

Proposed Update to Core Curriculum Course Numbering

Rationale

This proposal aligns the Core Curriculum with the recently adopted university-wide course numbering framework by ensuring consistency in how course levels are defined, communicated, and reflected in Core requirements. Under the current structure, the Core requires completion of a 200-level Humanities course and sets minimum 300-level thresholds within the Human Sciences Module. In practice, many of these courses function as lower-division offerings, and students, including first-year students, are routinely advised into 200- and even 300-level Humanities and Social and Behavioral Sciences courses. This creates a disconnect between course numbering and academic expectations, introduces ambiguity in preparation and sequencing, and undermines course numbers as signals of progression.

The current structure reflects historical changes in course numbering across earlier bulletins that have produced a mismatch between course numbers and how these courses function within the Core. A comparison of the [2012–2014](#) and [2014–2016](#) bulletins illustrates this shift, in which courses that serve as lower-division offerings were assigned higher course numbers while retaining their instructional role. This creates ambiguity in advising and student expectations. This proposal addresses that mismatch by aligning Core requirements with the updated course numbering framework.

The proposed changes are minimal and do not alter the structure or substance of the Core Curriculum. Credit hours, course content, and pedagogical approaches remain unchanged. The proposal returns introductory Humanities courses to the 100 level and adjusts Human Sciences Module thresholds from the 300 level to the 200 level so that course numbering aligns with the level of instruction, while preserving existing distributional requirements and learning objectives.

Aligning course levels improves transparency and supports transfer articulation. The Illinois Articulation Initiative is based on a transferable general education package understood as lower-division coursework. Labeling these requirements at higher course numbers creates confusion for transfer partners and complicates evaluation of incoming coursework. Using lower-division numbering aligns the Core with statewide norms and supports consistent application of policies distinguishing lower- and upper-division work.

Finally, the Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences department began this work in Fall 2025 and has been actively preparing to renumber its courses for the 2026–2027 catalog. This proposal aligns Core requirements with that renumbered course inventory.

Summary of changes

1. Remove section C4, limiting double counting of HASS classes towards majors and minors, reflective of UGSC vote taken in December, from the core curriculum.
2. Updates sections B and C to normalize HASS course numbers to standards across higher education and better facilitate transfer. Course numbering is currently being updated for the 2026-2027 bulletin.

Current Policy

B. Humanities 200-Level Course

All students must complete one of the following courses:

CODE	TITLE	CREDIT HOURS
HUM 200	Topics in Humanities	3
HUM 202	Industrial Culture	3
HUM 204	Age of Darwin	3
HUM 206	Life Stories	3
HUM 208	Digital Culture	3
or any other HUM 200 -level elective		3

C. Human Sciences Module

All students must complete 18 credit hours subject to the following distribution requirements:

1. At least two Humanities courses (**(H)** designation) at the 300-level or above. Students may use foreign language courses at the intermediate and advanced level to fulfill 300-level requirements.
2. At least three Social or Behavioral Sciences courses. These courses are marked with an **(S)** in this catalog. The courses must be distributed as follows:
 - a. At least two courses at the 300-level or above.
 - b. Courses from at least two different fields.
3. The remaining course in this module must be selected from any Humanities **(H)** course, any Social or Behavioral Science **(S)** course, or any COM course except COM 101 or COM 111.

4. Courses required by and/or applied toward the major or entailed minor requirements of a degree program cannot be used to satisfy the Human Sciences Module of the Core Curriculum except where specifically allowed in certain programs.¹

Proposed Policy:

B. Humanities 100-Level Course

All students must complete one of the following courses:

CODE	TITLE	CREDIT HOURS
<u>HUM 100</u>	Topics in Humanities	3
<u>HUM 102</u>	Industrial Culture	3
<u>HUM 104</u>	Age of Darwin	3
<u>HUM 106</u>	Life Stories	3
<u>HUM 108</u>	Digital Culture	3
or any other <u>HUM 100</u> -level elective		3

C. Human Sciences Module

All students must complete 18 credit hours subject to the following distribution requirements:

1. At least two Humanities courses (**(H)** designation) at the 200-level or above. Students may use foreign language courses at the intermediate and advanced level to fulfill this requirement.
2. At least three Social or Behavioral Sciences courses. These courses are marked with an **(S)** in this catalog. The courses must be distributed as follows:
 - a. At least two courses at the 200-level or above.
 - b. Courses from at least two different fields.
3. The remaining course in this module must be selected from any Humanities **(H)** course, any Social or Behavioral Science **(S)** course, or any COM course except COM 101 or COM 111.