

## SCHOOL OF INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

Stan Poole, Dean

The School of Interdisciplinary Studies offers the CORE curriculum, a group of courses designed to foster intellectual inquiry and breadth of knowledge consistent with Ouachita’s identity as a Christian liberal arts university. The curriculum reflects the institution’s understanding, expressed earlier in this catalog, that the love of learning and rational inquiry into all the disciplines represents “an expression of faith, hope, and love addressed to God and embodied within a community of faith” (7). Within this context, the CORE curriculum seeks to prepare students to live responsibly, productively, and meaningfully in a global society.

To achieve these aims, the CORE curriculum encourages students to further their knowledge in a broad array of scholarly disciplines and to develop enhanced skills in critical thinking, effective communication, and quantitative reasoning.

To guide the use of such knowledge and skills, the CORE curriculum further seeks to promote in students a sense of civic responsibility, an appreciation for cultural diversity, and a commitment to personal integrity, physical well-being, and spiritual growth.

### CORE Course Requirements

All students must take the following program of courses.

Course Number	Course Title	Hours
1012	Introduction to the Liberal Arts .....	2
1022	Concepts of Wellness.....	2
1023	The Contemporary World .....	3
1033	Mathematics for the Liberal Arts.....	3
1043	Composition I .....	3
1053	Composition II.....	3
1113	Survey of the Bible.....	3
1123	Interpreting the Bible .....	3
2113	American Civilization .....	3
2213	Western Civilization .....	3
2314	Physical Science .....	4
2324	Life Science.....	4
<b>Letters Menu: Choose one of the following two .....</b>		<b>3</b>
2123	American Letters	
2223	Western Letters	
<b>Sophomore Menu: Choose one of the following three.....</b>		<b>3</b>
2413	Intellectual Traditions	
2433	Personal Finance	
2443	Social Science Survey	
<b>Fine Arts Menu: Choose two of the following three<sup>1</sup>.....</b>		<b>6</b>
3113	Art	
3123	Music	
3133	Theatre	
4001	SENIOR SEMINAR .....	1
	Foreign Language .....	6
	<b>Total.....</b>	<b>55</b>

Entering freshmen must enroll in *Introduction to the Liberal Arts* within their first two semesters at Ouachita, and until they have successfully completed the course, they must continue to enroll in it each semester thereafter. This requirement is waived for transfer students who have been enrolled full-time for two semesters at another college or university. All students must complete *Composition I* and *II* (or approved course substitutions) within their first four semesters at Ouachita or must remain enrolled in the sequence thereafter until they have successfully completed both courses.

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<sup>1</sup>Upon approval by the Dean of Interdisciplinary Studies, participation in either the European Study Program or the Beijing Summer Study Program earns 3 hours of generic Fine Arts credit.

**1012. Introduction to the Liberal Arts.**

Students will explore the aims and relevance of a liberal arts education. Classical and contemporary readings from a broad range of disciplines will prepare students for further study in the CORE curriculum and guide them to discover connections between knowledge and a sense of purpose.

**1022. Concepts of Wellness.**

Students will examine their fitness needs, producing an exercise program and lifetime personal fitness goals.

**1023. The Contemporary World.**

Students will examine major issues in the current world, emphasizing the development of understanding to address these issues.

**1033. Mathematics for the Liberal Arts.**

Students will engage in a study of mathematical ideas and thinking, learning to solve problems and make decisions using sound quantitative reasoning. Students are strongly encouraged to complete the Mathematics requirement within their first four college semesters. Prerequisite: Official placement or a grade of C or better in ASKL 1013 or ASKL 1023.

**1043. Composition I.**

Students will improve their ability to write clear, well-organized, and well-reasoned prose, observing the grammatical and mechanical conventions of Standard American English, through study of grammar and a variety of rhetorical modes and patterns of exposition. Students must pass a competency examination to complete the course.

**1053. Composition II.**

Students will improve their ability to read, research, and write about texts, observing the conventions of formal prose. Prerequisite: CORE 1043.

**1113. Survey of the Bible.**

Students will survey the redemptive story of the Bible from Genesis to Revelation, emphasizing how that story shapes the Christian's worldview and affects life decisions.

**1123. Interpreting the Bible.**

Students will learn to recognize and develop valid interpretations and applications of the Bible.

**2113. American Civilization.**

Students will examine North American culture from pre-Columbian times to the present, emphasizing the historical-cultural context of institutions and intellectual movements. This course also highlights the ideas, individuals, and events from which modern American culture emerged.

**2123. American Letters.**

Students will examine the literary and philosophical currents of American culture, focusing on primary source material.

**2213. Western Civilization.**

Students will survey the diversity of Western human experience in historical-cultural context, sketching as well the West's entwining with global culture.

**2223. Western Letters.**

Students will survey the diversity of Western literary and philosophical currents in historical-cultural context, sketching as well the West's entwining with global culture.

**2314. Physical Science.**

Students will survey key concepts in the physical sciences and how these concepts influence daily life. Includes laboratory. Suggested prerequisite: CORE 1033 or higher mathematics

**2324. Life Science.**

Students will survey key concepts in the life sciences and how these concepts influence daily life. Includes laboratory. Prerequisites: CORE 2314.

**2413. Intellectual Traditions.**

Students will survey the development of humans as thinkers in cultural context from prehistory to the present. **Fall.**

**2433. Personal Finance.**

Students will survey the management of personal and family finances, including budgeting, consumer buying, personal credit, savings and investment, home ownership, insurance, and retirement.

**2443. Social Science Survey.**

Students will survey the web of human culture and interaction, emphasizing the structures and tensions inherent in human diversity and the lines of power therein. **Spring.**

**3113. Fine Arts: Art.**

Students will examine visual expression and its cultural context from prehistory to the present. Students also will develop the analytic skills needed to confront art and architecture, fostering the awareness needed to appreciate museums, galleries, and everyday life.

**3123. Fine Arts: Music.**

Students will examine musical expression and its cultural context from prehistory to the present. Students will also survey the major musical stylistic periods, enhance their listening skills, and acquire an understanding of musical elements and forms.

**3133. Fine Arts: Theatre.**

Students will examine theatrical expression and its cultural context from prehistory to the present. Students will also survey the literary dimensions of play-writing and the technical, literary, and performance aspects of theatre.

**4001. Senior Seminar.**

This seminar directs students to cultural, historical, philosophical, scientific, and theological works chosen to draw together their liberal arts experience within the context of their chosen domain of study. The course provides a conceptual springboard for using experience to inform life-long learning of and service to humans and the world humans inhabit.

**4801-4893. Special Studies.**

This course permits students to pursue independent research or creative work within the interdisciplinary studies domain. **On Demand.**

**Information Resources.**

These educational opportunities, taught in concert with specific content courses, provide instruction in the assessment, retrieval, and ethical use of information. Students will learn how to choose research topics, produce scholarly papers, and use academic style manuals.

**Suggested CORE Sequence**

**First Year**

- 1012 Introduction to the Liberal Arts
- 1023 The Contemporary World
- 1043 Composition I
- 1053 Composition II
- 1113 Survey of the Bible
- 1022 Concepts of Wellness
- 1033 Mathematics for the Liberal Arts
- 1123 Interpreting the Bible
- Foreign Language

**Third Year**

- 1st Fine Arts Choice

**Second Year**

- 2113 American Civilization
- 2\_3 Letters Menu Choice
- 2314 Physical Science
- 2213 Western Civilization
- 2324 Life Science
- 24\_3 Sophomore Menu Choice

**Fourth Year**

- 2nd Fine Arts Choice
- 4001 Senior Seminar