

“Importance of Arts and Humanities”

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ABSTRACT

Since they enable us to appreciate the core of exactly what it takes to be human, the humanities and the arts are vital to contemporary life. It gives us the opportunity to learn more about the civilizations and experiences of others. It streamlines interaction, which in itself is essential for establishing relationships with others. The essay addresses the significance of broad studying of the art, literature, and cultural studies in university education. Such disciplines are essential to the growth of rational reflection, as according study, as they inevitably include this kind of analysis. When deciding, giving judgment, or taking any action, one should establish the limits of the discussion, discover the context of the problem, and consider their fundamental assumptions. These are prerequisites for a constructive discussion and traits of an excellent deep thinker. By suggesting that creativity is not a distinct process from rational reflection, I aim to show how the arts, humanities, and cultural studies foster critical thinking. In my opinion, all curriculum in university education must include studies in these sectors because they're likely to foster circumstances that encourage the development of meaning and critical thought.

Keywords: Higher education, humanities, arts, and culture; critical thinking; critical thinking dispositions.

INTRODUCTION

The Latin term "humanitas," which means "powers or capacities generally found in human beings," is the root of the English word "humanities," which simply means "humane." Hence, as we can see, it mostly relates to people. It imparts knowledge about people's lives, histories, cultures, and furthermore the prevalence of their life. The fields that research and examine "the human experience" are referred to as "humanities." They concentrate on the major, universal questions that we as humans currently and historically face. Some of these concerns include who we are, what matters to us, what constitutes a good, happy existence, the best methods to structure our communities, the distinctions and similarities between individuals, and our obligations to others. Since the very beginning, when the first universities were established, the

humanities have been a crucial component of a comprehensive education. The Humanities are now more crucial than ever in light of the ethical and existential questions that are being raised by globalization, the Covid pandemic, and other recent developments.

IMPORTANCE OF ARTS AND HUMANITIES

As individuals, citizens, and professionals, the humanities also assist us in the development of a crucial set of abilities. They encourage the growth of a society that cherishes knowledge and is conducive to continuous learning. They improve your research abilities, which are crucial for dealing with the complicated environment we're living within. They help us develop more sophisticated critical thinking, which enables us to take firm stands on the most important problems we confront. They improve our written and verbal communication skills, enabling us to defend our claims and viewpoints more effectively. They help us become more creative, which makes it possible for us to generate novel thinking patterns. They aid us in comprehending the past as well as the future, accordingly. They educate us about the social, political, and cultural frameworks that shape the personal and professional contexts in which we engage.¹ And quite often, generating or appreciating amazing art, generating or hearing great music, reading or writing incisive thoughts or creative works of literature all add towards our general happiness. The different fields included under the humanities umbrella foster curiosity, critical thinking, and analytical thinking. Students are educated about the numerous events that affected world history, historical mistakes, the growth of civilization, the influence of social institutions, and many more through the study of political science, history, sociology, and anthropology. All of this is equally significant and useful when politicians' draught laws that will surely influence the future direction of the country and take action to address the major issues the country and the world are currently facing. By accurately rebuking and criticizing the government while a bad decision is being made, citizens could prevent historical blunders from happening again. This would require an understanding of modern history and politics. Another group of academic fields, such as geography, geology, and economics, are particularly important in the fight for supremacy among the nations. While the citizens could create their own plans to use these resources wisely, these disciplines aid in the understanding of the availability of minerals and other exhaustible and inexhaustible resources by the authorities and provide them with the necessary information to draught appropriate policies for their exploitation. Indeed, economics strengthens a nation, enables it to stand alone without having to share its sovereignty with others, and is therefore essential for the process of nation-building. Even though the subjects listed above represent just a small portion of the humanities, it is absurd to claim that they have no significance for the advancement of a country. And I really believe that we will never be able to build the innovative,

¹ *Arts & Humanities* (2022) *IE Humanities*. Available at: <https://arts-humanities.ie.edu/why/> (Accessed: March 20, 2023).

creative, and equal society that we envision for ourselves if we don't show the arts the respect and recognition that they so well deserve.

We must adopt the longest-term perspective we can, rather than just the long-term perspective that many in the humanities would typically adopt, to counteract the pressures of the short term on the academic arts and humanities. Considering the Renaissance or ancient Rome and Greece, for example the long perspective of cosmology spans about 14 billion years, and the long view of earthly evolution spans almost 4 billion years. Science's discoveries have made us reevaluate who we are and what constitutes the "human" on which the humanities are focused. It has been drastically decentered within the cosmos, and we now understand that, instead of being created by and in the likeness of an all-knowing God, we have instead been thrust into existence up by a blind process that has no intention of creating rational or truth-seeking minds. Our brains are "jerry-built," or "accidental minds," as neuroscientist Daniel Linden puts them.² Our perception of our humanity is threatened by the remnants of our animality and our unintended appearance on our small planet.

Academic fields known as the humanities focus on many facets of human society and culture. Classics, the primary field of secular study in universities at the time, was referred to in the Renaissance as a counterpoint to divinity.² The term "humanities" has come to designate to all academic disciplines other than those in the natural sciences, social sciences, formal sciences (particularly math), and applied sciences (or professional training). They use methods which are more analytical or creative with a strong historical component as contrasted to the natural science' purely experimental methods. But unlike the science, the humanities don't have a long history as a discipline unto itself. The human values are composed of the reading comprehension (literature, writing, oratory, rhetoric, poetry, etc.), procedures for performing (theatre, music, dance, etc.), and creative arts (painting, sculpture, photography, filmmaking, etc.); gourmet art or cooking is multidisciplinary and can be viewed as both a scientific knowledge and a liberal arts discipline. Law and religion are included in some definitions of the humanities, but they are not generally agreed upon.³ While anthropology, archaeology, geography, linguistics, logic, and sociology do share certain similarities with the humanities, economics, finance, and political science are not typically recognized as humanities. Academics who study the humanities are known as humanities scholars, or humanists on occasion. (The term "humanist" also refers to the anti-humanist stance maintained by academics in the humanities. Renaissance thinkers and artists are also referred to as humanists. Several secondary schools offer humanities classes, which frequently cover literature, international studies, and the arts. Comparative research and analysis are frequently employed in humanities disciplines like history and linguistics. Other methods

² *Studypool - homework help*. Available at: <https://www.studypool.com/> (Accessed: March 20, 2023).

³ Liu, A. *et al.* (2014) *4 humanities*. Available at: <https://4humanities.org/2014/12/what-are-the-humanities/> (Accessed: March 20, 2023).

used in the humanities include hermeneutics, source criticism, aesthetic interpretation, and speculative reasoning.

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Both use words and other kinds of expression to interpret the human experience. It is true that the humanities focus more on study and critical analysis, whereas the arts focus more on the act of creation itself, whether through performance or the physical production of works.⁴ Academic fields known to be "humanities" traditionally explore many facets of human civilization and culture. There are many topics that fall under the umbrella of "the humanities," yet they all use critical or speculative approaches of research. They aim to deepen our understanding while being rooted in historical context.

The following are all regarded as belonging to "humanities": archeology, fine arts, cultural studies, cultural studies, folk, women's studies, background, justice, linguistics, laws, linguistics, psychology, and religious studies. Sociology and political science are two examples of social sciences that are frequently included in the humanities. If you envisage the arts as focusing on your artistic skill of an creation—a portrait, a party, a story, or a dramatic performance—it will be simpler to understand the difference. The humanities compel us to dig deep, think critically, and analyze and interpret those works of art. When utilized to explain or communicate a human experience, such as the Civil War or a social issue, the arts can be a potent instrument for a humanities program. Archaeology, art history, cultural anthropology, ethnic studies, folklore, gender studies, history, jurisprudence, languages, law, linguistics, philosophy, and religion studies are all considered to be part of "the humanities." Sociology and political science are two examples of social sciences that are frequently included in the humanities. Although we can erect barriers around "arts" and "humanities," nothing is so simple. We are more interested in tearing down barriers than erecting them when it comes to achieving our purpose, which is to improve our democracy via educational and cultural initiatives that foster relationships and understanding among residents of various origins and beliefs across the state. The "humanities" are interwoven with and frequently inspired by the "arts," which include theatre, dance, music, and visual art forms. Sometimes we say that "the humanities are discussing about that as well" and "the artists are taking action in order to promote clarity. This can be very helpful for comprehending the rules of our grant programme.

There are many reasons that why is it important to have arts and humanities or why there is a need of arts and humanities. The analytical skills, there are certain abilities that improve a person's professional standing and raise their employment prospects. These abilities not only make a person a successful student but also the most sought-after by any business in the world.

⁴ *The arts and humanities, University of Wisconsin-Parkside*. Available at: <https://www.uwp.edu/learn/colleges/artsandhumanities/arts-and-humanities.cfm> (Accessed: March 20, 2023).

These abilities allow one to reason clearly and examine a situation before making a choice. An intelligent, logical thinker and analyst will always make a good employee. Communication, an additional crucial skill for employers is communication. Since they have been trained to do so, students in the arts and humanities are better able to communicate verbally and in writing. They are aware of the value of unhindered communication and the proper direction of information flow. Seeing the big picture, it is true that all fields will eventually be connected to one another. Because of this, even the smallest technological glitch or upgrade that becomes available can have a negative impact on an organization's finances or even the national economy. Since they are a component of each of these fields, arts and humanities exist at the intersection of them all. Students of the humanities and arts may observe how all these components come together to form a society. Global perspective, we can obtain a fresh perspective on life by studying the cultures of different regions of the world, learning their language, learning about their history, learning about their customs, and understanding their people. It offers a fresh perspective on the world.

Creativity, being creative is an essential component of being human. Many works of art have been produced over the years, both nationally and locally. Graduates in the arts and humanities are innately capable of appreciating creativity, which is a quality that is valuable in many spheres of life. Inspiration, inspiring someone to accomplish something they otherwise wouldn't have been driven to do also helps them inspire others to do the same. The greatest brains who came before us left us with this ability to find inspiration. Teach, why should we or anyone choose the arts and humanities is the most frequently asked question regarding them. to train as an educator?" The genuine response is, "Why not?" Why not impart your knowledge of the abilities to incoming students? Of course, not everyone can be an engineer. For the progress of the nation, future engineers and economists must be trained. The liberal arts train a person to think critically, act creatively, and comprehend how the world changes, making humanities and the arts the foundation of a civically responsible and involved existence.

The humanities and the arts have always been highly valued by human cultures. This work can advance cultural dialogue and lay the groundwork for active citizenship throughout one's life. Also, they could educate you how and where to think logically, act creatively, and survive in a rapidly changing environment. Both understand the human experience using language and other forms of expression. It is true that the arts place a greater emphasis on the process of making itself, whether through performing or the actual production of works, whereas the humanities place a greater emphasis on research and thoughtful evaluation. Arts aid in recognizing the parallels and differences of human cultures and increase our knowledge of ancient civilizations. In contrast to this elevated insight, they also provide practical applications that can boost your professional skill set and provide you a competitive edge. Writing, communication, cultural sensitivity, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills are all highly valued by the programme.

A humanities Degree can be a launching pad for additional research in disciplines including medicine, law, business, and education. When pursuing this degree, you might take a few of the following courses: Liberal arts, mathematics. The arts and humanities encompass a large portion of human life, and research in them has an impact on society by stoking our curiosity and helping us to question our preconceived notions. At their best, they can encourage us to continue our quest to comprehend human nature. The humanities and arts encourage us to think about ideals like equality, freedom, privilege, and diversity as well as the public good, ethical decision-making, and other choices that are fundamental to collective action. The humanities and the arts are crucial to modern life because they help us understand the essence of what it means to be human. It enables us to broaden our knowledge of the cultures and experiences of other people. It helps us to communicate with others which is vital in building connections with others. The humanities help us comprehend the history, languages, and cultures of other people. They support social justice and equality. They also demonstrate the various attempts made by people to provide moral, spiritual, and logical justifications for the cosmos. The study of numerous dimensions of human civilization and culture is included in the academic discipline of humanities. Anthropology, archaeology, the classics, human history, ancient and modern linguistics, law and politics, literature, philosophy, religion, the performing and visual arts, and many more fields are included in this category.

When creating or appreciating art, we use the reflection, concepts, and knowledge we associate with the humanities. They foster creativity, which enables us to create original thought processes. They help us grasp the future and the past, respectively. They educate us about the social, political, and cultural frameworks that shape the personal and professional contexts in which we engage. Gaining new perspectives on anything from poetry and art to business strategies and politics is possible with a humanities education. A humanities education preserves the great achievements of the past, offers understanding of the world we live in, and equips students with the skills necessary to envision the future. In the current scenario the humanities is important.

They encourage a real and profound understanding of societal and personal justice, a sincere respect for variety, and an exhilarating and life-enriching appreciation of beauty in all of its forms. These talents, which are frequently referred to as "soft skills," include clear written and verbal communication, creative problem-solving, teamwork, decision-making, self-management, and critical analysis. These skills are acquired by humanities majors. The advantages of the arts encourage participation in class and reduce stress. Enhance your social and interpersonal skills, make more of your interactions, handle biting criticism, raise your grades, and tighten your focus. The ability of art to inspire, agitate, relax, entertain, and educate us makes it an important part of our lives.

CONCLUSION

The study of the humanities and the effects these innovations have on how we live today and how we lived then are both incredibly fascinating. We can observe that there were obvious significant changes in how life was perceived before, during, and after each phase. Understanding these advancements and how they relate to everyday life. A crucial aspect of life, it enables us to understand why things are the way they are today and what life may have been like if we hadn't achieved these amazing things. The developments that are a part of my modern existence today, which I respect and enjoy because of the sacrifices and gains achieved by countless people in the past, have a direct connection to every development, whether because of a good or bad thing. A direct result of understanding the humanities is the ability to view things from several angles, which has an impact on life in general. Although many people disparage this field of study and claim it is in decline, knowledge of this topic is applicable to all aspects of life.