focus of the course is to provide a student with the opportunity to complete an internship experience or business project at his or her current employer that is connected with the student's coursework in Liberal Studies. Depending upon a student's current employment situation, he or she will have one of two options by which to complete the experiential component of this course, either through a traditional internship or a business research project. In the internship, or development of the business project, the student works with his or her supervisor to create a long-term project that must be utilized by the company, and the supervisor corresponds with the professor regarding progress and project completion. The culminating project in the course relates the internship experience or business project to the present course of study and career goals of the student.
Prerequisites: LB 200, LB 330 and junior or senior standing in the Liberal Studies major.

385
Social Theory
(3 credits; Fall; online)

This survey of the contributions of major classical, modern and post-modern theorists, presented within their social and historic context considers the works of Marx, Weber, Durkheim, Freud, Parsons, Mead and Goffman, Habermas, Bourdieu as well as Appadurai, Butler, Hooks, Foucault, Baudrillard and Haraway and other theorists. Reviews critiques and elaborations of the theories and assesses their influences on contemporary thought in the social sciences and humanities.

490
Liberal Studies Capstone:
Conversations on Being Human
(3 credits; Spring; online)

As the Capstone course for the Liberal Studies program, this course charts a number of current conversations on what exactly makes us human. Students are asked to engage with advanced material that links recent findings in the natural and social sciences with those of visual arts, literature, economics and philosophy. The main objective of the course is for students to integrate their own intellectual collegiate experience by confronting fundamental questions about the nature of humanity, and critically thinking about the current answers offered by scientists, scholars and artists.
Prerequisite: A GPA of 2.0 or higher in the major and completion of all core Liberal Studies requirements, or with permission of the Department required.