



**EMPOWERING
SOCIAL INNOVATORS
ENGAGING
COMMUNITIES**



**OLD DOMINION
UNIVERSITY**

IDEA FUSION

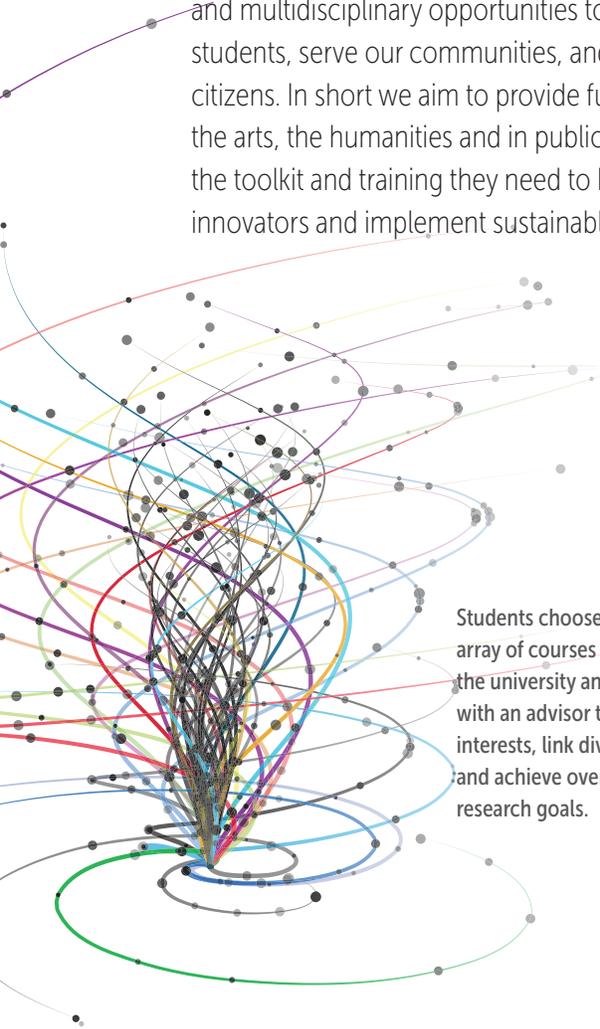
INSTITUTE FOR THE HUMANITIES

Humanities@ODU = Humans Redesigning the World

About the Institute for the Humanities

We are a collaborative research and social innovation incubator in the College of Arts & Letters at Old Dominion University. We help foster synergies among activists, artists, scholars, engaged global citizens and local community stakeholders who are searching for entrepreneurial ways to reshape people's lives. We have a particular commitment to social justice, social entrepreneurship, community engagement, design thinking, cultural studies, and the digital and medical humanities.

Above all else, we are humanists, which means that we believe that people – when given access to critical tools, skills, and literacies – can become agents of transformation in our society. We serve as stewards of such critical sensibilities, seeking creative, innovative, and multidisciplinary opportunities to engage students, serve our communities, and participate as citizens. In short we aim to provide future leaders in the arts, the humanities and in public service with the toolkit and training they need to become social innovators and implement sustainable change.



Students choose from a wide array of courses offered across the university and work closely with an advisor to help funnel interests, link diverse classes and achieve overarching research goals.

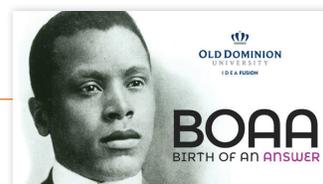
About the Humanities Graduate Program

One of the ways we accomplish these goals is through our **interdisciplinary Masters' degree** program in the Humanities. The program allows students to pursue individualized curricula that incorporate classes from across ODU's seven Colleges and 65 standalone graduate programs. We attract students with unique research projects and/or career objectives that cannot be fully realized within a single discipline and who will benefit from a cross-disciplinary approach. Our students become experts in their field by triangulating courses across different disciplines. Students work closely with the program director to design a coherent program of study that encourages critical thinking, innovation, engaged scholarship and experiential learning.

The Masters degree has several established **concentrations** in Cultural & Human Geography, Cultural Studies (including critical race studies and refugee studies), Gender & Sexuality Studies, Media & Popular Culture Studies, Philosophy & Religious Studies, Visual Studies (including studio arts and art history), and World Languages & Cultures. The Institute maintains a faculty advisory board with representatives from each of the departments in the College of Arts and Letters as well as representatives from each of the

Events

Birth of An Answer (2015) used film, music, and public history to provoke community dialogue about racism and resistance through the arts.



Mapping Lambert's Point melds digital humanities and oral histories to preserve and map stories of community.



other Colleges. The board works to ensure that each concentration can offer students interdisciplinary course work opportunities (please see our website for a complete list of our current faculty advisory board).

The MA in Humanities is a 36-credit degree, 18 of which are core classes in the humanities and the other 18 flexible credits that students work with the program director to customize to their particular goals and needs. The core classes are intended to provide students with a critical toolkit for research and teaching in the humanities (course descriptions can be found on our website). Students have the opportunity to choose either a Thesis or Project option for their culminating work for the degree. The former allows students to develop long-form written research, while the latter provides a range of non-traditional options – from art installations and documentaries to outreach programs and interactive websites – for students to demonstrate their enhanced skillsets.

While our students pursue a wide range of careers upon completing their degree, some of the most common paths include: arts administration, museum and gallery curators, community organizers, civil,

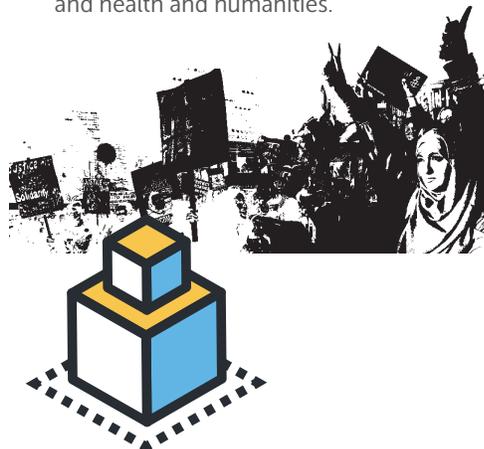
environmental and human rights law and advocacy work, higher education, non-profit leadership, and social entrepreneurship.

Another way that students can participate in the Institute for the Humanities will be through our newly proposed **graduate certificates** in Arts & Entrepreneurship, Health & Humanities, and Social Justice & Entrepreneurship. These certificates combine critical and practical tools that will enable students pursuing them to be well positioned for sustainable careers as innovators and leaders in the arts, the health and wellness fields, and as community organizers and activists. Each certificate is 13-credits and can be completed either in conjunction with a graduate degree from ODU or on its own. Students enrolled in a certificate program will complete a 1-credit capstone project wherein they will develop a proposal for an intervention/initiative and then pitch their proposal directly to local and regional stakeholders. Please see the inserts accompanying this brochure for further details.

Searching for Shaniqua (2016) is a documentary about naming practices in the African American community produced by humanities alumni, Eleanor Earl.



Certificates: We offer graduate certificates that prepare students for careers in social justice, the arts, and health and humanities.



About Our Projects

We also serve as a key community outreach and engagement arm for the University, sponsoring and hosting an array of speakers, performers, and public forums as part of our Humanities in Hampton Roads initiative. **Humanities in Hampton Roads** aims to provoke critical conversations within and across communities in the Tidewater area (as it is also known by) through the arts, popular culture, and town hall discussions. Importantly, these initiatives are often student-led and student-driven, which offers invaluable service learning and leadership training opportunities.

Many of our initiatives are funded by prestigious local, regional and national agencies and offer opportunities for paid student research and creative engagement. Such was the case with **Birth of an Answer**, an event celebrating 100 years of African American creative and critical responses to D.W. Griffith's racist film, *Birth of a Nation* (1915), which was funded by grants from the National Endowment for the Arts (the first such award ODU has ever received), the Virginia Commission for the Arts, and the Hampton Roads Community Foundation. The impetus for the event emerged when a group of students researching the city of Norfolk's cultural history discovered that we were one of only a dozen municipalities to actively attempt to ban the film, and the only city to attempt to do so south of the Mason-Dixon line.

The 2-day event included a screening of the ODU-produced short fiction film, *Our Nation*, which retold the story of local protests, along with a screening of pioneer African American filmmaker Oscar Micheaux's silent classic *Within Our Gates* (1920) accompanied by a contemporary score composed by ODU professor Adolphus Hailstork – one of the most significant African American composers working

today – performed live by the Harlem Quartet and the I. Sherman Greene Chorale at the historic Crispus Attucks Theater in downtown Norfolk to an attending audience of over 600 people. The event culminated with a multigenerational panel discussion of African American filmmakers, which included Melvin Van Peebles and Tim Reid. Students were involved in all facets of the event from curating a poster exhibit to organizing a student film festival, from running film camps for at-risk youth to researching silent film scores for Dr. Hailstork.

While *Birth of an Answer* brought people together through the visual and performing arts, other projects build on our strengths in the digital humanities.

Mapping Lambert's Point collects oral histories from longtime residents of the predominantly lower-income neighborhood about significant places in the community, whether still standing or long gone, and then embeds those stories in a virtual map using geo-tagging. The project draws on principles from cultural geography, museum studies and public history in order to provide the Lambert's Point community (which is adjacent to ODU) with a forum for sharing their experiences and perspectives. The cutting-edge service-learning project is funded by the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities and the Norfolk Southern Foundation and has been actively integrated into graduate coursework, theses and assistantships.

While we are proud of the projects we've highlighted above, they are really just a small sampling of our activities (for a full list of our past, current, and future events, please visit our website). We are most proud that they offer opportunities for our students to imagine and implement initiatives that enrich and engage communities, along the way helping them cultivate their leadership and social innovation skills.

About Our Students

CHELSEA CHARBONNEAU: Class of 2018

Interests: Gender rights, Feminist activism, and social justice. Research Assistant for Women's Studies and Gay Cultural Studies

MIGUEL DOMINADO: Class of 2019

Interests: Visual arts & entrepreneurship, Social Justice. Research Assistant for ODU Galleries

SARAH GLASER: Class of 2018.

Interests: Comics pedagogy, new media literacy, Research assistant for ODU Galleries

IRV HARRELL: Class of 2019

Interests: Interests: health and communication

ANGEL KIDD: Class of 2019

Interests: Medical geography

BNAR MUSTAFA: Class of 2018

Interests: Refugees, gender rights, interfaith understanding. Research Assistant for Women's Studies

DANI SALYERS: Class of 2019

Interests: Women in the visual arts, museum studies, arts education

IVAN TRENT: Class of 2018

Interests: Resiliency, sea level rise, social capital, digital humanities. Research assistant for Humanities

HOW TO APPLY

For more information about our graduate program and/or certificates, please visit our website. We accept students for Fall, Spring and Summer semesters. Typically applicants will have earned an undergraduate degree with a minimum GPA of 3.5. We offer financial assistance in the form of graduate assistantships and awards.

Applicants must submit a statement of purpose, a writing sample, transcripts and two letters of recommendation. If you are a current undergraduate student at Old Dominion University, you might be eligible to start your Masters degree while still completing your BA or BS. Please inquire about our Linked Programs.

HOW TO SUPPORT

Your generosity helps us fund student scholarships, sustain our outreach initiatives, and keep the Institute for the Humanities at the forefront of socially progressive and innovative research and community engagement efforts.

If you would like to support our program:

- Go to www.odu.edu/give2odu, select **Give Now**. On the next page, find the "I would like my gift to support" field, click the down arrow and select the **Other - enter details below** option, then next to the **Other** field, type **Humanities** (without the Humanities designation, your gift will not reach us), fill out the rest of the form with payor information.
- Call (757) 683-3090, and we will take your information over the phone.

LEARN MORE

ph **757-683-3821** e **humanities@odu.edu**
w **www.odu.edu/al/institutes/humanities**



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