

## *Hollins University Master of Arts in Liberal Studies*



### *Summer 2026 Newsletter* **Message from The Director**

Greetings from Hollins University! It has been a pleasure getting to know and working with so many of you this year. You have all certainly been busy! In the past year, 13 teachers from local school systems have completed the requirements to earn their dual-enrollment credentials by taking courses in our MALS program, and an additional three students completed their MALS degree and are on track to graduate in May. Congratulations to each of you!

We continue to build the list of course offerings that are approved for dual-enrollment credentialing to meet the growing demand for this credential, so I encourage those of you who have participated in our program to share this information with your colleagues who may wish to begin working toward their own credentials. Additionally, if you have feedback about your experience in the program, we would love to hear it! Please email me directly at [wagnertr@hollins.edu](mailto:wagnertr@hollins.edu).

All of us in the graduate center at Hollins 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](mailto:hugrad@hollins.edu).

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Teri Wagner".

Dr. Teri Wagner  
Director of MALS Graduate Program



## Summer Term 2026

### MALS Course Offerings and Schedule

*Classes are subject to change at the discretion of University Administration.*

#### Important Dates:

##### **Classes Begin**

Last Day to Add a Class

Last Day to drop a class w/out grade

Last Day of Classes

Grades Due

**Monday, June 22**

Wednesday, June 24

Friday, June 26

Friday, July 31

Monday, August 10

### *Summer 2026 Classes (June 22 – July 31)*

#### **ART 556: Advanced Drawing Methods and Concepts in Art**

**Al Gury**

**CRN: 60460**

The goal of this online graduate level course is imparting a solid, confident and practical understanding of essential topics and practices. This advanced art course, each week will focus on a specific topic and a project assignment. Topics will include the materials of drawing and a higher level of drawing shapes, measuring, forms, perspective, depth, use of line, understanding light and shade, and composition. Exercises will include the use of charcoal and pencil drawing, use of pastel drawing, watercolor drawing and color concepts and use of a variety of media. Subjects for the lessons will focus on both observation (still life, portraits, interiors, etc.) as well as independent creativity. Visually rich art images and history, video demonstrations of the class topics by the instructor and stimulating Q&A makes this course student-centered, stimulating, and practical.

Each class session is recorded so students can still review any class they have to miss for any reason.

**ONLINE: Synchronous and Asynchronous Learning, Thursday 6:00-7:30 PM**

#### **ART 544: Prehistoric to Gothic (4)**

**Al Gury**

**CRN: 60461**

This visually rich exciting and informative graduate course takes a broad look at the development of world art and culture from the cave paintings of the Prehistoric era to the development of Gothic art and architecture in Europe as a foundation for the modern world. As an online course, students will explore the roots, development and cultural context of art in each time period, with a focus on the visual qualities of the art and how the art was made. The artists, methods and varieties of the art of each time period will be examined and illuminated with rich anecdotes and video demos of art methods. Weekly Zoom meeting will present the course content. Through discussion and posted written comments, students will present their reactions and reflections on this exciting evolution of art.

**ONLINE: Synchronous and Asynchronous Learning, Thursday 7:30-9:00 PM**

#### **ENG 550: Special Topics: Asia's America; America's Asia (4)**

**Joe Milan**

**CRN: 60462**

The bones of American Literature are built from many cultures. This course's primary concern is to excavate the transnational cultural exchanges of philosophy and literature between East Asia and the United States as

originally explored in Yoshinobu Hakutani's *East-West Literary Imagination*. With a selection of major works, authors and themes, we will examine how those exchanges influenced the evolution of what we define as American Literature and how it has in turn has influenced the literature of East Asia.

**ONLINE: Synchronous and Asynchronous Learning, Wednesday 7:00-9:00 PM**

**ENG 591: Shakespeare (4)**

**Lauren Coker-Durso**

**CRN: 60463**

In this course, students are to engage in the close reading of various Shakespearean dramas (history, comedy, and tragedy) while keeping in mind the cultural contexts in which they are written and performed. The course will additionally focus on many of Shakespeare's pervasive themes—including treatments of gender and sexuality, political and familial dynamics, issues of theatricality, and representations of diseased or disabled bodies in relation to healthy ones—in the original works as well as in modern adaptations when possible. Representative theoretical and critical works will supplement interpretation.

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

**HIST 524: 20TH-Century American History (4)**

**David Buyze**

**CRN: 60464**

In this class we read and discuss major events, personalities, and themes in the study of American history since 1900. Topics covered will include the effects of war on American states and society, the origins, patterns, and consequences of major reform movements (New Deal, civil rights, women's rights, Great Society, Reagan "Revolution), the evolution of the presidency, and more.

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

**HIST/HUM 520: Nations, Borders, and Populism (4)**

**David Buyze**

**CRN: 60464**

This course explores the complex intersections of nationalism, territorial borders, and the rise of populist movements in the modern world. Through an interdisciplinary lens, we will examine the historical, political, and cultural foundations of nation-states, focusing on the ways in which borders have shaped identity, citizenship, migration, and perspectives on refugees. Key topics will include the evolution of nationalism, the impact of globalization on national sovereignty, the politics of immigration, and the resurgence of populist movements across different regions with a particular focus on the Americas and Europe. Students will engage with critical theoretical frameworks, literature, journalism, media, and contemporary debates about populism's role in reshaping national policies and global relations. The experience of this course will develop a deeper understanding of how populism challenges traditional notions of the nation-state, the role borders play in both exclusionary and inclusionary political practices, and issues concerning belonging and marginalization.

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

**HUM 503C: HUMANITIES CORE: (Post) Human Futures (4)**

**Jordan Fallon**

**CRN: 60471**

How might an exploration of human meaning help us to imagine and navigate potential futures? This course, drawing from philosophy, poetry, fiction, film, and music, explores contemporary and ancient ways of grappling with questions regarding human existence. In particular, the emergent notion of "post humanism" is critically explored in terms of contemporary social, technological, and ecological concerns.

**ONLINE: Synchronous and Asynchronous Learning, Monday 7:00-9:00 PM**

**MATH 517: Discrete Mathematics (4)****CRN: 60453****Bryan Faulkner**

This course will examine the various aspects of discrete mathematics, which includes several branches of mathematics that deal with objects that can assume only distinct values. Set Theory, Graph Theory and Number Theory are just a few of the branches that would be classified as “discrete”. Topics include formal logic notation, proof by induction, proof by contradiction, set theory, Boolean algebra, combinatorics, and graph theory. The aim of the course is to strengthen the graduate students’ knowledge of the various principles associated with discrete mathematics fields.

**ONLINE: Synchronous and Asynchronous Learning, Thursday 6:00-8:00 PM.****POLS 550: Special Topics: Politics and Literature (4)****Ed Lynch****CRN: 60469**

Are there any such things as simple stories? Do all works of literature have political messages? In this course, we will look at a wide variety of literary genres, from children’s books to classic epics. In some, we will find obvious political messages; in others, the message, if there is one, will be much more subtle. The process of finding political messages will reveal much about political science, related social sciences and the analytical process.

**ONLINE: Synchronous and Asynchronous Learning, Thursday 6:00-8:00 PM.****POLS 550: Special Topics Refugees and Forced Migration Studies (4)****Ashleigh Breske****CRN: 60470**

This course will examine significant political, social, and economic issues related to the movement of displaced peoples (both internally and externally displaced). We will explore the concepts of enculturation, socialization, and adaptation. In the course, we will also evaluate key concepts related to displacement, borders, migration, and international policies through an analysis of national policies, advocacy responses, and media sources to understand current issues related to displacement. We begin by talking about displacement and global trends we see today. Forms of displacement include both internal and external (cross-border) movement. Our discussions will look critically at global conflict and the laws and/or policies that cause displacement. Throughout the course, we will analyze some of the significant political, economic, and social issues that influence the movement of people across borders and evaluate the varied relationships between refugees and their new homes through concepts such as enculturation, socialization, and adaptation.

**ONLINE: Synchronous and Asynchronous Learning, Wednesday 6:00-8:00 PM.****SOSC 550: Special Topics: David Bowie and the Performance of Identity (4)****David Buyze****CRN: 60467**

This course focuses on the music and cultural icon David Bowie. Bowie’s career spanned more than fifty years in the 20th and 21st centuries and his impact on music and culture is indelible. We will consider the personas or alter egos and eras of David Bowie in the interpretation and analysis of his music through text, screen, stage, fashion, art, and other cultural dynamics. In the early part of Bowie’s career, such personas as Ziggy Stardust, Aladdin Sane, Major Tom, and The Thin White Duke are easily recognizable, yet in the latter part of his career it is much more difficult to ascertain a distinct persona or alter ego that he is inhabiting through his music and in the genres that he is working in. In this course, we will closely analyze Bowie’s music in the interpretation of his personas and eras in considering the impact and meaning of his music on culture and the human condition, and how he enabled vital new ways to think about the performance of identity, gender fluidity, and existence.

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



## *About our Faculty*

**Ashleigh Breske** is an assistant professor of international studies in the global politics and societies (GPS) department. She earned her Ph.D. in planning, governance, and globalization at Virginia Tech, her M.A.L.S. in social sciences with a focus on Roman history from Hollins University, and her B.S. in biology with a concentration in classical studies and chemistry. Her current research explores how institutions and cultural values mediate changes in repatriation policy for indigenous cultural property.

**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 and 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.

**Joe Milan Jr.** is a second-generation Korean American and taught in South Korea for nine years. He's the author of the novel *The All-American* from W.W. Norton. His work has appeared in *The North American Review*, *Literary Hub*, *Electric Literature*, *The Rumpus*, and more.

He has been a David T.K. Wong Creative Writing Fellow at the University of East Anglia, UK, and both a Barrick PhD Fellow and Black Mountain Institute PhD Fellow of Creative Writing at University of Nevada Las Vegas, USA. He has served as fiction editor at Witness and is an MFA graduate of the Vermont College of Fine Arts. He thinks a lot about story and the transnational relationships that have created our sense of story both in the US and abroad.



## 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](mailto:geraldja@hollins.edu)

**Teri Wagner**, Director of M.A.T.L., M.A.T. and M.A.L.S. programs  
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## Hollins University Academic Calendar 2026-2027

(1/9/2026, subject to revision)

### Fall Term

International Student Arrival	Thu: Aug 27
New Students Check-In	Sat: Aug 29
New Student Orientation	Sat-Tue: Aug 29-Sept 1
Returning Students Arrive	Sun-Mon: Aug 30-31
Opening Convocation	Tue: Sept 1
Fall Classes Begin	Wed: Sept 2
Session 1 dates	Wed-Tue: Sept 2-Oct 20
Labor Day (classes in session)	Mon: Sept 7
Last Day to Add a Full-Term Class	Tue: Sept 8
Last Day to Drop Full-term Class w/out W grade / Last Day to Declare Audit*	Tue: Sept 15
Last Day to Declare Pass/Fail	Tue: Sept 29
Fall Graduation Date	Thu: Oct 1
Fall Break (no classes)	Thu-Fri: Oct 15-16
Session 2 dates	Wed-Thu: Oct 21-Dec 10
Board of Trustees Meeting	TBA
Last day to Withdraw from a Full-Term Class	Wed: Oct 28
Family Weekend	Fri-Sun: Oct 9-11
Short/Spring Term Advising (undergraduate)	Mon-Fri: Nov 2-6
Short/Spring Term Registration (undergrad & grad)	Begins Mon: Nov 9
Thanksgiving Recess (no classes)	Mon-Fri: Nov 23-27
Last Day of Fall Classes	Thu: Dec 10
Reading Day	Fri: Dec 11
Fall Term Examinations	Sat-Wed: Dec 12-16
Winter Break Begins	Thu: Dec 17
Grades Due	Sat: Dec 19

### Short Term

Short Term Begins	Mon: Jan 4
Last Day to Add	Mon: Jan 4
Last Day to Drop	Tue: Jan 5
Martin L. King Jr. Day (classes in session)	Mon: Jan 18
Last Day to Withdraw	Fri: Jan 22
Short Term Ends	Fri: Jan 29
Grades due for short term seminars	Fri: Feb 5
Grades due for internships, ind. studies	Mon: Feb 22

### Spring Term

Classes Begin	Wed: Feb 3
Session 1 Dates	Wed-Fri: Feb 3-Mar 19
Last Day to Add a Full-Term Class*	Tue: Feb 9
Presidents Day (classes in session)	Mon: Feb 15
Hollins Day	Thu: Feb 18
Board of Trustees Meeting	TBA
Last Day to Drop Full-term Class w/out W grade / Last Day to Declare Audit*	Tue: Feb 16
Last Day to Declare Pass/Fail	Tue: Mar 2
Spring Recess (no classes)	Mon-Fri: Mar 22-26
Session 2 Dates	Mon-Tue: Mar 29-May 11
Last day to Withdraw from a Full-Term Class*	Wed: Apr 7
Fall Term Advising (undergraduate)	Mon-Fri: Apr 19-23
Fall Term Registration (undergrad & grad)	Begins Mon: Apr 26
Honors Convocation	Tue: May 4
Last Day of Classes	Tue: May 11
Reading Day	Wed: May 12
Spring Term Examinations	Thu-Mon: May 13-17
Grades Due for Graduating Students	Tue: May 18
Commencement	Sun: May 23
Grades Due for Non-Graduating Students	Thu: May 20
Memorial Day	Mon: May 31
Board of Trustees Meeting	TBA
Reunion	TBA

### Summer Term

Summer Term Begins	Mon: Jun 21
Last Day to Add a Full-Term Class	Wed: Jun 23
Last Day to Drop a Full-Term Class w/out W Grade	Fri: Jun 25
Independence Day	Sun: Jul 4
Last Day to Withdraw from a Class	Fri: Jul 16
Summer Term Ends	Fri: Jul 30
Grades Due	Mon: Aug 9

\*See Important Deadlines on the Registrar's Office website for partial term course deadlines