The Division of Humanities, Arts and Cultural Studies

Creative arts, cultural literacy, literary analysis and expression, performance, writing, language: these are the core humanities disciplines forming the bedrock of HArCS. We offer nationally ranked programs that inspire incomparable work here at UC Davis – and diverse collaborations across divisions, across campus, across the globe. We are proud to bring the best and brightest together: to create new ideas, new work and inspired solutions to our globe’s most pressing problems.

Attending to past, present and emergent cultural formations and interpreting culture becomes ever more important as global communication technologies, transnational political forces and environmental concerns reshape our knowledge both of ourselves and others. HArCS is committed to teaching and scholarship in the core humanities disciplines that have long been at the heart of the modern comprehensive research university, encouraging the development of new collaborative units that emerge from within and between disciplines. We frequently connect to parallel inquiries in the social and natural sciences in response to the shifts in intellectual focus called forth by a changing world.

Our commitment to cultural literacy encompasses the basic but complex skills of reading and writing in English and in other languages, as well as the skills of performance and creative expression in the arts. We conduct critical and analytical inquiry into the forms and conditions of literary and aesthetic expression, past and present, and of the social and demographic imagination. Through faculty research and publication and in our graduate and undergraduate teaching, we participate fully in UC Davis’ focus on regional, national and global priorities.

FACTS

- 220 faculty members
- 2,800 undergraduate student majors
- 360 graduate students
- $2.5M research awards (2015–16)
- $1.5M philanthropic dollars contributed (2015–16)

Rankings

- University Writing Program: top 11 in nation as ranked by 1,500 universities (2014)
- Fine arts: 32 (Fine Arts College Ranking, 2013)
- TOP 100 (U.S. College Rankings 2010)
- Spanish: top 6 (National Research Council, 2010)
Departments
African American and African Studies
American Studies
Art and Art History
Asian American Studies
Chicana and Chicano Studies
Comparative Literature
Design
East Asian Languages and Cultures
English
French and Italian
German and Russian
Music
Native American Studies
Religious Studies
Spanish and Portuguese
Theatre and Dance

Programs
Cinema and Digital Media
Classics
Humanities Program
Medieval and Early Modern Studies
Gender, Sexuality and Women’s Studies
University Writing Program

Centers, Museums and Institutes
California Lighting Technology Center
Center for Transnational Health
Design Museum and Collection
C.N. Gorman Museum and Collection
Language Learning Center
Native American Language Center
Taller Arte del Nuevo Amanecer (TANA)
Humanities Institute

2015–16 Faculty Honors
Distinguished professor of English
Frances Dolan, UC Davis Prize for Undergraduate Teaching and Scholarly Achievement

Professor of English Katie Peterson, American Academy of Arts and Letters Literature Award
Music professor Laurie San Martin, John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship

Native American Studies Assistant Professor Jessica Bissett Perea, Mellon Foundation Career Enhancement Fellowship for Junior Faculty

English Professor and Director of the Creative Writing Program Lucy Corin, National Endowment for the Arts creative writing fellowship

David Simpson, distinguished professor of English, and Christopher Reynolds, professor of music, elected to the American Academy of Arts and Letters