

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 single 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

Arabic	10a, 20b, 30a
Chinese	10a, 20b or 29b, 30a
French	10a, 20b, and one of the following: 32a, 33a, 34a
German	10a, 20b, and 30a
Greek (Ancient)	10a, 20b, 30a
Hebrew	10a, 20b or 29b, 34a, 35a, 39a
Biblical Hebrew	10a, 20b or 29b, NEJS 10a
Italian	10a, 20b, 30a
Japanese	10a, 20b, 30a
Latin	10a, 20b, 30a
Russian	10a, 20b, 30a
Spanish	10a, 20b, and one of the following: 31a, 32a, 33a, 34a
Yiddish	10a, 20b, 30a

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

AAAS 18b

Africa and the West

AAAS 60a

Economics of Third World Hunger

AAAS 80a

Economy and Society in Africa

AAAS 85a

Survey of Southern African History

AAAS 115a

Introduction to African History

AAAS 122a

Politics of Southern Africa

AAAS 123a

Third World Ideologies

AAAS 126b

Political Economy of the Third World

AAAS 132b

Introduction to African Literature

AAAS 133b

The Literature of the Caribbean

AAAS 134b

Novel and Film of the African Diaspora

AAAS 158a

Theories of Development and Underdevelopment

AAAS 167a

African and Caribbean Comparative Political Systems

AAAS 175a

Comparative Politics of North Africa

ANTH 1a

Introduction to the Comparative Study of Human Societies

ANTH 55a

Models of Development

ANTH 80a

Anthropology of Religion

ANTH 105a

Myth and Ritual

ANTH 127a

Medicine, Body, and Culture

ANTH 133a

Tradition and the Contemporary Experience in Sub-Saharan Africa

ANTH 134a

South Asia: Tradition and the Contemporary Experience

ANTH 135b

Modern South Asia: Society and Politics

ANTH 144a

The Anthropology of Gender

ANTH 147b

The Rise of Mesoamerican Civilization

ANTH 153a

Writing Systems and Scribal Traditions

ANTH 156a

Power and Violence: The Anthropology of Political Systems

ANTH 163b

Production, Consumption, and Exchange

ANTH 184b

Cross-Cultural Art and Aesthetics

COML 111b

Creating the Transnational Caribbean: Language, Gender, Race

COML 122b

Writing Home and Abroad: Literature by Women of Color

ENG 17b

African Novel

ENG 77b

Literatures of Global English

ENG 127a

The Novel in India

FA 12a

History of Asian Art

FA 13b

Buddhist Art

FA 15b

Arts of the Ming Dynasty

FA 24b

Twentieth-Century and Contemporary Latin American Art

FA 181b

The Art of Japan

FA 182a

The Art of China

FA 184a

Studies in Asian Art

FREN 165b

Haiti, Then and Now

HIST 71a

Latin American History, Pre-Conquest to 1870

HIST 71b

Latin American History, 1870 to the Present

HIST 80a

Introduction to East Asian Civilization

- HIST 80b**
East Asia: Nineteenth Century to the Present (China and Japan)
- HIST 116a**
History of West Africa
- HIST 148b**
Central Asia in Modern Times
- HIST 174a**
The Legacy of 1898: U.S.-Caribbean Relations since the Spanish-American War
- HIST 176a**
The Emergence of Modern Japan
- HIST 181a**
Seminar on Traditional Chinese Thought
- IMES 104a**
Islam: Civilization and Institutions
- LGLS 124b**
International Law and Development
- NEJS 113b**
Law in the Bible and the Ancient Near East
- NEJS 116a**
Ancient Near Eastern Religion and Mythology
- NEJS 122a**
Dealing with Evil in Ancient Babylon and Beyond: Magic and Witchcraft in Antiquity
- NEJS 144a**
Jews in the World of Islam
- NEJS 184a**
Music in Biblical and Near Eastern Religion
- NEJS 185b**
The Making of the Modern Middle East
- NEJS 186a**
Introduction to the Qur'an
- NEJS 187a**
Political Islam
- NEJS 187b**
Shi'ism and Political Protest in the Middle East
- NEJS 188a**
The Rise and Decline of the Ottoman Empire, 1300-1800
- NEJS 188b**
The Destruction of the Ottoman Empire, 1800-1923
- NEJS 193a**
Societies in Conflict: Exploring the Middle East through Authentic Materials
- NEJS 194a**
Civil Society in the Middle East
- NEJS 195a**
Military and Politics in the Middle East
- NEJS 197b**
Political Cultures of the Middle East
- PHIL 119b**
Chinese Philosophy
- POL 128a**
The Politics of Revolution: State Violence and Popular Insurgency in the Third World
- POL 140a**
Politics of Africa
- POL 144a**
Latin American Politics I
- POL 144b**
Latin American Politics II
- POL 146b**
Seminar: Topics in Revolutions in the Third World
- POL 147a**
The Government and Politics of China
- POL 148a**
Seminar: Contemporary Chinese Politics
- POL 150a**
Politics of Southeast Asia
- POL 180b**
Sustaining Development
- REL 107a**
Approaches to Religious Studies
- SOC 107a**
Global Apartheid and Global Social Movements
- SOC 125b**
U.S.-Caribbean Relations
- SOC 171a**
Women Leaders and Transformation in Developing Countries
- SPAN 111b**
Introduction to Latin American Literature
- SPAN 163a**
The Latin American Boom and Beyond
- SPAN 164b**
Studies in Latin American Literature
- SPAN 168b**
Latin America Narrated by Women
- SPAN 192a**
Women's Fiction in Translation
- WMNS 195b**
The Woman's Voice in the Muslim World