

SALEM TEACHING OPPORTUNITIES

Opportunities to teach Applied Baccalaureate in Liberal Studies courses

The Applied Baccalaureate in Liberal Studies serves students with career-related associate degrees who seek to complete a four-year degree by rounding out their liberal education. The AB in Liberal Studies achieves WOU's goals for general education via primarily upper division course work.

This is an opportunity to teach current upper division courses, or develop new courses, that serve generalist student audiences. **We seek creative thinking about how the core lenses and tools of our disciplines can be introduced to motivated working adult students by delving into engaging current topics.**

We especially seek clusters of courses – two or more courses within a single discipline, two or more courses from different disciplines that focus on a common theme – as this will help us build programmatic coherence for our students.

The programs seeks courses that expose students to:

- **Scientific Approaches**, described by the National Research Council as: “What unites scientific inquiry is the primacy of empirical test of conjectures and formal hypotheses using well-codified observation methods and rigorous designs, and subjecting findings to peer review.” Scientific approaches are used by natural and social scientists, and we include both in this domain.
- **Humanistic Approaches**, eloquently elaborated by the University of Southern California: “We all are self-reflective. We try to make sense of what it means to be human and how to relate to one another. We seek to understand ourselves and the world around us, and always we think about how things could be, or should be, or might have been. Humanistic inquiry takes us into realms that lie at the heart of what it means to be a thinking, feeling person, and into realms of interpretation and analysis beyond what facts and figures alone can tell us.” We expect that courses in humanities, arts and social sciences may align well with humanistic approaches.
- **Creative Approaches**, captured by Stephen Asma (2017): “Improvisation [is] the main activity, method, or operation of the imaginative faculty. Improvisation, more accurately, is not just what the imagination does, but is the adaptive meeting place between the organism and the environment. The improvising imagination draws on internal resources (i.e., thoughts, feelings, behaviors) and environmental resources (i.e., this tool, this pigment, behaviors) in service of various end goals.” Creative approaches may be embedded in the arts, creative writing or any other area where the imagination connects internal and environmental resources.

The AB in Liberal Studies also includes **Applied Approaches**, but we expect that the array of Business, Criminal Justice and Writing courses already planned will cover this area for now.

ACTION STEP: *If you are interested in teaching one or more courses in Salem in support of the AB in Liberal Studies program please complete the short survey at: <http://www.wou.edu/provost/wou-in-salem/>. The link is at the top of the page. We will contact you, your division chair and your dean to follow up.*

More information: Email Sue Monahan (smonahan@wou.edu) or Hilary Holman-Kidd (holmanhk@wou.edu) or visit www.wou.edu/provost/wou-in-salem