General University Requirements

Objectives

The general requirements for students who entered Brandeis in the fall of 2000 and thereafter incorporate a variety of interconnected elements to build a strong, general education foundation. The fundamental goals of the program are to improve students’ abilities to integrate knowledge from different fields; to provide opportunities for the acquisition and development of writing, linguistic, and quantitative skills; to introduce flexibility in the scheduling of degree requirements throughout the undergraduate career; and to expand students’ opportunities to interact with faculty in small class settings in the first year of instruction.

General University Requirements

The basic outline of the requirements for students who entered Brandeis in the fall of 2000 and thereafter is as follows:

A. University Seminar in Humanistic Inquiries
All students in their first year will complete one semester course from the USEM program; this course may or may not be designated as a USEM+W course (see University Writing below).

B. University Writing
All students will complete one of the following options:
Option I: One University Seminar in Humanistic Inquiries Plus Writing (USEM+W) taken in the first year, plus two writing-intensive courses.

Option II: One University Writing Seminar (UWS) taken in the first year, plus one writing-intensive course, in addition to a University Seminar in Humanistic Inquiries (also taken in the first year).

Students normally complete the writing-intensive component of the writing requirement in their second or third year. Courses numbered in the 90s may not satisfy the writing intensive designation.

C. Quantitative Reasoning
All students will take one course that is designated as meeting the quantitative reasoning requirement.

D. Foreign Language
The foreign language requirement is met by successful completion of a third semester course (normally numbered in the 30s) in the introductory language sequence. No more than one course (and never the final one) in the sequence may be taken on the pass-fail grading option.

E. Non-Western and Comparative Studies
Students will complete one semester course designated as meeting the requirement in non-Western and comparative studies.

F. School Distribution
Students will complete one semester course in each of the four schools of the University: Creative Arts, Humanities, Science, and Social Science. In general, “double counting” is encouraged; most students will satisfy the school distribution requirement in the context of others, e.g., in satisfying the requirements of a major or minor. Between and among general University requirements, the only limitations on double counting are as follows: University Seminars in Humanistic Inquiries are interdisciplinary in character and have membership in no specific school of the University. The three-course foreign language sequence may not be applied toward the humanities component of this requirement. No course in a student’s program may satisfy the quantitative reasoning requirement and the science component of this requirement. No courses numbered in the 90s may apply toward this component. Finally, a single course may be used toward school distribution in only one school.

The pages that follow contain additional information (including course lists) for the non-Western and comparative studies, quantitative reasoning, University seminar, and writing requirements.
Foreign Language

Objectives

Knowledge of a foreign language is intrinsic to a sound education in the liberal arts. Language not only defines cultural identity, it constitutes the basis of the literary and philosophical heritage that is at the heart of advanced learning in the humanities.

Stepping into another language enriches the imagination by offering fresh insights, perspectives that challenge unexamined habits of mind, and the simple adventure of gaining access to an alien way of life and thought.

Brandeis requires its undergraduates to command a certain degree of proficiency in the use of one foreign language, either ancient or modern. The requirement is satisfied when the student has successfully completed and passed a 30-level (or higher) course with a letter grade. The customary progression for language course work done at the University is three semesters comprising the 10-, 20-, and 30-level course sequence. The number of class hours required per week in any given course may vary depending on departmental requirements.

Below is a list of the language programs of study available at Brandeis with the basic course sequence for satisfying the language requirement. Additional courses beyond the basic sequence can be found in the course listings for each of these programs.

Basic Language Sequences

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Language</th>
<th>Courses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arabic</td>
<td>10a, 20b, 30a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chinese</td>
<td>10a, 20b or 29b, 30a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>French</td>
<td>10a, 20b, and one of the following: 32a, 33a, 34a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>German</td>
<td>10a, 20b, and 30a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greek (Ancient)</td>
<td>10a, 20b, 30a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hebrew</td>
<td>10a, 20b or 29b, 34a, 35a, 39a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biblical Hebrew</td>
<td>10a, 20b or 29b, NEJS 10a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italian</td>
<td>10a, 20b, 30a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japanese</td>
<td>10a, 20b, 30a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latin</td>
<td>10a, 20b, 30a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russian</td>
<td>10a, 20b, 30a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spanish</td>
<td>10a, 20b, and one of the following: 31a, 32a, 33a, 34a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yiddish</td>
<td>10a, 20b, 30a</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Non-Western and Comparative Studies

Objectives

The non-Western and comparative studies requirement encourages students to explore through various disciplines cultures beyond the Western tradition. The common goal of courses in the program is to acquaint students with world-views, indigenous intellectual traditions, and social institutions that have developed largely outside the traditions of European society and its North American transplants. By examining some particular culture, society, or region of the non-Western world (such as those of Africa, Asia, the Middle East, Latin America, and Oceania) or by systematically comparing a range of values and institutions across cultural boundaries, students are expected to broaden their understanding of human achievements and potentialities beyond their own heritage. The program includes the comparative analysis of cultures and their interactions and draws attention to the intellectual problems inherent in the study of cultural systems other than one's own.

Courses of Instruction

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AAAS 18b</td>
<td>Africa and the West</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AAAS 60a</td>
<td>Economics of Third World Hunger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AAAS 80a</td>
<td>Economy and Society in Africa</td>
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<tr>
<td>AAAS 85a</td>
<td>Survey of Southern African History</td>
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<tr>
<td>AAAS 115a</td>
<td>Introduction to African History</td>
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<tr>
<td>AAAS 122a</td>
<td>Politics of Southern Africa</td>
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<tr>
<td>AAAS 123a</td>
<td>Third World Ideologies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AAAS 126b</td>
<td>Political Economy of the Third World</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AAAS 132b</td>
<td>Introduction to African Literature</td>
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<tr>
<td>AAAS 133b</td>
<td>The Literature of the Caribbean</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AAAS 134b</td>
<td>Novel and Film of the African Diaspora</td>
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<tr>
<td>AAAS 158a</td>
<td>Theories of Development and Underdevelopment</td>
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<tr>
<td>AAAS 167a</td>
<td>African and Caribbean Comparative Political Systems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AAAS 175a</td>
<td>Comparative Politics of North Africa</td>
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<tr>
<td>ANTH 1a</td>
<td>Introduction to the Comparative Study of Human Societies</td>
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<tr>
<td>ANTH 55a</td>
<td>Models of Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>ANTH 80a</td>
<td>Anthropology of Religion</td>
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<tr>
<td>ANTH 105a</td>
<td>Myth and Ritual</td>
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<tr>
<td>ANTH 127a</td>
<td>Medicine, Body, and Culture</td>
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<tr>
<td>ANTH 133a</td>
<td>Tradition and the Contemporary Experience in Sub-Saharan Africa</td>
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<tr>
<td>ANTH 134a</td>
<td>South Asia: Tradition and the Contemporary Experience</td>
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<tr>
<td>ANTH 135b</td>
<td>Modern South Asia: Society and Politics</td>
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<tr>
<td>ANTH 144a</td>
<td>The Anthropology of Gender</td>
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<tr>
<td>ANTH 147b</td>
<td>The Rise of Mesoamerican Civilization</td>
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<tr>
<td>ANTH 153a</td>
<td>Writing Systems and Scribal Traditions</td>
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<tr>
<td>ANTH 156a</td>
<td>Power and Violence: The Anthropology of Political Systems</td>
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<tr>
<td>ANTH 163b</td>
<td>Production, Consumption, and Exchange</td>
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<td>ANTH 184b</td>
<td>Cross-Cultural Art and Aesthetics</td>
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<td>COML 111b</td>
<td>Creating the Transnational Caribbean: Language, Gender, Race</td>
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<td>COML 122b</td>
<td>Writing Home and Abroad: Literature by Women of Color</td>
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<td>ENG 17b</td>
<td>African Novel</td>
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<td>ENG 77b</td>
<td>Literatures of Global English</td>
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<td>ENG 127a</td>
<td>The Novel in India</td>
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<td>FA 12a</td>
<td>History of Asian Art</td>
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<td>FA 13b</td>
<td>Buddhist Art</td>
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<tr>
<td>FA 15b</td>
<td>Arts of the Ming Dynasty</td>
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<td>FA 24b</td>
<td>Twentieth-Century and Contemporary Latin American Art</td>
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<td>FA 181b</td>
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<td>FA 182a</td>
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<td>FA 184a</td>
<td>Studies in Asian Art</td>
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<tr>
<td>FREN 165b</td>
<td>Haiti, Then and Now</td>
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<tr>
<td>HIST 71a</td>
<td>Latin American History, Pre-Conquest to 1870</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST 71b</td>
<td>Latin American History, 1870 to the Present</td>
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<td>HIST 80a</td>
<td>Introduction to East Asian Civilization</td>
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<td>HIST 80b</td>
<td>East Asia: Nineteenth Century to the Present (China and Japan)</td>
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<tr>
<td>HIST 116a</td>
<td>History of West Africa</td>
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<td>HIST 148b</td>
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<td>HIST 174a</td>
<td>The Legacy of 1898: U.S.-Caribbean Relations since the Spanish-American War</td>
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<td>HIST 176a</td>
<td>The Emergence of Modern Japan</td>
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<td>HIST 181a</td>
<td>Seminar on Traditional Chinese Thought</td>
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<tr>
<td>IMES 104a</td>
<td>Islam: Civilization and Institutions</td>
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<tr>
<td>LGLS 124b</td>
<td>International Law and Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>NEJS 113b</td>
<td>Law in the Bible and the Ancient Near East</td>
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<tr>
<td>NEJS 116a</td>
<td>Ancient Near Eastern Religion and Mythology</td>
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<tr>
<td>NEJS 122a</td>
<td>Dealing with Evil in Ancient Babylon and Beyond: Magic and Witchcraft in Antiquity</td>
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<tr>
<td>NEJS 144a</td>
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<td>NEJS 144a</td>
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<tr>
<td>NEJS 145b</td>
<td>The Making of the Modern Middle East</td>
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<td>NEJS 186a</td>
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<td>NEJS 187a</td>
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<tr>
<td>NEJS 193a</td>
<td>Societies in Conflict: Exploring the Middle East through Authentic Materials</td>
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<td>SPAN 168b</td>
<td>Latin America Narrated by Women</td>
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<td>Women’s Fiction in Translation</td>
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<td>WMNS 195b</td>
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