

Choosing between Christianity and Western Culture (CWC) + Introduction to the Creative Arts (CA) And The Humanities Program

Two Options in General Education

There are two ways to meet some of your **General Education requirements in western culture and the creative arts**. During your first year at Bethel, you may either take the two courses in the **Humanities Program**, or you may take both Christianity and Western Culture (CWC) and Introduction to the Creative Arts (CA).

Common Features and Shared Goals

The overall goals of both options are the same: **to pursue the deepest questions regarding human life regarding God, the self and society.**

Both options offer an **interdisciplinary study of the arts, music, philosophy, theology, and history**, taught by **professors from those fields**. Both options will provide you with a **basis for your later courses** at Bethel. In both options, you will study **key elements in western culture**, and you will **leave campus to attend plays and concerts, and to visit museums**

Characteristics of the Humanities Program

The Humanities Program is a four-course sequence, **two of which are taken during the freshman year**. The courses must be taken in order and both must be completed to meet General Education requirements. If you choose the Humanities Program for your freshman year, you are not required to continue in the program the following year, but we suggest that you do so in order to derive full benefit from the program. You will have plenty of time to decide next year. If you choose the Humanities Program, **you will not enroll in College Writing** your freshman year.

In the Humanities Program, the emphasis will be on **your direct experience** with the finest works of Western culture. We've structured the course so that, in a typical week, you may hear a background lecture on Greek philosophy, read part of Plato's *Republic*, and view Greco-Roman sculpture at the Minneapolis Institute of Art. In discussion, we will seek to understand the authors and the artists, as well as seek your interpretation of the works. The content in the Humanities option emphasizes your **direct experience** with **full works** of literature, philosophy, drama, and theology, not on textbooks. **Class discussion will account for about two-thirds** of your experience. In some weeks, you will also write essays or papers in which you will examine a topic more fully, often in relation to your Christian faith.

Humanities is for you, if you view college as **a time for your own reading of great books** by Plato, Jane Austen, and others, and if you **want to experience great works of art and music** by Rembrandt, Mozart, and many others **in their historical context**.

**** Special housing option for the Humanities Program****

Students can combine Western Humanities I with your required Introduction to the Liberal Arts course and live in Edgren Residence Hall with other students taking the same courses. This is called the Humanities Learning Community whose purpose is to enhance a greater synthesis of classroom learning beyond the classroom. Check this preference on your housing form or contact the Housing Office. This additional component of the Program is entirely optional. It is open to about 25 students in Humanities.

CWC+CA

Christianity and Western Culture (CWC) and Introduction to the Creative Arts (CA) are two **separate courses**. They may be taken in any order. The **proportion of lecture to small group discussion** is reversed in this track. The **content of both of these courses revolves around certain ideas and movements**— the CA course often emphasizes themes, and chooses works of art, music, and theatre to illustrate those themes. CA students will **attend plays and concerts, and visit museums** in order to learn about the creative process. CWC emphasizes the **relation of Christians to particular cultural questions over time**. It relies on a **history textbook for background, and uses short readings** to engage students in the key historic questions that arise. You will be

evaluated through **quizzes and exams** in CA and CWC. In CA, many students will be able to choose a section that gives **special emphasis on one of the arts**.

The **CWC/CA option** is for you if you'd like your experience of history and the **arts to be guided more by your professors**, through lecture, and **structured by a textbook**.