

# Humanities Breakout Session

11 - 12 p.m., June 23

**Discussion moderators:** Caleb Elfenbein, history and religious studies, and Yvette Aparicio, Spanish and Latin American studies

**S&B Reporters:** Zoe Fruchter and Eva Hill

## General Info

- Qualifications for invitations to be on-campus will be determined in the next 10 days - factors in general being considered: curriculum need, pedagogical need, class years and “belonging.” Cohort decisions for the Fall are planned to be released next week.
- Reach out to SGA reps for info on what goes in the planning committees.
- Cohort decisions (who will be invited on campus) are planned to be announced next week, but this is a goal not a set deadline (many factors at play including student affairs, curriculum need etc.).

## Class registration/Credits

- Registrar will label all distance courses with a “tag” so students know what to expect from listed classes.
- The plan is to offer classes all day, to address time zones, broadband usage and work schedules (access equity), make use of “as much of the day as possible”
- No current release date for new course schedules. Registration is complex, they can’t re-do it due to connections to financial aid, government standards, trying to maximize existing enrollments. The Registrar will analyse your student profile (major, class year, trajectory) for cutting and balancing, followed by a robust add/drop period.
- 10 credits per term is a hard cap. Students can now take up to 40 credits per year which is actually more than you can usually take per year, guaranteeing people the capacity to meet all credit requirements under normal tuition costs.
- Auditing is up in the air - probably still up to the individual faculty member.
- SDF policy was limited to the spring semester and has not carried over to the coming school year. It was an emergency measure. Usually these decisions are handled at a more specific level - by student or by department.
- There won’t be a credit minimum for the summer term - you could take just 2 credits, so as to work alongside employment or internship obligations. You can

transfer credits to Grinnell from another institution as long as you aren't enrolled in Grinnell at the time.

- All concerns about major requirements should be directed to your advisor ASAP - departments will work with you on this!

### Teaching and learning

- Every department and faculty will decide how to organize classes, more granular breakdown of decision making within departments (not just "humanities" standards, but individual department and faculty standards).
- As opposed to the spring online learning where asynchronicity was prioritized, faculty are looking to maximize synchronous learning for the fall to build relationships with faculty and within classes.
- Trying to make it so professors aren't teaching more than one 4-credit course per term so they have time to maximize the productivity and connection of that course.
- Professors are people too!

### MAPs and upper level courses

- MAPs will most likely be able to be extended over two terms, a full semester (2+2 credits), with the guidance and approval of your faculty member. Independent studies will be challenging to maintain, as they are supplemental to most professors' teaching loads. You should reach out to your individual professor but professors are over-burdened and you shouldn't expect professors to take on such extra loads. "We need to be kind to each other"
- 300-level courses (senior seminars) will be condensed, probably shorter papers, although multiple committees are working on creating new types of structures that can accommodate "core goals" and concerns of realism.

### Languages

- Still in discussion for the most part. Condensed courses will be the same amount of credits as a normal course but meeting times may be five days a week for over an hour as opposed to three times a week for an hour. Contact hours can be in person or online depending on the class.
- Skill maintenance options will be available for students unable to take a language, although students are strongly encouraged to take language classes during 1 if not 2 blocks, especially if they plan to go abroad in the spring.
- Language departments are meeting later today - more info to come.
- Language assistants may not be able to get here due to visa limitations.

## Online resources

- Librarians are working on expanding ebook access to library resources, and encouraging professors to assign course texts with existing e-access. “The nature of our projects are probably going to have to change a bit in these conditions”
- Staff at the bookstore are working with current book orders and revised book orders (which don't have to be filed until mid-July) to find ebooks for most classes. There will be an effort to maintain access to used copies for books for in-person classes.

## Other info

- SEPC's will be vital for intra-departmental communication - the hope is for all students to be able to host Webex events.
- Writers at Grinnell already has a weekly calendar of virtual readings set up for this year.
- The Center for the Humanities will host LaTona Giwa '09 virtually in October to talk about racial and health justice.

## Studio Art

- Not all studio art classes will be considered “high touch” and prioritize on-campus status - some will be online. Occupancy of studio spaces will be an issue for on-campus enrollment - some classes may be partially online and partially in person. In general, there will be differences within departments of what is in-person or not across the board.