

PART-TIME MASTER'S DEGREE PROGRAM

Liberal Studies

Choose from specializations in American studies, Chicago studies, history, religious and ethical studies and interdisciplinary studies.



Expand your world and your mind.

MASTER OF ARTS IN LIBERAL STUDIES

The part-time Master of Arts in Liberal Studies program cuts a wide swath through the humanities and social sciences, studying the work of some of the world's most powerful thinkers.

Philosophy, history, literature, art, natural and social science. Minds like Shakespeare, Darwin, Freud and Aristotle. What ideas will change the way you view the world, or create new opportunities for you?

Northwestern University's Master of Arts in Liberal Studies (MALS) program provides a challenging intellectual experience that will expand your horizons. It is designed to help you develop the knowledge and skills essential for professional development in diverse fields — or for advanced graduate study.

Most MALS students find that the key benefit of the program is its focus on the critical thinking skills that are necessary in today's professional world. From teaching, advertising and law, to business, the arts, and any number of other fields, professionals with broad-based knowledge are well-positioned to excel if they can analyze and synthesize complex information, weigh evidence, challenge assumptions, and navigate competing considerations and perspectives in order to solve real problems. The MALS program — by enriching students' understanding of a broad array of social and cultural issues while improving their ability to analyze, write and complete research — is excellent preparation for the intellectual demands of professional life.

Secondary-school teachers can gain a competitive edge by deepening their subject-area knowledge. For other students, the program can clarify a next career stage or provide excellent preparation for further graduate study.

Seminar-style, small group discussions — not traditional lectures — form the core experience of the MALS program. Courses are designed around weekly readings drawn from subjects such as history, religion, philosophy, art, literature, film and more. You will find that the discussions — and your written responses to the readings — challenge and strengthen your critical faculties as you enrich your understanding of vitally important social and cultural issues.

Curriculum \

Nine courses need to be completed to earn the MA in Liberal Studies degree. Students need to complete two core courses, six elective courses and a capstone project. The core courses consist of IPLS 410 Introduction to Cultural Analysis and one MALS seminar course (IPLS 401). Students may take electives in subject areas such as philosophy, religion, history, art history and literature.

OPTIONAL SPECIALIZATION

Students who wish to lend more structure to their MALS experience may complete a specialization in

- American Studies
- Chicago Studies
- History
- Religious and Ethical Studies
- Interdisciplinary Studies

A specialization may be especially beneficial to educators, students who are thinking of advancing on to a PhD program, or anyone who wants to combine interdisciplinary methods with specific subjects.

Students complete four thematically linked courses to earn a specialization.

CAPSTONE PROJECT

1 COURSE

Students sign up for the final course in the program during the term in which they start their master's essay. The capstone project for the MALS program is a thesis (45 to 75 double-spaced pages) written under the supervision of a graduate faculty member. The capstone project presents an opportunity to research and explore a topic thoroughly. Students often elect to expand a seminar paper from a previous course. With the approval of the program director, students can create an interdisciplinary project rather than writing a traditional thesis.

CORE COURSES

2 COURSES

Introduction to Cultural Analysis introduces students to interdisciplinary cultural analysis through an intellectual history of critical theorists and thinkers. Through close reading, seminar discussion and presentations, students develop their critical analysis skills. This course, along with a seminar in Liberal Studies, are required of all MALS students within the first year of study.

- IPLS 401 Seminar in Liberal Studies
- IPLS 410 Introduction to Cultural Analysis

ELECTIVES

6 COURSES

Students may take electives in subject areas such as philosophy, religion, history, art history, and literature. See sps.northwestern.edu/mals for course descriptions and schedules. Subject to availability, electives may include:

- A Modern Day Look at Jane Austen, or A Woman for All Seasons
- Bad Mothers: Ideologies of Female Failure in Twentieth Century Literature, Media, and Film
- Black Chicago: From Du Sable to Black Lives Matter
- Chicago Neighborhoods and Ethnic Communities
- Creationism from Christian and Islamic Perspectives
- France at a Time of Crisis, 1930–1950
- From Hamilton to “Hamilton”: American History by Lin Manuel Miranda
- History of Marriage
- Introduction to Digital Humanities & Visual Culture
- Millennial Masculinities
- Pursuit of Community in American Life
- Queer Theory
- Sages, Saints and Avatars in the Religions of Asia
- Technology and Revolution in the Middle East
- The 60s in America: From Memory to History
- The Buddha, Jesus and Muhammad in Tradition and Literature
- Travelers, Exiles, and Expats: Literature of Foreign Spaces

INDEPENDENT STUDIES

Students also have an opportunity to take up to two independent studies, which count as elective credit toward their graduate degree. Independent studies are customized courses of study undertaken by a single student under the guidance of an instructor. Students often use these opportunities to springboard into thesis work.

Admission \

For detailed admission and application information visit sps.northwestern.edu/mals. For application assistance call 312-503-2579 or email mals@northwestern.edu.

Application Deadlines (accepted every quarter)

• **Fall:** July 15

• **Winter:** October 15

• **Spring:** January 15

• **Summer:** April 15

Faculty \

FACULTY DIRECTOR



Kasey Evans, Associate Professor of English at Northwestern, teaches and writes about Renaissance literature. She is the author of *Colonial Virtue: The Mobility of Temperance in Renaissance England*, which argues that the virtue of temperance underwent a semantic sea-change during the English Renaissance, evolving from a paradigm of self-discipline and moderation into a value of time-management, efficiency, and colonial aggression. She is now working on a book project entitled *Renaissance Resurrections: Making the Dead Speak in Reformation Texts*, which analyzes textual responses to the doctrinal and political changes of the Reformation, arguing that the affective, psychic, and cultural energies formerly invested in orthodox forms of Catholic worship migrate into other rhetorical arenas. She has received election to the ASG Faculty Honor Roll, the Panhellenic Faculty Appreciation Award, and the Weinberg College Distinguished Teaching Award. She especially appreciates the motivation and intellectual independence that adult learners bring to the classroom.

CORE FACULTY

Kate Baldwin, Professor of Communication Studies, Rhetoric, and American Studies, is a 20th-century Americanist who specializes in comparative theories of gender, race, class, and ethnicity. Her work focuses on intersections between the mappings of identity and social history in a global context, with a particular focus on Russia and the former Soviet Union. She has published two books, *The Racial Imaginary of the Cold War Kitchen: From Sokol'niki Park to Chicago's South Side (2016)* and *Beyond the Color Line and the Iron Curtain: Reading Encounters between Black and Red, 1922-63*. Baldwin teaches frequently in the MALS/MALIT programs and enjoys working with adult students and introducing them to the rich academic and intellectual opportunities that Northwestern has to offer. In addition to her academic writing, Baldwin has published articles in *The Hill*, *Truth-Out*, *Global Post*, and *Quartz*. Her PhD is from Yale University.

Henry Binford, Associate Professor of History, is a specialist in the study of cities and urbanization. He is the author of *The First Suburbs: Residential Communities on the Boston Periphery, 1815-1860*. He is near completion of a study of 19th-century Cincinnati. He has received the Weinberg College Outstanding Teaching Award, the Alumni Award for Excellence in Teaching, the Charles Deering McCormick Professorship of Teaching Excellence, and the National Faculty Award of the Association of Graduate Liberal Studies Programs. His PhD is from Harvard University. He is also a former Academic Director of the MALS program, and has enjoyed working with adult learners for more than thirty years.

John Alba Cutler, Associate Professor of English and Latina/o Studies, specializes in US Latino literatures, multiethnic American poetry, contemporary American literature, and print culture studies. His book *Ends of Assimilation: The Formation of Chicano Literature*, published by Oxford University Press, examines how Chicano/a (Mexican American) literary works represent processes of assimilation, and what those representations can teach us about race, gender, and the nature of literary discourse. Professor Cutler has published articles in *American Literary History*, *American Literature*, *MELUS*, and *Aztlán: A Journal of Chicano Studies*. He is a member of the Executive Committee for the Latina/o Literature and Culture Forum of the Modern Language Association, and also co-directs the Newberry Library Seminar in Borderlands and Latino Studies. He received the Weinberg College Distinguished Teaching Award in 2013.

Brian T. Edwards, Crown Professor in Middle East Studies and Professor of English, Comparative Literary Studies, and American Studies at Northwestern, also serves as Director of the Program in Middle East and North African Studies. He is the author of *Morocco Bound: Disorienting America's Maghreb, from Casablanca to the Marrakech Express*, and *After the American Century: The Ends of U.S. Culture in the Middle East*, as well as numerous essays and articles in publications including *Salon*, *The Believer*, *McSweeney's*, *Public Culture*, *Chronicle of Higher Education*, *Michigan Quarterly Review*, *Foreign Policy*, *Bookforum*, and leading scholarly journals.

Edwards is co-editor of *Globalizing American Studies* and editor of *On the Ground: New Directions in Middle East and North African Studies*. Educated at Yale University (BA, MA, PhD), Edwards has lectured extensively in the US and abroad, including in Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt, Lebanon, Iran, Turkey, Qatar, Kyrgyzstan, and India, and has been visiting faculty at University of Tehran, EHESS in Paris, and UC Dublin, as well as a Fulbright Senior Specialist at Cairo University and the University of Naples, Italy. He has taught in the MALit and MALS programs for several years and particularly enjoys working with adult learners.

J. Michelle Molina, Associate Professor of Religious Studies, researches the Society of Jesus in the early modern period. She explores Jesuit spirituality in an effort to understand how individuals — both elite and commoner — approached and experienced religious transformation. In particular, she has been interested in examining the impact of the Ignatian Spiritual Exercises — a meditative retreat geared toward self-reform — on early modern global expansion. Molina's book, *To Overcome Oneself: The Jesuit Ethic and the Spirit of Global Expansion* is published with University of California Press. Bearing witness to events in her own era, Molina has explained what it might mean that the new pope is a Jesuit. She has observed that it is best to situate this Jesuit pope in relation to the modes of self-formation found in the Ignatian Spiritual Exercises and, importantly, that this Catholic imperative to "know thyself" indicates that Pope Francis is well versed in what has been termed "philosophy as a way of life." She enjoys teaching classes on colonial Mexican history, early modern globalization, existentialist film, including those of Woody Allen. Molina particularly appreciates the questions and the focus that adult learners bring to class discussions every week.

Jane Winston, Associate Professor of French and Gender and Sexuality Studies, has served in the past as the Director of the Gender and Sexuality Studies Program, and as the Jean Gimbel Lane Professor at the Kaplan Humanities Institute. Her primary interests are in literary and cultural studies, the politics of representation, gender and race studies, feminist thought and political theory and transnational and globalization studies. She is the author of *Postcolonial Duras: Cultural Memory in Postwar France* and coeditor of *Vietnam: Identities in Dialogue*. Winston received her PhD from Duke University.



“ Instead of having to focus on one discipline like religion, history or literature, I was able to create my own track of courses that integrated all of these fields. I could also take classes in other colleges and graduate departments at a university with an outstanding reputation.”

Stephanie Cisneros (MALS '16) International Student Advisor at Northwestern University



“ There is a highly supportive environment here. SPS has helped me tremendously.”

Megan Miskiewicz (MALS '16)

Northwestern | SCHOOL OF PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

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Chicago, Illinois 60611

Expand your world
and your mind.

MALS | MASTER OF ARTS IN
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