



The Center for the Humanities

Oregon State University, Autzen House, 811 SW Jefferson Avenue, Corvallis, Oregon 97333-4506

Phone 541-737-2450 | Fax 541-737-4380 | <http://oregonstate.edu/dept/humanities>

## **OSU Center for the Humanities New Course Designator Proposal**

The OSU Center for the Humanities (CftH) proposes adding a new course designator (HUMA) to replace the current confusing and outdated one (HUM-UO). We intend to expire the outdated (HUM-UO) course designator upon implementation of the new designator (HUMA). The Registrar's Office and CftH researched the current designator and found that it was originally a UO-OSU joint program designator never intended to be used for long as a stand-alone at OSU. (The longer version is Humanities-UO, and that cannot be changed). Working with the Registrar's Office we have determined the old Banner designator should be expired and it is preferable to add a new subject code put in its place.

The CftH offered more classes in the past and under new leadership is looking to revise previous courses and add new courses in coming years. This is part of several new programs and initiatives at the Center, including classes and mentoring to be offered by visiting faculty, new Honors College collaborations and internships, graduate student professionalization opportunities, new outreach and engagement activities, and a new grant-funded humanities citizenship curriculum program in collaboration with OSU Academic Technologies. Overall we do not anticipate offering many HUMA classes and those we do offer will be aimed at benefitting students by access to visiting scholars and new topics unavailable in other academic units at OSU as well as new mentoring and professionalization opportunities. SCH will flow through the Research Office, to which the CftH reports. There should be very little impact of the new designator or courses. The courses planned will be aligned with relevant partner units across OSU, often with cross-listing, to have maximum positive outcomes for all involved.

### **Rationale for New or Changed Course Designator:**

**Course Designator requests must address the purpose, accountability, and impact of a proposed course designator. Responses to all questions below must be included in the request; the question text should be included in the response for clarity.**

#### **Purpose:**

The proposed course designator should have an identified purpose within the curricular structure of Oregon State University.

- What academic programs, including majors, certificates, options and minors will be served by courses within the proposed new course designator?

There is no major or minor in the humanities at this time. Most classes in HUMA will be electives or will be classes for which we may seek appropriate baccalaureate core designation. For our classes we intend to partner and cross-list and partner with a wide array of academic

departments across OSU. And we also plan to enhance the six existing courses and add three inventive new courses to help spur humanities innovative pedagogy, interest, and knowledge.

- In what ways will the content within the scope of the course designator constitute a coherent body of knowledge?

Courses offered in the humanities are generally liberal arts courses with an interdisciplinary approach (combining, for example history and literature, philosophy and film, or religious studies and international relations). In general, the humanities as a coherent field centers on the study of how human beings process and document the human experience and interact with each other and the non-human landscape. OSU's Center for the Humanities is the hub for this research and learning at OSU, see our website for more information:

<https://humanities.oregonstate.edu>

- Is the proposed usage of the course designator consistent with practices at OSU and other institutions? Give examples.

The new HUMA designator is in keeping with past practices; it simply replaces the outdated HUM-UO designator, which has been in existence since the 1980s, and applies to six specific courses currently listed in Banner.

**Accountability:**

Responsibility for the integrity and oversight of the proposed course designator should be clearly identified.

- What will be the academic home of the proposed course designator (College, School, Department, or Program)?

The academic home for the proposed HUMA designator will be the Center for the Humanities, one of the eight main centers/institutes at OSU, with its own facilities located at the Autzen House (811 SW Jefferson).

- Who will be responsible for administering the courses with the new designator, e.g. scheduling and catalog updates? Who will be the faculty contacts?

The Director of the OSU Center for the Humanities (Cfth), a tenured faculty member in the College of Liberal Arts, will take full responsibility for the integrity and oversight of the proposed course designator and course offerings.

The Center's Research Program Coordinator will handle core administrative functions, as well as communicate information about the new course designator to students, advisors, Admissions, and other stakeholders, and will help to publicize new classes as they are developed.

- Who will be responsible for consistency and outcome assessment for courses with the new course designator?

The CftH Director will work individual course instructors and the CftH Program Coordinator to achieve consistency and assessment for all courses offered with the new designator.

- Which units will receive credit for the Student Credit Hours generated by courses with the new subject code?

The CftH reports to the OSU Research Office (RO), like an academic unit reports to a college, thus, Student Credit Hours will be channeled through the RO to the CftH, as determined by the VPR and the RO fiscal director.

- Who will be responsible for communicating information about the new course designator to students, advisors, Admissions, and other stakeholders?

The Center's Research Program Coordinator will handle core administrative functions, as well as communicate information about the new course designator to students, advisors, Admissions, and other stakeholders, and will help to publicize new classes as they are developed.

**Impacts:**

Who will benefit from the new course designator, and what changes will result from its implementation?

- How will the new course designator benefit students?

The Center for the Humanities offered more classes in the past and is looking to revive past courses and add new courses to better serve undergraduate and graduate students interested in interdisciplinary humanities studies. In particular, new programs at the Center have resulted in much increased interest by students in taking courses with our fellows, including classes to be offered by visiting faculty, new Honors College collaborations (we hope to add a first year humanities 2-credit class for incoming HC students), internships, and experiential learning opportunities, graduate student professionalization, new outreach and engagement activities, and most significantly a new grant-funded humanities-based citizenship curriculum program in collaboration with OSU Academic Technologies.

Overall we do not anticipate offering many HUMA classes, but, rather, targeting the new classes to innovative areas that will benefit students by access to visiting scholars and new topics unavailable in other academic units at OSU as well as new mentoring and professionalization opportunities. For credit humanities internships, training students in the burgeoning field of public humanities (museums, archives, blogs, think tanks) is an area much needed and underserved at OSU at present. The Center Director, an award-winning teacher, will begin teaching courses as soon as the new designator is approved.

- Will courses with the new course designator duplicate or compete with existing course designators?

The CftH will endeavor not to compete with liberal arts if at all possible. HUMA courses will be developed and sequenced to enhance the overall humanities offerings available at OSU.

We propose to migrate the current six courses already on the books from the HUM-UO designator to the new HUMA designator: two 300, 350, 354, 407/507, 409/509.

Further, we intend to add three new courses: special topics options at the 199 and 299 levels, and one stand-alone graduate humanities option as a 600.

- Will there be expected cross-listings or curricular equivalencies?

HUMA courses will be developed and sequenced to enhance the overall humanities offerings available at OSU. We intend to work strategically to find partners across OSU for cross-listing, and anticipate cross-listing classes with relevant academic units, most likely in the College of Liberal Arts, but also aiming to bring humanities insights to various STEM fields.

- How is the new course designator expected to affect transfer credits?

There should not be any difficulties related to transfer credits or other elements of this course designator.

- Will any existing course designators expire when the new course designator is implemented, and who is impacted by that?

Yes, the outdated and problematic HUM-UO designator will be expired upon implementation of the HUMA designator. There will not be any additional impact in adding this new replacement designator.