

MALS GATEWAY COURSE **MALS 601, 602, 603**

In response to suggestions from MALS student and alumni, the MALS program introduced a new gateway experience to the program. Incoming students are required to take this course, and students who started in MALS this year are encouraged to do so. Students in this course will come to class every Tuesday from 6-9 as if it were a regular three-credit course, but it is in fact structured as three back-to-back one-credit courses of four weeks each. The first, MALS601, will focus on an orientation to the requirements of graduate study, writing and research in liberal studies, library databases, etc. MALS602 and 603 will present a sampling of MALS content in order to define what is meant by liberal studies and to provide students with experience in analyzing and interpreting print and non-print texts. This year, Kevin Kerrane will teach a documentary course as MALS602, and students will write a brief analytical paper. Joan DeFattore will teach a segment of her MALS course in the culture of the 1960s in MALS603, and students will do a short research paper.

M.A.L.S. CORE COURSES

A student is required to take two core courses.

MALS600 *Nature and Human Nature* (3 credits) will explore how we have explained to ourselves both what we are and what the world is ranging from Aristotle to the present.

MALS610 *Force, Conflict and Change* (3 credits). From antiquity to the present, the use of force and the resolution of conflict have been among humanity's enduring preoccupations. This course examines ideas about these issues, and associated questions such as the meaning of "heroism" and "just war."

MALS619 *The Scientist in Society* (3 credits). Scientific research is directly influenced by the society in which it is conducted. In addition to financial limitations, constraints are imposed by societal norms of what are acceptable topics and procedures for research. The responsibilities and rights of the scientist with respect to these pressures will be examined.

MALS622 *Interpreting The Past* (3 credits) considers the different perspectives that can be applied to learning about the past.

MALS624 *Introduction to Graduate Research & Writing in Liberal Studies* (3 credits). This course will focus on developing research and writing skills by concentrating on one issue, such as the family, the environment, or education. Students will be taught to narrow the focus of a topic, create an arguable thesis, gather source information from both library and on-line resources, evaluate the source of information, organize a logical argument, incorporate source information into the argument, and revise and refine into a finished paper.

MALS625 *Film and American Society* (3 credits). This course uses major motion pictures to explore how Hollywood dealt with critical historical events: the Cold War, McCarthyism, the Civil Rights Movement, Vietnam, Watergate, and the modern Presidency.

MALS626 *Studies In Contemporary American Literature* (3 credits) examines narrative and thematic concerns in American fiction written after World War II and also before World War II. The fiction will be explored against a background of cultural, philosophical, and literary trends.

MALS660 *On Becoming Human* (3 credits) will deal with the biological and cultural evolution of humans and will focus on how we are similar to and different from our closest primate relatives.

MALS ELECTIVE COURSES

MALS elective courses have permanent numbers and are offered regularly.

MALS611 *Documentary: Journalism and Film* (3 credits) will look at non-fiction, social reporting from the Victorian Era to the present. Some of the authors examined will be Dickens, Chekov, Jack London, and, especially, George Orwell, as well as Tom Wolfe, Gay Talese and John McPhee.

MALS617 *American Art in Context* (3 credits) Designed to give the non-specialist in art history an understanding of how social, economic, religious, and cultural attitudes in America are reflected in its art, architecture, and decorative arts from the colonial period to the present. Discussion encompasses such subjects as patronage, regionalism, ethnicity, and gender.

MALS620 *The Use of Science in Public Discourse* (3 credits) examines important questions of general interest to both individuals and to governmental bodies that depend heavily on scientific information.

MALS621 *The Impacts of European Contact On Native Americans* (3 credits) considers how the arrival of the first Europeans in North America affected the indigenous Native Americans.

MALS EXPERIMENTAL COURSES

In any UD department or program, the course number 667 designates a course that has not been approved by the Faculty Senate as a regular offering, but is running on an experimental basis. MALS offers such courses almost very semester in order to increase variety and appeal to diverse student interests. Recently offered MALS667 courses include the following:

MALS667 *National Socialism and the Holocaust* (3 credits) This seminar examines recent literature on National Socialism, Adolf Hitler, the Nazi state, and the Holocaust. One half of the course addresses German society under National Socialist rule; the other focuses on the planning, implementation, and legacies of the Holocaust.

MALS667 *American Dreams, American Nightmares* (3 credits) Critics warn that the American Dream is imperiled. This class will focus on claims about social problems said to directly threaten the middle class and the American Dream. What does it mean when we're told the middle class is shrinking, or that the family is in decline?

MALS667 *We Are What We Eat: Food in Our Society* (3 credits) This class will explore the prosaic structures that provision our society, and how taste and preference interact with the

systems of labor, business, and technology that make food available in different places, and at different times. Students will attain a broad understanding of the development of American food as well as in-depth explorations into particular issues and the multi-disciplinary approaches of food scholars. Readings from historians, anthropologists, nutritionists, and journalists along with occasional lectures will be leavened by outside forays to food institutions. Expect lots of reading including muckraking accounts, sweeping surveys of food history, how particular foods became part of our diets, and explanations of consumer choices. And also anticipate the opportunity to talk with a successful restaurant owner, organic farmers, and others engaged in the food business so we can learn how our choices about food influences daily life all around us.

MALS667 *Nobody Expects the Spanish Inquisition: An Interdisciplinary Study of Intellectual Freedom* (3 credits) This course focuses on current situations in which tension exists, or is alleged to exist, between the freedom of the individual and the good of society. As a basis for class discussions, we will read journalism, literature, essays, and legal decisions pertaining to controversial speech about religion, sex, race, and politics. To provide a broader historical context, we will also consider earlier texts documenting the ways in which ideas about the meaning and value of intellectual freedom have evolved. We will begin with the Inquisition, reading English translations of handbooks written by the inquisitors as well as excerpts from the trials of Joan of Arc and Galileo. The course will also include such materials as John Milton's essay "Areopagetica," the transcripts from the Salem witch trials, and newsreels of hearings before the House Un-American Activities Committee and the committee chaired by Senator Joseph McCarthy.

MALS667 *The Art of Oral History* (3 credits) This class introduces students to the use of oral interviews for historical research and interpretation. The class combines a state of the art introduction to oral history theory and method with practical experiences conducting and using oral interviews. All participants will be trained to conduct oral interviews and to write papers based on interpretation of oral interviews. Completion of at least one interview is a course requirement. Students will also learn how to comply with the Human Subjects Research guidelines of the university pertaining to oral interviews.

MALS667 *Memoir Writing* (3 credits) Creative, contemplative, and critical, *Memoir Writing* is a disciplined exploration of the theory and practice of written recollection, grounded in reading and discussion of influential memoirists' work as well as workshop discussion of student work.

MALS667 *Shakespeare in Performance* (3 credits) This course will involve students in Renaissance scholarship, literature, stage practice and history. Students will focus on Shakespeare in performance with some opportunity for on-stage workshops and discussions with actors, live performances of plays with talkbacks and lectures, and private tours.

MALS667 *Holy War* (3 credits) This is a seminar on the many meanings of, and justifications for, "holy war" in the Judaeo-Christian-Muslim traditions from antiquity to the present. Every student will do a research paper or a series of related book reviews.