DIRECTED STUDIES

Director of undergraduate studies: Kathryn Slanski, Rm. 321, 53 Wall St., 432-6630, kathryn.slanski@yale.edu; chair of Humanities: R. Howard Bloch, Rm. 212, 53 Wall St., 432-1313, howard.bloch@yale.edu; directedstudies.yale.edu

Directed Studies, a selective program for freshmen, is an interdisciplinary study of Western civilization. One hundred twenty-five students are accepted each year. The Literature, Philosophy, and History and Politics tracks of Directed Studies together comprise one coherent program of study, and students must enroll in all three tracks simultaneously. Successful completion of the fall-term Directed Studies courses is a prerequisite to enrolling in the spring-term courses.

Each course meets weekly for one lecture and two seminars; seminars have eighteen students and one faculty member. The regular lectures and seminars are complemented by a series of colloquia. Distinguished members of the faculty are invited to speak on major issues arising from the work in the program, on related disciplines not included in the program, and on the relationship between Western civilization and the non-Western world. Colloquium topics in recent years have included the use of the humanities, the Christian reception of Aristotle, and ancient art and property rights. Directed Studies fulfills the following distributional requirements: two course credits in the humanities and arts, two course credits in the social sciences, and two course credits in writing. The program serves as a strong foundation for all majors in Yale College, including those in the sciences.

Courses

*DRST 001a and DRST 002b, Directed Studies: Literature  Joshua Billings and staff
An examination of major literary works with an aim of understanding how a tradition develops. In the fall term, works and authors include Homer, Aeschylus, Sophocles, Virgil, the Bible, and Dante. In the spring term, authors vary somewhat from year to year and include Petrarch, Cervantes, Shakespeare, Milton, Wordsworth, Goethe, Tolstoy, Proust, and Eliot.   WR, HU

*DRST 003a and DRST 004b, Directed Studies: Philosophy  Kenneth Winkler and staff
An examination of major figures in the history of Western philosophy with an aim of discerning characteristic philosophical problems and their interconnections. Emphasis on Plato and Aristotle in the fall term. In the spring term, modern philosophers include Descartes, Berkeley, Hume, Kant, and Nietzsche.   WR, HU

*DRST 005a and DRST 006b, Directed Studies: Historical and Political Thought  Kathryn Slanski and staff
A study of works of primary importance to political thought and intellectual history. Focus on the role of ideas in shaping events, institutions, and the fate of the individual. In the fall term, Herodotus, Thucydides, Plato, Aristotle, Augustine, and Aquinas. In the spring term, Machiavelli, Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, Burke, Tocqueville, Emerson, Marx, Nietzsche, and Arendt.   SO