

Recent HNRS Course Offerings – HNRS 300 courses

HNRS 300

Advocating for the Arts

Do we need the arts? What kind of arts support is required? Who is responsible for supporting the arts? Should art and culture be left to the free market? What can we do as citizens to advocate for the arts? What can communities do? What do we even mean by “the arts”? What do we mean by “community”? In this course, student teams propose a project that effectively partners local artists and arts organizations with planners, developers, and entrepreneurs to promote “creative urban placemaking” for a specific neighborhood, street, building, park, or other place in a selected town or city. As they develop their projects, students engage in an inquiry into the nature and meaning of advocacy and engagement, using their leadership strengths to explore how aesthetic curiosity and the creative economy can foster equity, sustainability, and wellbeing in a given community’s cultural ecosystem.”

Liberal Arts Advocacy

It’s a tough time out there for liberal arts colleges: worried about the rising costs of higher education, parents, students, and even some politicians are looking for ways to cut corners, to make things cheaper. In the post-Great Recession economy, the liberal arts (and liberal arts colleges) have taken a hit, overshadowed by cheaper, and seemingly more efficient state universities. So why bother going to a liberal arts college? Why take classes outside of your major? This course tackles this real-world problem head on, asking students to research all elements of this question—social, educational, and cognitive—and develop in a team setting actual proposals for better communicating the value of the liberal arts to involved parties: parents, professors, politicians, and, most importantly, students and potential students.