

PROGRAM-SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

CULTURE, POLITICS, AND SOCIETY

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Office: Quellenstraße 51 / Room B403

Degree offered: BA in Culture, Politics, and Society

Duration of the program: 4 Academic Years

Structure of the Academic Year: 3 terms: Fall, Winter, and Spring

Duration of the Fall Term: 12 weeks¹

Duration of the Winter Term: 12 weeks

Duration of the Spring Term: 11 weeks (teaching period is 6 weeks)²

Amount of credits required per Academic Year: 30 US Credits average

Overall amount of required credits: Minimum 120 US Credits

Program Structure

Each of the first three academic years are subdivided into modules: three thematic, two skills-oriented, and one project-oriented (only in the first and second years).

First Year: Students are required to earn six credits in each of the thematic modules, four in each of the skills-oriented modules and four in the project-oriented module. All courses in the first year are mandatory. This year is considered the “What?” year, in which courses focus on the concepts and disciplinary approaches in each subject area.

Second Year: Students are required to earn a minimum of four credits in each module. Up to twelve credits are earned through mandatory courses. This year is considered the “How?” year, in which courses are problem-oriented and focus on methodologies.

Third Year: Students are required to earn a minimum of four credits in each module. This year is considered the “Why?” year, in which courses focus on analysis. The third year is also when students have the opportunity to study abroad.

Fourth Year: Students are required to take a minimum of 30 credits. In addition to the thesis and thesis seminar, students take courses in their major and open electives. Students pursuing a major are required to take the Major module, comprising 10 credits in their major, and a minimum of 8 credits of electives (these can be courses from other

¹ Following the end of term, there is an additional exam week when make-up classes and/or in-class exams may take place. Assignments may be due within two weeks of the end of teaching time.

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majors, or from years 2 or 3 of the program). Students may also choose to double major, in which case they will take 10 credits of courses in one major and a minimum of 8 credits of courses in the other. Students who are not pursuing a major are required to take 20 credits from designated electives in majors, or from year 2 or 3 electives, complete a thesis, but cannot complete a Capstone project. This year focuses on specialization through choosing a major and completing a thesis and capstone, as well as what's next after completing the BA.

Thesis and Capstone:

The thesis and capstone requirements are unified across all the BA programs at CEU. Please refer to the Undergraduate thesis guidelines for specific information regarding requirements.

Program Majors

Students will be required to declare their intended major in the second year, this is a prerequisite for studying abroad. The major can be changed and/or a second major can be declared until the end of Fall Term in the third year. Students in good academic standing at the end of their third year are eligible to take MA classes that count towards their major in addition to relevant BA coursework. For the complete list of majors and minors see page 8-9.

Major Credit requirements:

To complete a disciplinary major (open to students enrolled prior to AY 2023-24), students must earn a total of 36 credits:

- 16 total credits from courses in the major taken during Year 2 and Year 3; at least 6 credits must be taken in the major per year
- 20 credits in the major during the fourth year, including:
 - 10 credits of 4th year courses in the major
 - Thesis courses, which include the Thesis Seminar, the Careers Course, and The Thesis (and Capstone) completion
- The thesis (and capstone) must be completed within the field of the major
- Mandatory courses do not count towards the major

For students wishing to double major:

- Same requirements as above for Year 2 and Year 3 for each major (16 credits for major A and 16 additional credits for major B)
 - Course credits may only count towards one major (i.e., if an offered course falls into two different major subjects, it may only be counted towards one of them)

- In Year 4:
 - 10 credits of 4th year courses in one major
 - 8-10 credits of 4th year courses in the second major
 - Once again, courses must be unique, i.e., the credits of one course cannot be counted towards 2 majors
 - The thesis (and capstone) must be interdisciplinary and cover both majors.

To complete a multidisciplinary major (available from AY 2022-23) students must earn a total of 40 credits³

- 20 total credits from courses in the multidisciplinary major taken during Year 2 and Year 3
 - At least 6 credits must be taken in the major per year
 - Students should take at least 2 credits in each contributing discipline
- 20 credits in the major during the fourth year, including:
 - 10 credits of 4th year courses in the major
 - Thesis courses, which include the Thesis Seminar, the Careers Course, and The Thesis (and capstone) completion
- The thesis (and capstone) must be completed within the field of the major
- Mandatory courses do not count towards the major.

Students pursuing a multidisciplinary major have the opportunity to complete a second major in *Visual Theory and Practice*. The credit requirements for the additional major are as follows:

- Years 1-3
 - 20 total credits from the major - Students double majoring in Visual Theory and Practice will be allowed to allocate relevant first-year course credits to the 20-credit major requirements.
- In Year 4:
 - 8-10 credits of 4th year courses in the second major
 - Once again, courses must be unique, i.e., the credits of one course cannot be counted towards 2 majors
 - The thesis (and capstone) must be interdisciplinary and include a component incorporating Visual Theory and Practice.

³ Students who enrolled in Academic Year 2020-21 may petition to complete a multidisciplinary specialization according to the original credit requirements. Please submit requests to the Program Director.

Minor Credit Requirements

- 15 credits of courses in the minor by the end of year 4. Credits taken in years 2, 3, and 4 can count towards this requirement.

Students completing a multidisciplinary major can only pursue a minor outside of the subjects encompassed in their major. For example, a student majoring in *Social and Environmental Studies* is not able to complete a minor in Environmental Studies and Policy, Gender Studies, or Sociology and Social Anthropology.

Second Year Experiential Learning

Students in the BA must spend a spring term pursuing an experiential learning module. Experiential learning enables students to be immersed in an organization, or project, outside university coursework, in which students learn how contemporary work, and collaborative projects are organized. Students will have the opportunities to pursue internships, partnerships, or research assistantships, with institutions such as NGO's, museums, businesses, professionals, international organizations, social or political movements, community groups, or with individuals such as activists, artists, scientific researchers, or experts. The Experiential Learning module comprises two distinct parts – a practical component in which students individually pursue a practical project related to their academic or career interests and a seminar in which students will be expected to share and reflect on their experiences completing the project. Please refer to the Experiential Learning Annex for detailed information about the component.

Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of this module, students will be able to:

- Identify an experiential learning setting of interest
- Decipher how an organization, practice, or profession works
- Apply communication skills outside the classroom
- Plan and complete projects
- Work in a team
- Reflect upon feedback from others
- Clarify their career aspirations
- Analyse the experiential site in relation to previous coursework

Program Modules

The Culture, Politics, and Society Program consists of modules, from which students are required to draw their courses over the course of the four-year program. Modules are

completed successfully once students have passed the mandatory and elective courses in the module.

Each CPS-hosted course is designated to fulfil the requirements of one (or more) module(s). If a course fits multiple modules, the student must select which single module they would like the credits to fulfil.

The modules in the CPS program are:

Module	Description
Year 1	
<i>Culture and Self I</i> 6 Credits	The module aggregates courses which – in spite of their diverse disciplinary origins – are all focused on the perception and understanding of selfhood and personal identity, and the ways these are shaped by and practiced in different cultures.
<i>Society and Culture I</i> 6 Credits	This module introduces students to the basic understanding of what is society, what is modernity, what are the fundamental social categories which organize social and cultural life, and what are today's primary social challenges, such as inequality and environmental change.
<i>Politics and Society I</i> 6 Credits	This module is constituted by courses introducing students to a variety of perspectives on politics - past and present, national, international and transnational - in their relation to the broader social world.
<i>Modes of Interpretation I</i> 4 Credits	The module develops students' capacity to read and interpret multiple textual genres, ranging from traditional written texts, to visual data and media such as painting, sculpture, photography, film, and digital media.
<i>Modes of Expression I</i> 4 Credits	This introductory module comprises two mandatory courses, one on academic writing, and the other on communicating through image and sound.
<i>Culture, Politics, and Society in Context I</i> 4 Credits	Drawing upon the city of Vienna, the region, or neighboring cities, as sites for learning, this module takes students out of the classroom to connect coursework to the past and present of the city, its institutions, and its surroundings.

Year 2	
<i>Culture and Self II</i> min. 4 Credits	This module is constituted by courses from various disciplines focused on the practices and ideas about selfhood and personal identity as these are manifested in diverse cultures.
<i>Society and Culture II</i> min. 4 Credits	This interdisciplinary module is constituted by courses introducing students to the various ways of studying social and cultural wholes and social forces. Students learn how the social sciences are a way of knowing, with debates not only about the central social categories structuring social life, but also debates within the social sciences about how to best understand the social world.
<i>Politics and Society II</i> min. 4 Credits	This interdisciplinary module puts together courses that advance students' understanding of the activity of politics and the variety of political orders, past and present.
<i>Modes of Interpretation II</i> min. 4 Credits	This module advances students' critical interpretive capacities by focusing on the components that construct a text or media artefact, and the components that construct a research question.
<i>Modes of Expression II</i> min. 4 Credits	In this module students will select a minimum of two courses among a range of elective courses which are each devoted to gaining basic proficiency in a single medium, from video to photo, audio, creative writing, data visualization, or coding.
<i>Culture, Politics, and Society in Context II</i> min. 4 Credits	Students must spend a spring term pursuing an experiential learning module, enabling students to be immersed in an organization, or project, outside university coursework, in which students learn how contemporary work, and collaborative projects are organized.
Year 3	
<i>Culture and Self III</i> min. 4 Credits	This module continues exploring the practices of selfhood and personal identity from a variety of disciplinary perspectives, while concentrating on developing students' analytical skills.
<i>Society and Culture III</i> min. 4 Credits	This module trains students to formulate their own questions, to embark on their own analyses of the social world, and to consider if, and how, to act upon the social world.
<i>Politics and Society III</i>	This module focuses on developing students' analytical skills

min. 4 Credits	by considering questions of agency, normative frameworks, social contexts, and institutional settings.
<i>Modes of Interpretation III</i> min. 4 Credits	The module develops students' capacity to critically analyze research, media, and texts, by linking interpretative strategies to fundamental questions in the social sciences, humanities, and media studies, on establishing causality, the broader history and effects of media, and the gaps between argument, evidence, and establishing a fact.
<i>Modes of Expression III</i> min. 4 Credits	Students will have the opportunity to take advanced courses in a given medium, such as coding or filmmaking, while also continuing to take basic courses from a variety of media, gaining a broader basic proficiency across disciplines as well.
Year 4	
<i>Major Module</i> min. 10 Credits	This module is required for students who choose to pursue a major, and offers advanced, specialized study in a specific discipline, leading into their final Thesis (and capstone projects). Students gain disciplinary expertise, formulate their own research questions to pursue, and undertake significant research.
<i>General Studies Module</i> 20 Credits	Students are empowered to design their own course of study from a limited number of MA courses, as well as second- & third-year electives.
<i>Thesis and Capstone Module</i> min. 10 Credits	Throughout the module, students complete a culminating undergraduate academic project that derives from previous work in their field.

Module designation is carefully curated by the CPS program. However, should a student take a course outside of the course offering that has been pre-assigned to modules, or if they think a specific course fits another module, they may submit a petition to count a class towards an alternative module. The petition should be submitted via this [Microsoft Form](#) by the end of week 6 of the term in which a class takes place. Petitions will be reviewed by the Program Director and students will be informed of the decision before the start of registration for the following term.

All BA students are required to complete a thesis regardless of whether they are following a major or the general studies path.

Please refer to the CEU Course Hub (<https://courses.ceu.edu/unit/undergraduate-studies>) for up-to-date course offerings each year.

Majors and Minors in CPS (available to students entering before AY 2023-24):

Critical Humanities (minor only)

Cultural Heritage

Environmental Studies

Gender Studies

History

Human Rights

International Relations

Medieval Studies

Nationalism Studies

Philosophy

Political Science

Sociology and Social Anthropology

*Visual Theory & Practice**

New Majors available from AY 2022-23 (only majors available to students enrolling from AY 2023-24):

Cultural and Historical Studies (History, Medieval Studies, Nationalism, Cultural Heritage, Philosophy)

Political, Legal and Governmental Studies (International Relations, Political Science, Legal Studies, Human Rights, Public Policy, Political Philosophy)

Social and Environmental Studies (Environmental Studies and Policy, Gender Studies, Sociology, Social Anthropology, Social Philosophy)

*Visual Theory and Practice**

**Please note that Visual Theory & Practice is not offered as a standalone major. Students looking to complete a major in Visual Theory & Practice must do so in conjunction with a major in another subject and will therefore complete a double major.*

Students who are not completing the Visual Theory and Practice major have the option to count Modes of Expression courses (eg. Fundamentals of Documentary Filmmaking) towards their major. This is contingent upon approval from the Program Director. Students who wish to petition for a Modes of Expression course to count towards a non-VTP major should complete this [Microsoft Form](#). Students will be required to provide information documenting that their final project for the course relates to their major. The petition should be submitted by the end of week 6 of the term in which the class takes place. Petitions will be reviewed by the Program Director and students will be informed of the decision before the start of registration for the following term.

Up to date course lists for each major discipline can be found on the Undergraduate Studies website (<https://undergraduate.ceu.edu/students>)