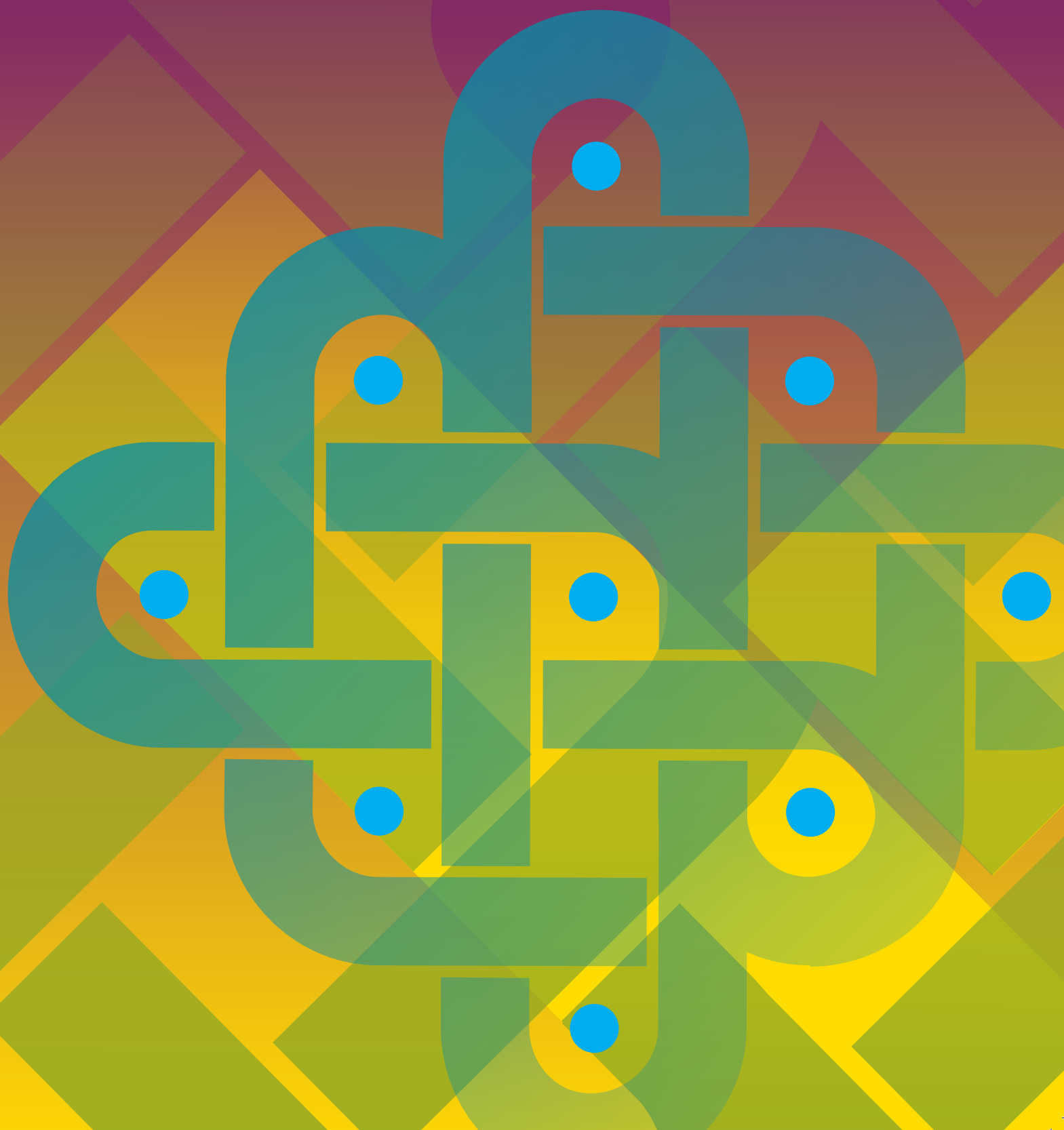


EMERSON COLLEGE

Liberal Arts



Dean's Welcome

Dear Students,



Welcome to Emerson College. You are entering a wonderfully distinctive, creative, and intellectual community that is dynamic, engaged, and focused on excellence. Although Emerson is known for its specialized programs, the College is strongly committed to its core liberal arts values. It is our deep conviction that partnering your major area of focus with a rigorous and challenging liberal arts education will make you a more effective artist and communicator, as well as a more fulfilled individual and contributing citizen. Emerson's Liberal Arts program will provide you with an opportunity to choose courses that will complement and enhance your career goals, as well as those oriented to other interests you may have or perhaps will discover. Our requirements were carefully crafted to ensure that you have adequate breadth in your studies. We also offer a great variety of Liberal Arts minors that you may choose should you wish to pursue greater depth in one of these areas. We wish you well on your journey and trust that you will discover the wonderful synergy brought about by our curriculum that partners arts and communication with liberal studies.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Amy E. Ansell'.

Amy E. Ansell, PhD
Dean of Liberal Arts

Liberal Arts at Emerson

The liberal arts is an approach to undergraduate collegiate education that is broadly oriented to exposing students to disciplines across the social sciences, languages and literature, natural sciences and math, and the arts.

Whether for the successful professional or involved citizen, our world is changing so rapidly that it is imperative for a person to be equipped for understanding the major themes and forces shaping our futures. And in the world of the 21st century, in which professionals may change careers more often than their parents changed jobs, narrowly conceived recipes for career training will not work. What is needed instead is an adaptable quality of mind born of broad exposure to the liberal arts, grounded in communication skills, and tempered by an orientation toward application of knowledge in the real world.

Students are ensured adequate variety in course offerings so that they may uniquely tailor a program of study to their own interests as well as prepare to pursue educational or career opportunities other than their chosen major after graduation.



While each major program at Emerson engages the liberal arts in a manner appropriate to its discipline(s), there is also a distinct Liberal Arts curriculum—Foundations, Perspectives, and Minors—in which all students engage and which accounts for more than a third of their overall educational experience.

Liberal Arts in the Majors

P e r s p e c t i v e s
Breadth Curriculum

F o u n d a t i o n s
First-Year Curriculum

M i n o r s
Depth Curriculum

Foundations

The Foundations curriculum introduces first-year Emerson students to the intellectual life of the academy and its responsibilities to the wider world. Courses cultivate the habits of thought, methods of inquiry, and means of presentation that will enable students to understand and participate in deliberations about the academic, professional, and public issues they will encounter in their undergraduate education and beyond.

First-Year Seminar (4 credits)

In this one-semester interdisciplinary seminar (IN 100-level), students critically investigate academic and public issues such as *Creativity in Context*; *Culture, the Arts, and Social Change*; and *Making Monsters* as they build analytical, creative, and critical thinking skills. (Credits are fulfilled

simultaneously with the Interdisciplinary Perspective.)

Written Communication (8 credits)

In this two-course sequence (WR 101/121), students develop an understanding of how intellectual exchange in the academy and public life operates, the ability to analyze rhetorical situations, and the capacity to design and carry out projects individually and with others to produce writing that has consequences.

Oral Communication (4 credits)

In this one-semester course (CC 100), students understand, analyze, reflect, and apply communication principles in diverse oral communication speaking situations—informative, persuasive, and impromptu—and conduct, analyze, and use research to support ideas.



“It was because of my openness and willingness to be receptive to ALL Liberal Arts courses that I was able to integrate my focused major courses with a broader academic perspective. Since ‘the whole is greater than the sum of its parts,’ I know that the Liberal Arts component of my education prepared me to embrace life in a new way, with all of its guaranteed unknowns.”

Jade Zaroff
Theatre Studies Major /
Entrepreneurial Studies Minor



Perspectives

“I feel empowered knowing I created an academic outlet for myself that perfectly combines my passions in life and the interests that really define who I am.”

Dylan Manderlink
Investigative Theatre
for Social Change
(Interdisciplinary Major)

The structure of the Perspectives curriculum guarantees that students will discover a variety of liberal arts disciplines beyond their major. Through exposure to the major liberal arts traditions, they emerge with an understanding of the different kinds of questions and methods that each of these knowledge communities engages as well as tools to develop critically informed perspectives that are appreciative of diversity and conducive to becoming ethical, informed, and active participants in society. Students are given a great deal of flexibility to choose individual courses that particularly interest or challenge them, and even to build clusters of courses that promise the greatest degree of integration with their major.

Aesthetic (4 credits)

Courses in this perspective foster critical and intellectual engagement with creative works by examining them in historical, aesthetic, philosophical, cultural, and/or socio-political contexts with a concern for contemporary interpretations. Examples include *History of Jazz*, *Theatre into Film*, and *Introduction to Visual Arts*.

Diversity (8 credits)

U.S. Diversity courses foster an understanding of the connections between the multiple voices, experiences, and contributions made by historically underrepresented groups, and economic, cultural, and socio-political power and inequality in the United States. Global Diversity courses foster global engagement through a critical examination of the multiple perspectives and experiences within diverse cultures and societies in their historical, contemporary, and transnational contexts. Examples include *Black Revolutionary Thought*, *Civil Rights*, and *Religion and Globalization*.

Ethics and Values (4 credits)

Courses in this perspective challenge students to articulate the foundations for their beliefs and judgments and subject these value commitments to critical analysis. Examples include *Contemporary Ethics*, *Environmental Ethics*, and *Ethics and Justice*.



History and Politics (4 credits)

Courses in this perspective foster an understanding of the context and content of historical, political, and societal actions and events. This perspective likewise provides students with insights regarding the documenting and study of diverse histories and cultures and the evolution of political systems across time. Examples include *Social Movements*, *African American History*, and *Contemporary World History*.

Interdisciplinary (4 credits)

Courses in this perspective challenge students to understand and appraise the role of interdisciplinary knowledge in arts, culture, and/or human affairs by exploring how at least two disciplinary approaches can be brought together to address a topic in a given area. Examples include *Documenting Visual Culture*, *Civic Media*, and *Postcolonial Cultures*.

Literary (4 credits)

Courses in this perspective foster a critical, intellectual, and emotional

engagement with literature that stimulates reflection on how literary texts use language to communicate about fundamental human concerns. Examples include *American Women Writers*, *Literature of the Gothic*, and *Slavery and Freedom*.

Scientific (4 credits)

Courses in this perspective explore existing knowledge in particular natural or physical domains, highlight science as an approach to acquiring more reliable knowledge of the natural world, and identify how science pertains to students' own lives. Examples include *Evolution of Human Nature*, *Personal Genetics and Identity*, and *Earth Science: Natural Disasters*.

Social and Psychological (4 credits)

Courses in this perspective examine the social and/or psychological process and mechanisms that influence human behavior and learn to appreciate that people's actions and thoughts reflect factors intrinsic to the person (such as personality, values, and motives) as well

"I've had the opportunity to examine social issues and movements from an impressive array of perspectives at Emerson, in classes that have taken me from the Arab world to Latin America to Africa, to LGBT+ communities, to environmental issues, to ethical debates and back again."

Emma Glassman-Hughes
Political Sociology
of Social Change
(Interdisciplinary Major)





"...our liberal arts courses ask us to dip our hands in many different disciplines...we use Freud's psychoanalysis in our theater workshops; we use Foucault's Panopticon in our scripts; we talk about morality in our evolutionary biology classes; we write psychological papers about Zora Neale Hurston's poetry. We don't confine ourselves to one field of study, to one box."

Evan Walsh
Dynamic Nonfiction and
Visual Cultures
(Interdisciplinary Major)



"We're not a conservatory; we're not a trade school. We are a liberal arts college with emphasis in communication and the arts. And we're at our best when those things intersect, when those things overlap and inform each other. If communication and the arts help us convey the human experience, it's the liberal arts that provides us the foundation to understanding that experience."

Emily Solomon
Media Studies Major /
Digital Media
and Culture Minor



as social influences inherent in situations, groups, institutions, communities, and societies. Examples include *Abnormal Psychology*, *Gender in a Global Perspective*, and *Visual Society*.

Quantitative Reasoning (4 credits)

Courses in this perspective challenge students to reason logically to conclusions, read mathematics with understanding and communicate mathematical ideas with clarity and coherence, calculate mathematical equations with the appropriate methods and formula, and use mathematics and statistics to solve practical, real-world problems. Examples include *Introduction to Quantitative Reasoning*; *Business Math*; and *Mathematics of Media, Music, and Art*. (Course waivers may apply.)

World Languages (8 credits)

Courses in this perspective teach students to express themselves in the target language using a range of lexical items and grammatical constructions, demonstrate a growing ability to comprehend information and ideas as well as a variety of textual productions, and obtain an appreciation and understanding of the culture affiliated with the target language. Examples include *French*, *Spanish*, and *American Sign Language*. (Course waivers may apply.)

Liberal Arts Minors

Completing a minor is an exciting way for students to enrich their educational experience and complement coursework in their majors.

- **African American and Africana Studies**
- **Art History**
- **Digital Media and Culture**
- **Economics**
- **Environmental Studies**
- **Global and Postcolonial Studies**
- **History**
- **Latin American and Latinx Studies**
- **Literature**
- **Music History and Culture**
- **Peace and Social Justice**
- **Philosophy**
- **Political Science**
- **Psychology**
- **Science**
- **Sociology/Anthropology**
- **Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies**

* Additional minors that are more applied and/or practice-based in orientation are also available. Please see the College Course Catalogue for more details.

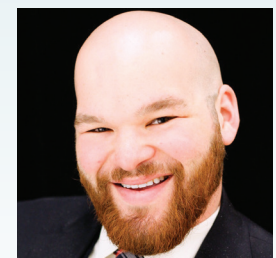
"Emerson gave me an opportunity to explore radically different ideas by providing unique majors and minors. As a Communication Studies major and a Philosophy minor, I've developed a diverse set of skills and have also been able to explore my own values and beliefs in two very different areas."

Jeffrey Millman
Communication Studies Major / Philosophy Minor



"My Global and Postcolonial Studies minor allowed me to branch out from my Theatre Studies major and embrace a more well-rounded liberal arts education. The concepts I learned in courses like *The Arab Uprisings* and *Postcolonial Cultures* have deepened and diversified my theatrical work as a director, while also allowing me to dive into a wider range of academic pursuits."

Sam Weisberg
Theatre Studies Major / Global and Postcolonial Studies Minor



Honors Program



Professor Wendy W. Walters
Honors Program Director

The Honors Program provides a four-year interdisciplinary and collaborative learning experience for undergraduate students of exceptional ability. Students benefit from integrated liberal arts core curriculum with specialized study in professional fields of communication and the arts through interdisciplinary seminars, collaborative research projects, special lectures and events, and faculty-directed independent study.

First-year students take an intensive yearlong seminar that introduces them to the interdisciplinary study of literature and culture of the Americas with an emphasis on developing writing, oral presentation, and research skills. Sophomores are introduced to the interdisciplinary study of science and philosophy with an objective of engaging in critical thinking and research. Juniors take an Honors seminar consisting of an upper-division course in interdisciplinary studies with professors who guide them through the theoretical and methodological assignments, partly in preparation for the Senior Honors Thesis. And in the senior year, students develop an Honors thesis, working individually with faculty advisors in the senior Honors seminar.

Examples of Honors Thesis titles include:

"Micro-Credit, Women's Autonomy, and Postcolonial Kenya"
Emma-Jean Weinstein
Writing for Film and Television Major

"Social Narratives and Relationship Rhetorics in Contemporary America: Sexuality, Identity, and How We 'Do' Romance"
Phoenix Bunke
Writing, Literature and Publishing Major

"The Power of Theatre in Society"
Jessica Martens
Theatre Studies Major

"A Discursive Analysis of NYT Editorials: US Foreign Policy and the Syrian Conflict"
Justine Borst
Broadcast Journalism Major

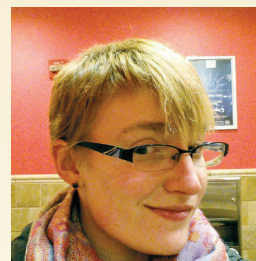
"The Power of Repetition: Cindy Sherman and Kiki Smith as Revolutionary Feminist Artists"
Kirsten Judson
Communication Studies Major

"Roland Barthes, Structured Imagining and Cognitive Narratology: Applications in the Analysis of Advertising"
Jessica Scarpati
Marketing Communication Major

"Animal Assisted Therapy for Children with Autism"
Sara Sucher
Communication Disorders Major

"The Honors Program was an invaluable part of my time at Emerson. It gave me the tools to take initiative, draw connections across disciplines, and raise the bar on my own work. The one-on-one time I was able to spend working with my professors, developing work around issues that ignited my interest was fun, exciting, and productive; the project I created for my senior thesis helped launch me into a job I loved after graduation."

Jeff Freeman
Theatre Studies Major / Global and Postcolonial Studies Minor



"The Honors Program is designed to encourage independent, complex thinking...My major classes gave me skills and practice, but I'll remember my Honors courses for changing how I look at the world and giving me a new set of tools to understand the people and events around me every day."

Phoenix Bunke
Writing, Literature and Publishing Major / Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Minor

"My experience at Emerson would not have felt nearly as rewarding were it not for the Honors Program. I immediately felt supported by an open-minded and attentive community of faculty and classmates. My time in the Honors Program and my experience writing my Honors thesis prepared me well for both my first job in advertising and also my applications to graduate school."

Jennifer Scarpati
Marketing Communication Major / Psychology Minor / Visual Studies and the Arts Minor



"The Honors Program gave me an opportunity to engage in thoughtful, reflective learning at a critical moment in my educational life. As a public radio producer, I'm always thinking back to the theories taught in my Honors classes as I strive to provide fresh perspectives on the news at work."

Emma-Jean Weinstein
Writing for Film and TV Major / Global and Postcolonial Studies Minor / Political Communication Minor

Faculty Profiles

Emerson College Liberal Arts faculty members are well-respected experts in their fields, gifted pedagogues, and are committed to the education of undergraduate students. They balance in their course offerings the integrity of their academic field with an appeal tailored to a student body in diverse fields of communication and the arts.

Liberal Arts Faculty

Nancy Allen

Executive-in-Residence, Health Culture and Society
MPH, Tufts University, Public Health Communication

Claire Andrade-Watkins

Professor, Africana and Postcolonial Media Studies
PhD, Boston University, African Studies and History

Elizabeth Baeten

Associate Professor, Philosophy
PhD, State University of New York, Stony Brook, Philosophy

Lindsey Beck

Assistant Professor, Psychology
PhD, Yale University, Psychology

Samuel Binkley

Professor, Sociology
PhD, New School for Social Research, Sociology

Claudia Castañeda

Senior Scholar-in-Residence, Interdisciplinary Studies
PhD, University of California, Santa Cruz, History of Consciousness Program

Kaysha Corinealdi

Assistant Professor, World History
PhD, Yale University, History

Mneesha Gellman

Assistant Professor, Political Science
PhD, Northwestern University, Political Science

Nigel Gibson

Associate Professor, Interdisciplinary Studies
PhD, Columbia University, Political Science

Jon Honea

Assistant Professor, Environmental Science
PhD, University of Washington, Ecology

David Kishik

Assistant Professor, Philosophy
PhD, New School for Social Research, Philosophy

Eileen McBride

Assistant Professor, Psychology
PhD, City University, London, Psychology

Cara Moyer-Duncan

Assistant Professor, Interdisciplinary Studies
PhD, Howard University, African Studies

Pablo Muchnik

Associate Professor, Philosophy
PhD, New School for Social Research, Philosophy

Yasser Munif

Assistant Professor, Interdisciplinary Studies
PhD, University of Massachusetts Amherst, Sociology

Russell Newman

Assistant Professor, Interdisciplinary Studies
PhD, University of Southern California, Communication

Tylor Orme

Assistant Professor, Economics
PhD, Suffolk University, Economics

Wyatt Oswald

Associate Professor, Environmental Science
PhD, University of Washington, Ecology

Eiki Satake

Professor, Mathematics
EdD, Columbia University, Mathematics

Diana Sherry

Assistant Professor, Interdisciplinary Studies
PhD, Harvard University, Anthropology

Tulasi Srinivas

Associate Professor, Sociology/Anthropology
PhD, Boston University, Anthropology/Sociology

Mirta Tocci

Assistant Professor, Interdisciplinary Studies
MA, Instituto Beato Angelico in Buenos Aires

Amy Vashlishan Murray

Associate Professor, Human Health and Behavior
PhD, Harvard University, Molecular Biology

Erika Williams

Assistant Professor, Interdisciplinary Studies
PhD, University of Pennsylvania, African-American Literature

Departmentally Affiliated Faculty

In addition to faculty who teach primarily or exclusively to the Liberal Arts curriculum are full-time faculty who are based in the majors but offer Liberal Arts courses on a regular basis. A listing of our departmentally affiliated faculty can be found on the Institute website.

Affiliated Liberal Arts Faculty

Emerson College affiliated faculty members meet the same high standards as full-time faculty members at the College. Together they contribute a wealth and diversity of academic and creative experiences. A listing of our affiliated faculty can be found on the Institute website.

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EMERSON COLLEGE

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Office of Marketing
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