

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 weeks

Duration of the Winter Term: 12 weeks

Duration of the Spring Term: 11 weeks (teaching period is 6 weeks)¹

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 six modules: three thematic, two skills-oriented, and one project-oriented.

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. 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. Seven credits are earned through mandatory courses. Students complete a third-year thesis, deepening their knowledge within a specific discipline. 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 minimum 30 credits. Students pursuing a major are required to take 8 credits in the Capstone Module, as well as the Major module, comprising 12 credits in their major, and 10 credits of electives (these can be courses from other majors, or from years 2 or 3 of the program). Students may also choose to double

¹ Assignments maybe be due within two weeks of the end of teaching time.

major, in which case they will take 12 credits of courses in one major and 10 credits of courses in the other and complete an interdisciplinary capstone. Students who are not pursuing a major are required to take 30 credits from designated electives in majors, or from year 2 or 3 electives, and do not complete a Capstone project. This year focuses on specialization through choosing a major and completing a capstone, as well as what's next after completing the BA.

Program Majors

After spending the first three years in BA courses in the CPS BA program, students have the opportunity to apply for entry into a major in their final year. Students will be required to declare their intended major in the second year, this is a pre-requisite 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. For the complete list and descriptions of majors and minors see page 8-10.

Students who prefer to complete their BA without a final capstone project, or students not accepted into any major, in their fourth year take an additional 30 credits worth of designated 4th-year electives in CPS majors, or electives from year 2 or 3. Students completing this track do not complete a capstone project and receive a BA without a major.

Major Credit requirements:

To complete a major, students must earn:

- 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
- Mandatory courses do not count towards the major
- 20 credits in the major during the fourth year, including:
 - 12 credits of 4th year courses in the major
 - Capstone Module Courses, which include 2 credits of Capstone writing seminar, and 6 credits of Capstone workshop.
 - The capstone project must be completed within the field of 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)
 - The thesis must be interdisciplinary and incorporate topics from both majors.

- In Year 4:
 - 12 credits of 4th year courses in one major
 - 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 Capstone project must be interdisciplinary and cover both majors.

Minor Credit Requirements

- 16 credits of courses in the minor throughout years 2-4

Major Entry requirements: The grade point average requirement for entry into any major is 3.2.

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.

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

Third Year Thesis

The aim of this module is to give students the opportunity to pursue a question, topic or subject in significant detail, within their chosen field(s) of specialization. The question may also be one which involves overlap between two or even three of these disciplines — so there is the opportunity for serious interdisciplinary study. The seminar enables students to present their work to their colleagues and to gain feedback on it. The thesis writing class will confront students with the challenges involved in writing a thesis. At the completion of this module, students will have learned how to develop a sustained and detailed line of argument, or piece of research; they will have learned how to consult relevant literature and other sources; they will have learned how to prepare a long piece of systematic academic work; and they will have learned how to present their work in a seminar to their fellow students. The thesis should be 4,500-6,000 words.

The Final Capstone Project

The senior capstone is a culminating undergraduate academic project that derives from previous work in a field. Students pursue significant independent planning and research on a question or problem of their choice, engage with the scholarly debates in the relevant disciplines, and - with the guidance of a faculty mentor - produce a substantial paper, multimedia work, or other significant final project that reflects a deep understanding of the topic. There is an extensive proposal and approval process, and deadlines are strictly enforced.

The Capstone may be produced individually or may also take the form of a collaborative project involving multiple students working as a team, each making a significant contribution to the final outcome. In the case of collaborative projects, the workload for each member must be “significant” in order to satisfy the capstone requirement, and workload expectations must be detailed in the project proposal. The project may conform to the traditional, written, final thesis form, or contain other multimedia elements such as video, still images, audio, data visualizations, etc. Capstone examples include a “classic” written BA thesis, a civic-engagement project, a documentary film, or a business innovation project. All projects need to incorporate extensive research and must employ advanced research and communication methods.

The Capstone project should:

1. engage in an experience that integrates learning across the major curriculum;

2. demonstrate an appropriate level of mastery over the chosen area(s) of concentration, and
3. demonstrate mastery of the communication conventions of the major(s).

Students are strongly encouraged to choose a topic in which they have some competence based on their academic work, professional experience, or exploration of future career options. The Capstone Project is both a valuable intellectual experience and also a vehicle through which students can demonstrate their research, analytical, and writing skills to either prospective employers or graduate and professional schools.

Graduating students are required to present their Capstone project to their peers and others in the CEU community at a BA Capstone conference. They will be evaluated on the basis of the substance of the Capstone project as well as its presentation at the conference

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.

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 surrounding region, or neighboring cities, as sites for learning, this module takes students out of the classroom to vividly 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> min. 4 Credits	This module focuses on developing students' analytical skills 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.
<i>Third Year Thesis</i> 8 Credits	In this module, students expand a previous course assignment into a third year thesis, which can take multiple forms, drawing from the skills accumulated through the Modes of Expression Modules. Additionally, students are given the opportunity to explore career options related to their field.
Year 4	
<i>Major Module</i> min. 12 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 Capstone Projects. Students

	gain disciplinary expertise, formulate their own research questions to pursue, and undertake significant research.
<i>General Studies Module</i> 30 Credits	Students are empowered to design their own course of study from a limited number of fourth-year major courses, as well as second- & third-year electives.
<i>Capstone Module</i> 8 Credits	Throughout the module, students complete a culminating undergraduate academic project that derives from previous work in their field.

The *General Studies Module* is for students who prefer to complete their BA without a final capstone project, or who are not accepted into a major.

The *Capstone Module* is required for students completing a major.

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

Description of majors and minors:

Critical Humanities (minor only)

Critical Humanities educates students in diverse traditions of knowledge to become creative and critical thinkers with the capacity for transcultural, ethical, and social sensitivities. Within the specialization, interdisciplinary approaches are applied in order to foster innovative conversations across various scholarly fields, cultures and media, and special emphasis is placed on cultural and literary studies.

Cultural Heritage

Cultural Heritage Studies focus on developing aptitudes for the critical assessment of tangible structures and objects such as buildings, monuments, archaeological sites, and works of art; on intangible heritage like traditions, languages, and knowledge; and on environmental heritage connected to human-nature interactions, offering a variety of theoretical and methodological approaches.

Environmental Studies

Environmental Studies emphasize interdisciplinary approaches to solving environmental problems, while focusing on international or trans-boundary issues in sustainable

environmental development. Students are introduced to the entry-point of a network of environmental professionals from developed and developing countries worldwide.

Gender Studies

Gender Studies emphasize a rich variety of intertwined scholarly and practical interests, such as gender and (post) state-socialist studies, nationalism, theory, cultural studies, transnationalism, and international political movements. It prepares students for the development of socially relevant knowledge based on these approaches and ongoing critical interrogation of past and present practices related to gender in culture and society.

History

History seeks to prepare students who would continue their education to become future scholars, academic and public leaders and professionals with a broad social horizon, eager to go beyond established geographical and temporal boundaries with a comparative and interdisciplinary perspective.

Human Rights

Human Rights offers intellectual and methodological tools to help students handle complexity and understand the relevance of various disciplines such as law, politics, economics, philosophy, international relations, sociology and history to understanding, assessing and addressing injustice. It aims to equip students with a sound and critical understanding of issues of human rights and justice and to introduce them to modern human rights frameworks. The courses offer a solid knowledge-base and skills training, while placing a strong focus on critical thinking and problem-solving, preparing students for the next stage of their careers or education.

International Relations

International Relations integrates international relations scholarship with regional expertise. It introduces students to international relations theory, in both its traditional and critical forms, as well as multi-disciplinary approaches to the study of increasingly diverse global actors.

Medieval Studies

Medieval Studies focuses on different methods of communication, migration of peoples, mobility of objects, texts, and ideas in the larger medieval oikumene, including Europe, Asia and North Africa.

Nationalism Studies

Nationalism Studies prepares students for empirical and theoretical study of issues of nationalism, self-determination, problems of state-formation, ethnic conflict, minority protection, language and citizenship rights and constitutional design in ethnically divided societies.

Philosophy

Philosophy prepares students for further study of philosophy and thorough training in all of its major fields of philosophy. It combines historical and analytical approaches in philosophy.

Political Science

Political Science prepares students wishing to develop the analytical skills necessary to achieve excellence in their areas of study, such as political philosophy, democratization and regime change, constitutional politics, political economy, media, voting behavior, party politics and human rights, in a comparative manner.

Sociology and Social Anthropology

Sociology and Social Anthropology presents students with multi-scalar, global, and critical perspectives on current social issues. Students are introduced to the study of migration, post-colonialism, urbanism, political and economic sociology, sociology of culture, development, network analysis, anthropology of religion, visual anthropology, and sociology of gender and sexuality.

Visual Theory & Practice

Visual Theory & Practice introduces students to visual arts, film, photography and performance. It prepares students for an engagement with theories and practices of analogue and digital image-making as well as interpretation through a web of interrelated activities.

Please note that Visual Theory & Practice is not offered as a standalone major. Students looking to hoping 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.

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