



# Interdisciplinary Phd in the Public Humanities

College of Arts and Letters  
University of Toledo





# What are the public humanities

The Public Humanities refers to work that engages with the general community using tools and knowledge drawn from the humanistic disciplines. This engagement involves both the transmission of humanistic knowledge through publications, dialogue, performances, exhibitions, etc. as well as the production of new knowledge through community-oriented research.

Because it is defined in conversation between academic and non-academic communities, the topics and approaches that the Public Humanities addresses are very often interdisciplinary in nature.



# We need the public humanities in 2020

The challenges that a global crisis presents pose questions which aren't the provenance of any one single discipline.

- What can history, the arts, literature and philosophy teach us about how humans have coped with quarantining and other forms of social distancing?
- How do the above help humans cope in this (and other) times of crisis?
- How can expert knowledge effectively interact with new forms of instantaneous communication and effectively diffuse skepticism?
- How do different cultural approaches to health shape public health initiatives that have a global scale?
- Are the costs of a global crisis borne by members of society equally?
- How can we balance incommensurate goods?



# Sample areas of focus

- Science, technology and society
- Health, disability and the humanities
- Identity, culture and values
- Religion in the public sphere
- The arts and new media in the public sphere
- Decolonialism, the ecological crisis and the humanities

## Course of Study - Interdisciplinary PhD in the Public Humanities

	Fall	credit hours	Spring	credit hours
<b>Year One</b>	<b>HUMI 7100</b> - First semester of year long theory and methods sequence, focusing on introducing interdisciplinary humanistic methods. Taken by all first year students.	3	<b>HUMI 7200</b> - Second semester of year long theory and methods sequence, focusing on applying methods to selected theoretical problems. Taken by all first year students.	3
	<b>Elective</b> - Drawn from graduate programs in the humanities, as well as directed readings. Some electives may come from graduate programs in related fields outside the humanities.	3	<b>HUMI 8230</b> - Advanced Seminar taught by graduate faculty on their area of research. Taken by all first and second year students. As topics vary, this course can be repeated.	3
	<b>Elective</b> - Drawn from graduate programs in the humanities, as well as directed readings. Some electives may come from graduate programs in related fields outside the humanities.	3	<b>Elective</b> - Drawn from graduate programs in the humanities, as well as directed readings. Some electives may come from graduate programs in related fields outside the humanities.	3
	semester total 9		semester total 9	
	running total 9		running total 18	
<b>Year Two</b>	<b>HUMI 7300</b> - Introduces students to practical and ethical issues related to public scholarship in the humanities. Students will also plan their practica as part of this course. Taken by all second year students.	3	<b>HUMI 8230</b> - Advanced Seminar taught by graduate faculty on their area of research. Taken by all first and second year students. As topics vary, this course can be repeated.	3
	<b>Elective</b> - Drawn from graduate programs in the humanities, as well as directed readings. Some electives may come from graduate programs in related fields outside the humanities.	3	<b>Elective (HUMI 8990 Directed Reading)</b> - Directed Reading to prepare for qualifying exams	3
			Prepare for Language Exam [Graduate Language Course Optional]	
	semester total 6		semester total 6	
	running total 24		running total 30	
Student Takes Language Exam during year two or summer after year two				
<b>Year Three</b>	<b>HUMI 8940 (Practicum)</b>	3	<b>HUMI 8940 (Practicum)</b>	3
	<b>HUMI 8960 (Dissertation)</b>	6	<b>HUMI 8960 (Dissertation)</b>	6
	semester total 9		semester total 9	
	running total 39		running total 48	
Student Takes Qualifying Exams in Major and Minor Areas during year three or summer after year three				
<b>Year Four</b>	<b>HUMI 8960 (Dissertation)</b>	6	<b>HUMI 8960 (Dissertation)</b>	6
	Student defends dissertation proposal (beginning of semester)		Student defends dissertation (end of spring)	
	semester total 6		semester total 6	
	running total 54		running total 60	
<b>Color Key</b>	Core Course		Elective	
	Practicum		Dissertation	
	Exam/Defense		Language Preparation	



## Practicum in the Public Humanities

Students will work in a public humanities organization outside the University of Toledo. They will work with that organization as well as UT faculty to create a project that is mutually beneficial to the organization's needs and the student's research interests. This experience showcases humanistic professions outside of the university, and introduces students to experienced who can serve as mentors, and provides an opportunity for them to build professional networks.



# The Public Humanities at the University of Toledo

- The College of Arts and Letters endowed professorships are housed in programs that emphasize interdisciplinarity
- The University of Toledo has strengths in Disability Studies, the first program of its sort in the United States, Women and Gender Studies and Religious Studies.
- These strengths are complemented by graduate faculty working in traditional Humanities departments as well as graduate faculty who approach problems in the arts & social sciences from a humanistic angle.
- This is an interdisciplinary graduate program requiring the participation of different departments and programs. Participating faculty and programs have a long history of collaborations in terms of courses, joint degree programs, and research.
- The establishment of this program will give faculty the opportunity to enhance their own research by collaborating with and advising advanced students. It will further aid retention of faculty who wish to work with students within a graduate Ph.D. program.

# Careers in the public humanities

A PhD in the public humanities prepares a graduate for leadership positions:

- Cultural institutions such as museums, libraries, art companies
- Governmental and university humanities institutes
- Regional and National Historical Societies
- Careers in the arts and new media
- Digital humanities
- Interdisciplinary professorships
- Public outreach with NGO's and non-profits