

LIBERAL STUDIES

Courses whose subject matter is multi-disciplinary and do not fit conveniently into existing academic disciplines or interdisciplinary programs may be listed as LBST.

Courses

LBST 100 *Journeys*

Journeys is a one-semester, common course required of all first-year students entering Hendrix College. It is grounded in the College's motto, which (from Ephesians 4:13) may be translated as "toward a fulfilled person." The motto thus implies trajectory, a sense of movement or development, from one state of being or one way of living to another. It implies, in short, the notion of journey. This course takes the concept of journey as its touchstone and explores how different cultures and different peoples have made sense of their own life journeys.

The *Journeys* course is global in its perspective and interdisciplinary in its approach. For example, through an exploration of Homer's *Odyssey* and some of the dialogues of Plato we probe how the ancient Greeks conceived of human journeys, both physical and metaphorical. We turn then to China, examining "the ways" for human flourishing pioneered by Confucius and the Buddha. In both Islam and Christianity, we can trace adherents' spiritual journeys toward a relationship with the divine: to that end, we will study Islamic poetry and art, as well as the importance of the pilgrimage to Mecca. We explore journeys of a more contemporary nature by looking at Charles Darwin's *Voyage of the Beagle*, with its subsequent influence on his theory of evolution, and by reading texts pivotal to the rise of modern democracy. We probe journeys of self-discovery, such as the one revealed in W.E.B. DuBois' *Souls of Black Folk* and the challenges faced by indigenous communities as they confront modernity. We will look, too, at the journeys toward independence made by nations and individuals as they have thrown off the yoke of imperialism—we look especially at the role of Gandhi in the move for Indian independence in the 20th century. The exact works and kinds of journeys we examine will no doubt evolve as the course changes over the coming years. But our goal will remain constant. We aim to challenge our students to examine a variety of human journeys, with the hope that

they will come to understand different conceptions of human fulfillment and that they will reflect deliberately on the paths their own lives might take.

LBST 101 *Explorations: Liberal Arts for Life*

Explorations: Liberal Arts for Life is a one-semester common course required of all entering students in their first semester at the College. Explorations is designed to foster an ongoing engagement with the liberal arts experience, to facilitate the transition of new students to the Hendrix community, and to enhance students' potential for success in their collegiate studies. The course meets once a week and carries one-quarter (.25) course credit. Areas of study in Explorations include higher education and the liberal arts, the aims and expectations of the College, academic and career explorations, and self-inquiry and personal development. Additionally, the seminar focuses on refining student knowledge, perspectives and skills requisite to successful academic work and integration into the Hendrix community. Each new student will be enrolled in both a Journeys and an Explorations section. Academic components of Explorations may be linked to Journeys content, adding immediate relevance to these areas of study. In each Explorations section, instruction will be complemented by the presence of a second-year peer assistant who will be available to provide a student perspective and assistance throughout the course.

LBST 200 *Vocation and Integrity: A Call to Wholeness* (CW, VA)

What does a life expressing wholeness look like? What are the joys and struggles of leading a life of commitment and integrity? What ultimately gives meaning to life? How is suffering overcome? What place to faith, love, justice, and friendship have in a meaningful vocation? How can one's life-work bespeak one's fundamental values? These and other questions related to the search for a life well lived will be investigated in this interdisciplinary course sponsored by the Hendrix-Lilly Vocations Initiative. Biographies and autobiographies, as well as other literary, philosophical, and artistic forms, are selected for study by the course faculty.

LBST 400 *Propylaea*

To cultivate intellectual and aesthetic curiosity, a student may attend and evaluate 60 intellectual and cultural events, including Murphy Foundation programs, Steel Center events, Special Events programs, convocations, theatre productions, and others. Students may register for Propylaea through the Student Activities Office at the onset of any term. Students who complete LBST 400 *Propylaea* receive one course credit.