

FACULTY OF
**ARTS AND SOCIAL
SCIENCES**

INTRODUCTION TO HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES



**DALHOUSIE
UNIVERSITY**

FACULTY OF ARTS AND
SOCIAL SCIENCES

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HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

The Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (FASS) offers the most academic choices of any such faculty in Atlantic Canada, combining the opportunities of a big research-intensive university with the friendly atmosphere of a smaller college. With hundreds of course offerings across more than thirty-five academic programs to choose from, FASS is providing first-year students with guidance on figuring out which study areas they should pursue that will meet and pique their interests. FASS students will begin their journey at Dal by taking either the **Introduction to Humanities** or the **Introduction to Social Sciences** course.

The introductory classes in **HUMANITIES AND IN SOCIAL SCIENCES** complement each other, so students interested in both Humanities and Social Sciences are encouraged to take both. The chief goals of these courses are to:

- Create a sense of cohort among Dalhousie FASS students through the shared experience of these introductory classes.
- Give students entering the university an overall sense of what and how scholars and students actually study in the various disciplines, departments and programs.
- Expose students to big problems they can approach from many shared perspectives and to the various disciplines so that they might more easily discover something that ignites their passions and interests early on in their university trajectory.
- Reveal how disciplines have shared interests on similar social problems.
- Allow students to reflect on the contemporary value and importance of the Humanities and Social Sciences.
- Give students the experience of large, dynamic, exciting lectures but also small, intimate (20 person) tutorials.
- Offer students the opportunity to earn course credit for attending public lectures featuring outstanding visiting academics and for participating in field trips and outings where students get hands-on experience of the cultural, historical and political institutions of Halifax.
- Offer advice and direction to new FASS students on how to adapt to life as a new university student and get the most out of their university studies. This would include both advice about study skills as well as advising on planning out the student's course of studies.
- Expose students to the wide range of support and expertise available in FASS and at Dalhousie that can help them to excel throughout their degrees.

INTRODUCTORY COURSE OPTIONS FOR FIRST-YEAR FASS STUDENTS

Introduction to Humanities (ASSC 1300)

What does the term “Humanities” mean? What do the various subjects and disciplines we include under the name ‘Humanities’ share in common that distinguish them from natural sciences or social sciences? What distinguishes these Humanities disciplines from one another? How do they relate to the Arts? What are different arguments for the continued value of studying Humanities? How might these arguments affect the choices of a Humanities student today?

This course will introduce students to the interrelations between Humanities subjects and the ways in which they can work together, as well as separately, to offer insights into past, present, and future societies and cultures. This course will ask the question: What is the nature and the value of the Humanities? We shall try to answer this by actually doing the work of the various disciplines within the Humanities. Professors from departments and programs throughout Dalhousie's Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences will teach classes showing how they deal with their objects of study.

Introduction to Social Sciences (ASSC 1400)

For first-year students entering university, how will their academic journey begin? How can students build the skills and confidence to address pressing challenges on today's society? How can a Faculty collectively work to foster the knowledge and confidence needed to address these, and other, pressing issues in the social sciences so that students acquire the conceptual vocabulary to engage in a rich social science undergraduate experience?

This module-based course will bring together outstanding educators in the Social Sciences at Dalhousie University to foster the confidence needed for students to succeed in their degree, to build skills to effectively engage with this changing world, and to address the critical challenge: What are the gateways and obstacles to a just society? The objectives of this course include building students' conceptual vocabulary around the key terms used in the social sciences and their understanding of how various social sciences view the key issues through their own disciplinary strengths.

QUESTIONS?

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