

Hollins University Master of Arts in Liberal Studies



Spring 2026 Newsletter **Message from The Director**

Greetings from Hollins University! I am honored to serve as the Director of the Master of Arts in Liberal Studies program, and I look forward to meeting and working with each of you. Please know that all of us in the graduate center are eager to answer your questions and help you in any way we can. Feel free to contact us via email at hugrad@hollins.edu. In an effort to streamline the information we share with you, we have changed the format of our newsletter. It now contains information about upcoming classes **only**. We hope you will appreciate the shorter format! All information about registration, important dates, tuition and fees, and other policies and procedures is now available in our Policies and Procedures Manual, located on My.Hollins under the graduate programs tab. If you still have questions after consulting the manual, don't forget that we are always happy to help – just send us an email!

Warmly,

Handwritten signature of Teri Wagner in cursive script.

Dr. Teri Wagner
Director of MALS Graduate Program



Spring Term 2026

MALS Course Offerings and Schedule

Important Dates:

Classes Begin

Session 1 dates

Last Day to Add a Full-term Class

Last Day to Add Session 1 Class

Last Day to Add Session 2 Class

Last Day to Drop a Full-term Class w/out W grade

Last Day to Drop Session 1 Class

Last Day to Drop Session 2 Class

Last Day to Declare Audit

Presidents Day (classes in session)

Last Day to Declare Pass/Fail

Spring Recess (no classes)

Session 2 dates

Last day to Withdraw from a Class

Fall Term Registration begins

Honors Convocation

Last Day of Classes

Reading Day

Spring Term Examinations

Grades Due for Graduating Students

Grades Due for Non-Graduating Students

Commencement

Mon: Feb 2

Mon: Feb 2 - Tue Mar 17

Fri: Feb 6

Wed: Feb 4

Frid: Mar 20

Fri: Feb 13

Fri: Feb 6

Tues: Mar 24

Fri: Feb 13

Mon: Feb 16

Mon: Mar 2

Mon-Fri: Mar 23-27

Wed: Mar 18 - Fri May 8

Mon: Mar 30

Mon: Apr 27

Tue: May 5

Fri: May 8

Sat: May 9

Sun-Tues: May 10-12

Wed: May 13

Thu: May 14

Sun: May 17

Spring Semester Full-Term Classes

(February 2 – May 8)

ENG 550: Special Topics: Early Modern British Literature (4)

CRN: 21030

Lauren Coker-Durso

The early modern era was a time of social, religious, political, and artistic change in Britain. This course will explore a variety of genres and authors emerging in the dynamic period—including but not limited to a Shakespearean comedy, Jonson's court masques featuring witches and dwarfs, plague pamphlets by Dekker, and the Earl of Rochester's bawdy poetry. Each work will be considered thematically and in historical context, with particular attention to gender representation and the body. When appropriate, relevant early modern scholarship and literary theory will supplement interpretation. *THIS COURSE HAS BEEN APPROVED FOR ENGLISH DUAL ENROLLMENT.*

ONLINE: Synchronous and Asynchronous Learning, Monday 5:30-7:00 PM

SOSC 550: Special Topics: Food, Politics, and Society (4)

CRN: 21027

Jordan Fallon

This course engages food as a social, political, ethical, and cultural object. Drawing from philosophical and social-scientific perspectives, we will explore how various ideas, discourses, and practices have shaped (and reflected) societal understandings of production, organization, governance, and consumption. Philosophical examination consistently explores the question of “how should we live?” However, in linking this longstanding ethical theme with the more everyday question of “what should we eat,” we can begin to engage modern social and political systems, habits, and norms which shape the relationship between these inquiries and our relationship(s) to food as well as to one another.

ONLINE: Synchronous and Asynchronous Learning, Monday 7:00-8:30 PM

*Spring Semester Session A Classes
(February 2 – March 17)*

ART 550: Special Topics: Art and Artists: The Great Masters from Michelangelo to Picasso (4)

CRN: 20755

Al Gury

This visually rich and informative course will unpack the lives of artists and how they created their artworks. Through discussion of the times they lived, how they evolved as artists, many visual examples of important artworks and video demos of how the art was made, students will have an in-depth experience of some of the most loved artists and their creative work. For example, what was Rembrandt's Holland like for artists? How was an Impressionist painting made? Who were the innovative and eccentric artists of Montmartre in Paris in 1900? *THIS COURSE HAS BEEN APPROVED FOR ART DUAL ENROLLMENT.*

ONLINE: Synchronous and Asynchronous Learning, Thursday 6:00-9:00 PM

HIST 550: Special Topics: Ethics in a Diverse World: Historical Challenges & Contemporary Problems (4)

CRN: 21028

David Buyze

This course addresses global ethical dynamics and historical challenges in today's diverse world. It asks students to explore how themes such as identity, memory, and conflict can help them analyze and understand historical challenges and contemporary ethical issues and problems. This approach will enable students to think humanistic ally and through an interdisciplinary lens as they study critical ethical issues such as genocide, xenophobia, racism, religious discrimination, women and violence, trauma, nationalism, belonging, and paradigms of otherness. *THIS COURSE HAS BEEN APPROVED FOR HISTORY DUAL ENROLLMENT.*

ONLINE: Synchronous and Asynchronous Learning, Wednesday 5:30-7:00 PM

MATH 520: Probability and Statistics (4)

CRN: 20751

Bryan Faulkner

This course will focus on strengthening the probability and statistical concepts of graduate students. Topics include sample spaces, axioms of probability, independence, conditional probability, random variables, discrete and continuous probability distributions, descriptive statistics, and hypothesis testing. Applications of probability and statistics will allow students to ask informative questions, evaluate results, and provide solutions. *THIS COURSE HAS BEEN APPROVED FOR MATH DUAL ENROLLMENT.*

ONLINE: Synchronous and Asynchronous Learning, Monday 6:00-7:00 PM

POLS 526: Political Leadership (4)
CRN: 21079

Ed Lynch

This course will explore the lives of important political leaders. We will investigate the experiences of leaders of both genders, from all over the world, and from various periods in history. The course will also examine the relationship between the careers of actual leaders and the theoretical literature on political leadership. We will attempt to isolate and evaluate those qualities that separate leaders from followers. What made one person go on to fame and greatness when most people around them, born into similar circumstances, achieved either? *THIS COURSE HAS BEEN APPROVED FOR DUAL ENROLLMENT IN HISTORY OR GOVERNMENT.*

Online: Synchronous and Asynchronous Learning, Thursday, 6:00-7:00 PM

Spring Semester Session B Classes (March 18 – May 8)

ART 550: Special Topics: The Use of Color in Art Around the World (4)
CRN: 20756

Al Gury

The joy of color in art is central to most cultures. What is symbolism in color? What materials do artists use and how are they made? Color in Modern art versus Traditional arts? Artists eyes and color disabilities? How is color in art cared for by the role of Art Conservation? Weekly topics and surveys of engaging images, discussion, art and writing, and video demos will provide a journey through the world of color in art. *THIS COURSE HAS BEEN APPROVED FOR ART DUAL ENROLLMENT.*

ONLINE: Synchronous and Asynchronous Learning, Thursday 6:00-9:00 PM

HIST 550: Special Topics: Middle East Conflict: Israel & Palestine (4)
CRN: 21029

David Buyze

This course begins explores the Middle East conflict in Israel and Palestine through considering historical dilemmas and questions which enable a platform of thinking to analyze contemporary issues in a very balanced manner. The trajectory of inquiry will establish vital ways to contemplate such problems and paradigms concerning identity, religion, secularity, nationalism, terrorism/ violence, peace, homeland, diaspora, exile, and belonging. In turn, a critical interpretation of Jewish and Muslim identities will foster a more fluid understanding of key issues in this conflict. As students consider these facets, serious historical concerns surrounding anti-Semitism and Islamophobia will be examined in providing different ways to reflect on contemporary forms of discrimination an oppression. This course enables participants to create deep levels of critical and humanistic analysis on this very significant conflict in today's world. *THIS COURSE HAS BEEN APPROVED FOR HISTORY DUAL ENROLLMENT.*

ONLINE: Synchronous and Asynchronous Learning, Wednesday 5:30-7:00 PM

MATH 550: Modern Geometries (4)
CRN: 20752

Bryan Faulkner

This course will focus on strengthening the calculus concepts of graduate students. Topics include limits, continuity, the Intermediate Value Theorem, differentiation, the Mean Value Theorem, L'Hopitals theorem, integration, sequences, series, convergence, and Taylor's theorem. The aim of the course is to strengthen the graduate students' foundational knowledge by applying the tools of calculus to a variety of problem situations and express the concepts and solutions graphically, numerically, and analytically. *THIS COURSE HAS BEEN APPROVED FOR MATH DUAL ENROLLMENT.*

ONLINE: Synchronous and Asynchronous Learning, Monday 6:00-7:00 PM



About our Faculty

David Buyze holds a PhD in Religion from the University of Toronto and an M.A. in Religion and a B.A. in English and Religion from Syracuse University. He is a lecturer at John Hopkins University, Associate Graduate Faculty in the Master of Liberal Arts program at Texas Christian University, Adjunct Faculty in the Master of Science Organizational Leadership program at Manhattan College, and Adjunct Faculty in the MA Global Community Engagement Program at University College, University of Denver. His areas of teaching and research are Global Studies, Latin American Studies, Middle East Studies and South Asian Studies.

Lauren Coker-Durso holds a Ph.D. in English from St. Louis University. Her research areas include early modern English literature, disability studies, and restoration/eighteenth-century English literature. Lauren has designed at taught courses for Delta State University, Saint Louis University, and University of Missouri.

Jordan Fallon holds a PhD in Political and Social Thought from Virginia Tech. He teaches courses in philosophy, political science, environmental humanities, and food studies. He is the author of *Culinary Man and the Kitchen Brigade: Normative Subjectivity in Western Fine Dining Traditions* (Routledge, 2024). His work has also appeared in *Irish University Review*, *La Deleuziana*, and *Deleuze and Guattari Studies*. Additionally, he co-operates a “pay what you can” restaurant called “Ursula’s café” in Roanoke, Virginia (USA).

Bryan Faulkner is an Associate Professor and Program Coordinator of Mathematics at Ferrum College. He holds a PhD in Mathematics from Clemson University, an M.S. in Applied Mathematics from Western Carolina University, and a B.S. in Mathematics from Western Carolina University. He has supervised student research in knot theory, fractals, modeling DNA replication, and origami and has authored many journal publications.

Al Gury is the noted author of *Alla Prima: A Contemporary Guide to Traditional Direct Painting; Color for Painters: A Guide to Traditions and Practice; and Foundations of Drawing: A Practical Guide to Art History, Tools, Techniques, and Styles*. He is Chairman of the Painting Department at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts. An artist, educator, and author, Al received his BA in fine arts and humanities from Saint Louis University, a four-year Certificate in Painting from the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts (PAFA), and an MFA from the University of Delaware. A painter of the figure, landscapes, still lifes, and portraits, Al's work is regularly shown at F.A.N. Gallery in Philadelphia, and at the National Academy of Design in New York, the Philadelphia Museum of Art, the National Capitol in Washington D.C., Washington and Lee University, the University of Pennsylvania, and galleries across the country.



Contact Information for the Office of Graduate Programs and Continuing Studies

James Gerald, Associate Provost for Graduate Programs and Continuing Education

540-362-6326 geraldja@hollins.edu

Teri Wagner, Director of M.A.T.L., M.A.T. and M.A.L.S. programs

540-362-6375 wagnertr@hollins.edu

Dawn Barnett, Graduate Programs Assistant

540-362-6575 dbarnett@hollins.edu