

Humanities and Social Sciences

The Cooper Union

Course Schedule

Spring 2026

Core Curriculum

The core curriculum of Cooper Union is a required four-semester sequence from HSS1: The Freshman Seminar through to HSS4: The Modern Context: Figures and Topics. The core curriculum requirement is satisfied by completing these four semesters in order. HSS1 and HSS3 are offered in fall semesters; HSS2 and HSS4 are offered in spring semesters.

HSS-2 | Texts and Contexts: Old Worlds and New

A study of texts and topics from 1500 to 1800. Sections read common texts and some selections by individual instructors, with emphasis on literary expression and cultural context. Requirements include written analysis and class discussion.

Section	Faculty	Meeting Schedule	Building	Room
A	Spritzer	T: 08:00 PM - 08:50 PM Th: 09:00 AM - 10:50 AM	41CS 41CS	505 506
B	Sirmons	M: 12:00 PM - 12:50 PM T: 07:00 PM - 08:50 PM	AP 41CS	205 503
C	Germano	M: 12:00 PM - 12:50 PM Th: 10:00 AM - 11:50 AM	AP AP	207 207
D	Germano	M: 10:00 AM - 11:50 AM Th: 12:00 PM - 12:50 PM	AP AP	207 207
E	Hubbard	M: 10:00 AM - 11:50 AM Th: 12:00 PM - 12:50 PM	41CS 41CS	106 106
F	Simpson	M: 12:00 PM - 12:50 PM Th: 10:00 AM - 11:50 AM	41CS 41CS	106 106
G	Sayres	M: 09:00 AM - 10:50 AM T: 06:00 PM - 06:50 PM	41CS 41CS	401 401
H	Sayres	M: 11:00 AM - 11:50 AM T: 07:00 PM - 08:50 PM	41CS 41CS	401 401
I	Fink	M: 09:00 AM - 09:50 AM Th: 10:00 AM - 11:50 AM	41CS 41CS	201 201
J	Fink	M: 10:00 AM - 11:50 AM Th: 09:00 AM - 09:50 AM	41CS 41CS	201 201
K	Spritzer	M: 12:00 PM - 12:50 PM T: 06:00 PM - 07:50 PM	41CS 41CS	401 LL210
L	Nicholls	M: 11:00 AM - 11:50 AM Th: 11:00 AM - 12:50 PM	AP AP	211 210
M	Menon	M: 09:00 AM - 10:50 AM Th: 12:00 PM - 12:50 PM	AP AP	211 211
N	Bantu	M: 11:00 AM - 12:50 PM T: 06:00 PM - 06:50 PM	41CS 41CS	427 427

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HSS-4 | The Modern Context: Figures and Topics

A study of an important figure or topic from the modern period whose influence extends into contemporary culture. The figures and subjects are chosen from a broad range of disciplines (including literature, history, politics, technology and art history, among others). Through concentration on a single figure or focused topic students are encouraged to develop a deep awareness of works of great significance and to understand them in the context of modernity. Guided independent writing projects and oral presentations give students an appreciation for what constitutes research in the humanities and social sciences.

Please note that HSS-4 may not be repeated for elective credit.

Section	Topic	Faculty	Meeting Schedule	Room	
A	Poverty and Inequality in the US	Abdelwahed	M: 09:00 AM - 11:50 AM	41CS	306
B	Poverty and Inequality in the US	Abdelwahed	T: 06:00 PM - 8:50 PM	41CS	306
C	Gender Geographies	Ebner	M: 10:00 AM - 12:50 PM	41CS	105
D	Gender Geographies	Ebner	Th: 10:00 AM - 12:50 PM	41CS	105
E	Cold War Histories	Pérez	Th: 09:00 AM - 11:50 AM	AP	211
F	Cold War Histories	Pérez	T: 06:00 PM - 8:50 PM	41CS	201
G	Contemporary Cultural Studies	Peterson II	M: 09:00 AM - 11:50 AM	41CS	104
H	Contemporary Cultural Studies	Peterson II	Th: 09:00 AM - 11:50 AM	41CS	104
I	Object Lessons	Pandit	M: 10:00 AM - 12:50 PM	41CS	101
J	Object Lessons	Pandit	Th: 10:00 AM - 12:50 PM	41CS	101
K	Imagining the Body	Wanner	Th: 09:00 AM - 11:50 AM	41CS	LL101
L	Capitalism, Socialism and/vs Democracy: China's Economic Miracle	Sarich	T: 06:00 PM - 8:50 PM	41CS	LL101
M	Rock n Roll in the Global Sixties	Hodeib	M: 10:00 AM - 12:50 PM	41CS	LL101
N	What is a Body?	Barnick	Th: 10:00 AM - 12:50 PM	41CS	401

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Humanities (HUM) & Social Sciences (SS) Electives

The following courses fulfill Humanities, Free Elective, and Non-technical elective requirements for Students in Engineering; they fulfill General Studies requirements for students of Architecture; and they fulfill General Studies and Free Elective requirements for students of Art. In addition, courses with the prefix "HTA" fulfill the distributional requirements for Art students in Art History. Prerequisites. The prerequisites for courses with the prefixes "HUM" and "SS" are HSS1-4. Except with special permission, HTA101-102 is the prerequisite for Art History elective courses. Certain courses may have additional prerequisites, which will be stipulated in the course description.

Course		Faculty	Meeting Schedule	Room	Minors
HUM-308	Creative Writing	Lin	F: 10:00 AM - 12:50 PM	41CS 401	LIT L&P
HUM-315	Science and Contemporary Thought	Escobar	F: 10:00 AM - 12:50 PM	41CS 306	STS H&S PHS
HUM-324	The Polar Imagination	Germano	W: 10:00 AM - 12:50 PM	AP 207	LIT L&P PHS STS
HUM-354	Philosophy of Infrastructure	Bower	T: 09:00 AM - 11:50 AM	AP 205	L&P PHS STS
HUM-358	Studies in Cinema	Awad	W: 10:00 AM - 12:50 PM	41CS ROSE	HTA L&P H&S PHS
HUM-375	Critical Theory	Sayres	W: 06:00 PM - 8:50 PM	41CS 401	LIT L&P PHS
HUM-381	Post-Colonial Studies	Peterson II	T: 09:00 AM - 11:50 AM	AP 207	H&S LIT L&P PHS
HUM-373C-1	Machine Philosophy	Barnick	F: 10:00 AM - 12:50 PM	41CS 106	L&P PHS STS
SS-333	Politics of Ethnonational Conflict	Aripova	W: 10:00 AM - 12:50 PM	AP 205	PHS H&S ECON EPP
SS-334	Microeconomics	Abdelwahed	W: 06:00 PM - 8:50 PM	41CS 306	ECON EPP
SS-357	The Archives in the City	Buckley & Mann	F: 10:00 AM - 12:50 PM	FDN LIB	H&S PHS
SS-388	Comparative Cities	Bataille	W: 09:00 AM - 11:50 AM	41CS 401	ECON EPP H&S PHS
SS-318A-1	Magic, Witchcraft, and Ghosts	Roberts	Th: 06:00 PM - 8:50 PM	41CS 401	PHS H&S
SS-318B-1	Anthropology of Care	McIsaac	W: 09:00 AM - 11:50 AM	AP 210	PHS STS H&S
SS-318C-1	1947/48: Decolonization, Nation Building, and Displacement	Grossmann & Pandit	T: 09:00 AM - 11:50 AM	41CS 401	H&S PHS
SS-318N-1	Histories of Race in Latin(x) America	Velayos Larrabure	F: 09:00 AM - 11:50 AM	41CS 201	H&S PHS STS

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History and Theory of Art | Core Curriculum (HTA-102)

This two-semester art history core course, developed as part of the Foundation year for students in the School of Art but open to all students, is organized around a set of themes running through the history of modernity from the 18th century to the present. Within specific themes, significant works, figures and movements in art/design will be presented chronologically. Students will be able to identify and critically evaluate significant works, figures and movements in art/design in the modern period; be able to describe the main social and political contexts for the changes in art/design over the last two hundred years; and engage, in writing and class discussion, with theoretical perspectives on art/design production. The course will involve museum visits. Grading will be based on class participation, papers, and exams.

Course		Faculty	Meeting Schedule	Room	Minors
HTA-102-A	Modern to Contemporary: An Introduction to Art History	Jeanjean	W: 02:00 PM - 04:50 PM	AP 210	
HTA-102-B	Modern to Contemporary: An Introduction to Art History	Lancaster	M: 02:00 PM - 04:50 PM	AP 210	
HTA-102-C	Modern to Contemporary: An Introduction to Art History	Jeanjean	Th: 02:00 PM - 04:50 PM	AP 211	
HTA-102-D	Modern to Contemporary: An Introduction to Art History	Lancaster	T: 02:00 PM - 04:50 PM	AP 210	

History and Theory of Art | Electives

HTA-211	The Renaissance in Italy	Khoury	M: 04:00 PM - 05:50 PM	41CS 401	HTA H&S
HTA-275	20th-Century Art History: Latin American Art	Filippini	Th: 10:00 AM - 11:50 AM	41CS LL210	HTA H&S
HTA-328	Dada and Surrealism	Weinstein	T: 09:00 AM - 10:50 AM	AP 210	HTA H&S
HTA-300A-1	Single-Artist Seminar: Caterina Cantoni	Khoury	W: 10:00 AM - 11:50 AM	AP 211	HTA H&S
HTA-300B-1	Single-Artist Seminar: Lygia Clark	Marino	Th: 02:00 PM - 03:50 PM	AP 210	HTA H&S
HTA-313D-1	Global Iron Age in the Mediterranean	Minniti	T: 10:00 AM - 11:50 AM	AP 211	HTA H&S
HTA-313E-1	Trans Aesthetics and Visual Cultures	Lancaster	M: 10:00 AM - 11:50 AM	AP 210	HTA H&S
HTA-313F-1	Public Art in Times of Crisis: Exploring the New Deal's Cultural Legacy	Fortuna	M: 02:00 PM - 03:50 PM	AP 211	HTA H&S
HTA-313G-T	Surrealisms	Kincaid	T: 10:00 AM - 11:50 AM	41CS LL101	HTA H&S
HTA-313J-I	Receptions of Antiquity from the Renaissance to Today	Minniti	F: 03:00 PM - 04:50 PM	41CS 104	HTA H&S
HTA-313K-1	Video Art	Simpson	F: 02:00 PM - 03:50 PM	41CS 105	HTA H&S

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KEY

Minors

ECON	ECONOMICS
EPP	ECONOMICS & PUBLIC POLICY
HTA	ART HISTORY
H&S	HISTORY & SOCIETY
LIT	LITERATURE
L&P	LITERATURE & PHILOSOPHY
PHS	PHILOSOPHY, HISTORY, & SOCIETY
STS	SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, & SOCIETY