

**College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences  
Department of Religion and Culture  
Degree: Bachelor of Arts in Religion and Culture  
Major: Humanities for Public Service  
Checksheet for students graduating in calendar year 2021**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Advisor \_\_\_\_\_

Entering Year \_\_\_\_\_

**Graduation Requirements**

1. Minimum of 120 credits for the degree. Total Credits Completed: \_\_\_\_\_
2. Minimum of 30 credits in departmental courses (maximum of 51 credits). Depart. Credits Completed: \_\_\_\_\_
3. Overall GPA and in-major GPA of 2.0 or above.

Note: In-major GPA is based on all courses taken under I and II.

**Satisfactory Progress Toward a Degree**

1. Completion of RLCL 1004 and 12 credits in the major by the semester in which the student has attempted 60 semester hours.
2. GPA of 2.0 in departmental courses by the semester in which the student has attempted 96 semester hours (including transfer, AP, advanced standing, and credit by exam).

Note: Some courses listed on this checksheet have prerequisites. Be sure to consult the Undergraduate Course Catalog and /or check with your advisor.

**DEPARTMENTAL REQUIREMENTS**

**I. Religion and Culture Core Courses (21 credits)**

RLCL 1004: Introduction to Religion and Culture	(3 credits) _____
RLCL 1034: Religion and the Modern World	(3 credits) _____
RLCL 2004: Case Studies in Religion and Culture	(3 credits) _____
HUM/RLCL 2504: Introduction to American Studies	(3 credits) _____
RLCL/ENGL 3024: Religion and Literature	(3 credits) _____
HUM/RLCL 3204: Multicultural Communication	(3 credits) _____
RLCL 4324: Topics in Religion and Culture (Pre: 2004)	(3 credits) _____

**II. Humanities for Public Service Major Requirements (15 credits)**

**A. Context/Competency Electives--Select Two Courses From Following List (6 credits)**

(only 3 credits can be at the 1000-level; at least 3 credits must be APS, HUM, or RLCL):

HUM/APS 1704: Introduction to Appalachian Studies

HUM/RLCL 3034: Theories of Popular Culture (3 credits)

RLCL 1024: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam (3 credits)

RLCL/ AFST/ WGS 2204: Race and Gender in Religion and Culture (3 credits)

RLCL/ SOC 2514: Asian-American Experience (3 credits)

RLCL/ STS 2464: Religion & Science (3 credits)

RLCL 3604: Islam and the Modern World (3 credits)

AINS/ PSCI 3684: Indigenous Peoples and World Politics	(3 credits)
COMM/ PSCI 3254 (Pre: Junior Standing): Media and Politics	(3 credits)
FREC/NR/LAR 2554: Leadership for Global Sustainability	(3 credits)
HIST/AFST 2275 or HIST/AFST 2276: African-American History	(3 credits)
PSCI/IS/GEOG 2054: Introduction to World Politics	(3 credits)

Course	Credits	Course	Credits
_____	_____	_____	_____

## B. Applied Courses (9 credits)

### 1. Select Two Courses from the Following List (6 credits)

(at least 3 credits must be APS, HUM, RLCL):

HUM/APS/AHRM/GEOG/HD/SOC/UAP 3464 (Pre: Junior Standing): Appalachian Communities	(3 credits)
APS/SOC 4094: Appalachian Community Research	(3 credits)
RLCL 1044: Religious Ethics	(3 credits)
RLCL/ SOC 2054: Ethnography: Studying Culture	(3 credits)
HIST 3754: Public History	(3 credits)
PHIL 2304: Global Ethics	(3 credits)
PSCI 3414/ UAP 3434 (Pre: PSCI 1014): Public Administration	(3 credits)
STS 2444: Global Science and Technology Policy	(3 credits)
TA 3604 (Pre: Junior Standing): Arts Management	(3 credits)

Course	Credits	Course	Credits
_____	_____	_____	_____

### 2. Field Study (RLCL, APS, or HUM 4964) (3 credits; required)

(An advisor-approved study abroad program can be substituted.)

Course	Credits
_____	_____

## UNIVERSITY REQUIREMENTS

### III. University and CLAHS Admissions Foreign Language Requirement

- A. 3 years of a single foreign or sign language in high school OR
  - B. 2 years of a single foreign or sign language in high school, plus 1106 or equivalent in college (these 3 hours count toward the 120 required for graduation and should be listed as an elective course in VII below) OR
  - C. if fewer than 2 years of a single foreign language in high school must complete 1105-1106 or the equivalent in college (these 6 hours do not count toward the 120 required for graduation)
- Option completed: \_\_\_\_\_ Language: \_\_\_\_\_

### IV. Curriculum for Liberal Education (33-36 credits)

(See the Curriculum for Liberal Education Handbook or Undergraduate Course Catalog for lists of approved courses.)

	Course	Credits
<b>Area 1</b> Writing and Discourse (6 credits)	_____	_____
(NOTE: May complete with ENGL 1105-1106 or 1204H, or COMM 1015-1016)	_____	_____
<b>Area 2</b> Ideas, Cultural Traditions, and Values (6 credits)	_____	_____
(NOTE: May be met with approved departmental courses)	_____	_____

<b>Area 3</b>	Society and Human Behavior (6 credits)	_____	_____
	(NOTE: May be met with approved departmental courses)	_____	_____
		<b>Course</b>	<b>Credits</b>
<b>Area 4</b>	Scientific Reasoning and Discovery (6 credits)	_____	_____
		_____	_____
<b>Area 5</b>	Quantitative and Symbolic Reasoning (6 credits)	_____	_____
		_____	_____
<b>Area 6</b>	Creativity and Aesthetic Experience (3 credits)	_____	_____
<b>Area 7</b>	Critical Issues in a Global Context (3 credits; may overlap w/another CLE area)	_____	_____
	(NOTE: May be met with an approved departmental course)		

**VII. Elective Courses (48-51 credits)**

Course	Credits	Course	Credits	Course	Credits	Course	Credits
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____		
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____		
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____		

For more information about the B.A. in Humanities for Public Service, contact Amanda Villar at (540) 231-5033 or [avillar@vt.edu](mailto:avillar@vt.edu).

Peter Schmitthenner  
Department of Religion and Culture  
280 Alumni Mall  
321 Lane Hall (0227)  
Blacksburg, Virginia 24061  
540-231-8377 Fax: 540-231-7013  
email: pschmitt@vt.edu

To: College and University committees reviewers

From: Peter Schmitthenner, Chair, Curriculum Committee, Department of Religion and Culture

Re: Humanities for Public Service major proposal

Date: September 21, 2018

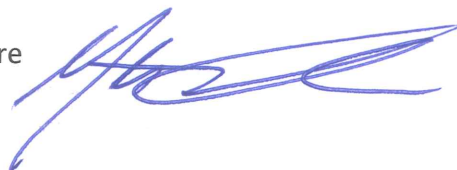
Much of the attached proposal is drawn from a proposal we submitted for a Humanities for Public Service option of our existing major in Religion and Culture. This option was approved in Spring 2018. To enhance recognition of this "option," we have been encouraged by the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences to propose Humanities for Public Service as a new major, with a different and distinct title from our existing major in Religion and Culture. Since it is framed similarly to our existing major in Religion and Culture, and also has the same seven required core courses, we are not proposing a new degree (which would require SCHEV approval), but a new major (which doesn't require SCHEV approval).

## Proposal for a new major in Humanities for Public Service

To: CLAHS Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, University Curriculum Committee, and University Council

From: Matthew Gabriele; Chair, Department of Religion and Culture

Date: January 24, 2019



The Department of Religion and Culture is proposing a new major: Humanities for Public Service. Currently the department has an approved major option in Humanities for Public Service, but the faculty feel having a distinct major with this name would have much wider appeal. The new major would retain the seven core courses of the degree in Religion and Culture and add five additional courses—two from a list of context/competency courses and three from a list of applied courses, including a field study. This program of learning would provide the conceptual and practical skills necessary for successful public service. Once the new major is approved, the major option in Humanities for Public Service would be discontinued.

### Need for a New Major

Public service has always been central to the mission of Virginia Tech. Virginia Tech's motto "*Ut Prosim*" ("That I May Serve") reflects the many ways that students and alumni of the university have pursued programs of learning and careers in the service of various communities, the Commonwealth, and beyond. Humanities courses provide unique ways of understanding human cultures with respect to questions of value, meaning, conflict, and change. Humanities-based skills and knowledge involving cultural and religious traditions are crucial for students to offer ethical and effective service to individuals and institutions. The new major in Humanities for Public Service seeks to meet this need.

Public service, broadly construed, refers to the array of careers devoted to the public good, primarily within education, the health professions, civil and foreign service, and the nonprofit sphere. The humanities, to excerpt the Congressional act that established the National Endowment for the Humanities, includes the "study and interpretation" of language, comparative religion, ethics, and human "heritage, traditions, and history." In our department, humanities research and teaching involve qualitative methods for weighing evidence and for framing interpretations of human cultural and religious traditions, texts, and other artifacts. As such, our courses and this proposed major address problems of the human condition that involve local, cultural, and religious identity and expression. This kind of learning enables students to evaluate disagreements among and between cultural and religious groups, to consider how governments apply policies in local and international contexts, and, more generally, to reflect on how past cultural and religious traditions can or should shape the present. In other words, in a world saturated with information, the humanities offer tools for transforming that information into knowledge and action. Students in this new major would

build a strong foundation in humanistic learning about cultural and religious traditions with the aim of preparing for careers in public service.

Students in the Humanities for Public Service major would engage in a structured program of learning that moves from our introductory course (Investigations in Religion and Culture) through intermediate courses that include humanities research methods, electives from the department and beyond, a field study/internship, and the capstone topic course (RLCL 4324). The concepts and theories mastered in the core courses, when combined with a flexible set of electives (selected to engage directly with some of today's most pressing issues) and a field study or study abroad experiential learning opportunity, result in a program of study that can accommodate a range of local and international interests and career goals.

The new major would cultivate cultural awareness and critical thinking skills, familiarizing students with the ways that people have conceptualized, encoded, and reflected on human experience. These basic humanities competencies are provided by our core courses and by courses listed as Context/Competency Electives (6 hours). A second list of Applied Courses (9 hours) provides learning experiences that build skills and knowledge about the application of humanities knowledge in public contexts.

Context/Competency Courses provide learning experiences that focus on skills (e.g., FREC/NR/LAR: Leadership for Global Sustainability), ways of knowing (e.g., HUM/RLCL 3034: Theories of Popular Culture, and particular human traditions (e.g., Introduction to Appalachian Studies).

The Applied Courses address forms of knowledge that relate more directly to the public sphere and public service. Examples include two courses involving ethics (RLCL 1044 and PHIL 2304), a course on ethnographic methods (RLCL/SOC 2054), and Public Administration (PSCI 3414/UAP 3434). Direct engagement with local Appalachian culture is a focus of two additional courses (HUM/APS/AHRM/GEOG/HD/SOC/UAP 3464: Appalachian Communities and APS/SOC 4094: Appalachian Community Research). The required field study course represents a further applied humanities learning experience.

Besides fulfilling CLE/Pathways requirements, the new major will require fulfilling 36 credits of departmental or department-related courses as follows:

Required Core Courses (21 credits)

- RLCL 1004: Introduction to Religion and Culture
- RLCL 1034: Religion and the Modern World
- RLCL 2004: Case Studies in Religion and Culture
- HUM/RLCL 2504: Introduction to American Studies
- RLCL/ENGL 3024: Religion and Literature
- HUM/RLCL 3204: Multicultural Communication
- RLCL 4324: Topics in Religion and Culture

Context/Competency Electives: (6 credits; only 3 credits can be at the 1000 level; at least 3 credits must be APS, RLCL, or HUM)

Select two from the following list:

HUM/APS 1704: Introduction to Appalachian Studies  
HUM/RLCL 3034: Theories of Popular Culture  
RLCL 1024: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam  
RLCL/AFST/WGS 2204: Race and Gender in Religion and Culture  
RLCL/STS 2464: Religion and Science  
RLCL/SOC 2514: Asian-American Experience  
RLCL 3604: Islam and the Modern World  
AINS/PSCI 3684: Indigenous Peoples and World Politics  
COMM/PSCI 3254: Media and Politics  
FREC/NR/LAR 2554: Leadership for Global Sustainability  
HIST/AFST 2275 or HIST/AFST 2276: African-American History  
PSCI/IS/GEOG 2054: Introduction to World Politics

Applied Courses (9 credits)

Select two from the following list (only 3 credits can be at the 1000 level; at least 3 credits must be APS, RLCL, or HUM):

HUM/APS/AHRM/GEOG/HD/SOC/UAP 3464: Appalachian Communities  
APS/SOC 4094: Appalachian Community Research  
HIST 3754: Public History  
RLCL 1044: Religious Ethics  
RLCL/SOC 2054: Ethnography: Studying Culture  
PHIL 2304: Global Ethics  
PSCI 3414/UAP 3434: Public Administration  
STS 2444: Global Science and Technology Policy  
TA 3604 Arts Management

Field Study (RLCL, APS, or HUM 4964) (3 credits; required)

(An advisor-approved study abroad program can be substituted.)

Having this curriculum as a base, we are confident that students graduating with a major in Humanities for Public Service would be very marketable for a number of professions outlined in the second paragraph above (under Need for a New Major). This could include professions currently being pursued by some of our recent graduates in the Religion and Culture major, such as:

Assistant and Scheduler to the Saudi Ambassador to the United States  
Consultant at The Clearing (a federal consulting firm), Washington, DC

English Language Assistant at the Lycée Fustel de Coulanges, Strasbourg, France

**Whom the New Major Will Serve**

Currently (Fall 2018) 40 students are majoring in Religion and Culture, and we anticipate a comparable number of students to be enrolled annually in the new Humanities for Public Service major in a few years. Already two of our students majoring in Religion and Culture have expressed that they wish to switch to the Humanities for Public Service major once it is approved. Indeed, many of our graduates are pursuing professions more specifically-related to our proposed major in Humanities for Public Service. These include careers in journalism, diplomacy (including the foreign service), the Peace Corps, education, and public interest law. Working in such fields requires the ability to communicate and serve effectively in the face of cultural and religious diversity, and our students report that their learning in our department prepared them to navigate the complexities of the communities they serve (see alumni testimonials at: <https://sites.google.com/vt.edu/religion-and-culture/testimonials>). Faculty in the Department of Religion and Culture offer a breadth of knowledge and experience, attending to cultural forms and practices in Asia, the Middle East, Africa, Latin America, North America, and Europe. In undergraduate courses on cultural studies, ethnography, multicultural communication, and religious studies, we help students learn how to conceptualize difference, contextualize claims and behaviors, gather data from multiple sources, and solve problems by drawing on interdisciplinary tools. Our MA program in Material Culture and Public Humanities trains students for careers in museums, cultural agencies, nonprofit organizations, and other public initiatives. Thus, our proposed major in Humanities for Public Service highlights shared interests and expertise among our faculty, and it aligns with the aims of our MA program in Material Culture and Public Humanities.

The new major would accommodate students with a range of career interests. Students interested in civil service in the United States could focus on courses that address the challenge of creating interactional spaces where communities and service agencies can communicate effectively about community needs, as well as the challenges of managing diverse stakeholder expectations, identifying conflicting worldviews in order to build working compromises, designing effective social media, writing fundable grants, and lobbying local and national legislators. Students interested in foreign service could focus on courses that address harm-reducing efforts associated with inequality and conflict abroad, such as anti-poverty and development policy, truth and reconciliation commissions, civil society building, and refugee and asylee support. Thus, the program of study would be aligned with the public humanities, an endeavor that examines and facilitates knowledge-creation with and for audiences outside the academy. By adding a major in Humanities for Public Service, undergraduates at Virginia Tech would be part of the emerging focus on Public Humanities across research universities and funding agencies in the US; an example is the new Common Good initiative at the National Endowment for the Humanities (see also the list below in Appendix A of existing programs and degrees akin to Humanities for Public Service).

The new major in Humanities for Public Service will formalize opportunities to connect humanities students to practical work for the common good, something our faculty have done for many years. Students in the department have trained for public service by taking courses that provide foundational skills and knowledge in cultural and religious traditions, then applying



that knowledge to careers in law, journalism, publishing, foreign service, non-profit organizations, religious institutions, and education. The proposed major option would offer more structured guidance for those interested in nonprofit and civil service careers; further, it would make these opportunities more visible.

### **Resource needs**

Adding this new major will not require any new funding, faculty, facilities, or library resources.

### **Administration**

The new major in Humanities for Public Service will be administered by the Department of Religion and Culture, in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences. We hope that students can begin enrolling in this major in Fall 2019 . It should therefore be possible for the first students in this major to graduate in Spring 2021. Once approved, we plan to discontinue the Humanities for Public Service option (of the Religion and Culture Major; see attached approved checksheet). Currently only one student is enrolled in this option and she plans to graduate in December 2020. We will inform students about the discontinuation of the Humanities for Public Service Option and about the new major in Humanities for Public Service through our department's website, listserv of undergraduate majors, and our undergraduate advisor. With the new major included on the Admissions and List of Majors website, interested students will more easily be able to identify a major that fits their interests.

### **Appendix A:**

#### **Programs and Degrees Akin to Humanities for Public Service**

Emory and Henry College: The Civic Innovation major/minor—formerly **Public** Policy and Community Service (PPCS)

Harvard University: Arts and Humanities in Civic Engagement Initiative: Cultural Agents

Providence College: BA in Public and Community Service Studies

Pennsylvania State University: Public Humanities Scholars Program

Southern New Hampshire University: BA in Public Service

University of Baltimore: BA in Community Studies and Civic Engagement

University of Florida: Center for the Humanities and the Public Sphere

University of Illinois: Humanities Without Walls Consortium, which brings together fifteen major research universities



# VirginiaTech

College of Liberal Arts  
and Human Sciences

**John Ryan, Chair, Department of Sociology**

560 McBryde Hall MC 0137

225 Stanger Street

Blacksburg, Virginia 24061

540/231-8971 Fax: 540/231-3860

E-mail: [johnryan@vt.edu](mailto:johnryan@vt.edu)

[www.sociology.vt.edu](http://www.sociology.vt.edu)

October 2, 2018

Dear Curriculum Committee:

The Department of Sociology is pleased to support the inclusion of AINS/PSCI 3684: Indigenous Peoples and World Politics on the checksheet for the Humanities for Public Service BA.

No new resources will be required from this department.

Sincerely,

John Ryan  
Professor and Chair

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VirginiaTech

College of Liberal Arts  
and Human Sciences

**Department of Communication**

121 Shanks Hall (0311)  
181 Turner Street, NW  
Blacksburg, Virginia 24061  
540/231-7136 Fax: 540/231-9817  
[Liberalarts.vt.edu/communication](http://Liberalarts.vt.edu/communication)

September 17, 2018

TO: Peter Schmitthenner, Department of Religion and Culture

FROM: Douglas Cannon, Assistant Department Head

SUBJECT: Humanities for Public Service Major

The Department of Communication supports the inclusion of Media and Politics (COMM/PSCI 3254) among requirements for the proposed Humanities for Public Service major. The Department of Communication requires no additional resources to handle the instruction of students from the new major.

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**Forest Resources and  
Environmental Conservation**

310 West Campus Drive  
Blacksburg, Virginia 24061  
P: (540) 231-5483  
frec@vt.edu

September 20, 2018

Dear Dr. Schmitthenner:

I support the inclusion of FREC/NR/LAR 2554 Leadership for Global Sustainability in the Department of Religion and Culture proposed major within the BA in Humanities for Public Service. The course typically fills up each semester, however, so students may have to try multiple times to enroll and we may find that we need to prioritize our students in course enrollment. I wish you all the best in gaining approval for your new degree.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jay Sullivan', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Jay Sullivan  
Professor and Department Head



VirginiaTech

College of Liberal Arts  
and Human Sciences

**Department of History**

432 Major Williams (0117)  
Blacksburg, Virginia 24061  
540/231-4099 Fax: 540/231-8724  
E-mail: [barrow@vt.edu](mailto:barrow@vt.edu)  
[www.history.vt.edu](http://www.history.vt.edu)

September 17, 2018.

To the University Curriculum Committee:

The Department of History is pleased to support the inclusion of the following courses in Religion and Culture's new Major "Humanities for Public Service."

HIST 2275, 2276 (AFST 2275, 2276): African-American History  
HIST 3754: Public History

These courses are regularly taught and will require no new resources.

Sincerely,

Mark V. Barrow, Jr.  
Professor and Chair

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College of Liberal Arts  
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**Philosophy Department**

229B Major Williams (0126)

220 Stanger Street

Blacksburg, Virginia 24061

540/231-0639 Fax: 540/231-6367

E-mail: douglas.lind@vt.edu

<http://www.phil.vt.edu>

**Memorandum**

TO: Peter Schmitthenner  
Chair, Department of Religion & Culture Curriculum Committee

FROM: Douglas Lind  
Head, Department of Philosophy

RE: PHIL 2304

DATE: September 18, 2018

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Peter,

I approve the inclusion of PHIL 2304 (Global Ethics) on the checksheet for your department's proposed new major in Humanities for Public Service. No additional resources will be required.

DL

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College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences  
Department of Political Science  
220 Stanger St.  
Major Williams Hall, Room 531  
Blacksburg, Virginia 24061  
P: (540) 231-6571 F: (540) 231-6078

20 September 2018

Professor Peter Schmitthenner  
Chair, Curriculum Committee  
Department of Religion and Culture

Dear Peter,

The proposed major in Humanities and Public Service looks quite promising. We approve the inclusion of PSCI/IS/GEOG 2054 Introduction to World Politics and PSCI 3414/UAP 3434 Public Administration to the list of possible non-department courses from which students can select. The political science department offers these courses on an annual basis, and this inclusion will not involve new resources.

Thanks.

Sincerely,

*Karen*

Karen M. Hult  
Chair and Professor



Department of Science, Technology, and Society  
133 Lane Hall  
Blacksburg, Virginia 24061-0227  
P: (540) 231-8472 F: (540) 231-7013  
dbreslau@vt.edu

September 17, 2018

Undergraduate Curriculum Committee  
College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences

Dear Colleagues,

The Department of Science, Technology, and Society approves of the inclusion of STS 2444 Global Science and Technology Policy on the check sheet for the proposed major in Humanities for Public Service. No additional departmental resources will be required to include this course. Please let me know if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Daniel Breslau'.

Daniel Breslau  
STS Department Chair





VirginiaTech

College of Liberal Arts  
and Human Sciences

School of Performing Arts  
Music|Theatre|Cinema  
250 Henderson Hall (0141)  
195 Alumni Mall  
Blacksburg, Virginia 24061  
540/231-5335 Fax: 540/231-7321  
[www.performingarts.vt.edu](http://www.performingarts.vt.edu)

19 September 2018

Letter of support RE: Proposed BA in Humanities for Public Service

To the members of the college curriculum committee:

I write to provide my support for the inclusion of TA 3604: Introduction to Arts Management in the proposed BA in Humanities for Public Service, and its listing on its checksheet.

This will not require any additional resources.

Please let me know if you need any additional information from me. My email is [susannar@vt.edu](mailto:susannar@vt.edu)

Yours sincerely,

*Susanna C. Rinehart*

\*\*\*\*\*

Susanna C. Rinehart, Chair of Theatre and Cinema, Acting Director of the School of Performing Arts  
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