

## HASS Exploration Subject Criteria

### HASS Exploration (HEX) Program Definition

HEX subjects are team-taught classes that explore a major concept or topic from multiple viewpoints found across or within disciplines in the humanities, arts, and social sciences (HASS). By showcasing the generative value of dialogue and debate among diverse disciplines, specialties, theoretical frameworks, or methodologies, HEX subjects allow students to approach a given problem, phenomenon, or topic from multiple vantage points. Emphasizing close interaction with faculty, the courses encourage the development of foundational skills such as critical reading and analysis of primary materials. More broadly, they provide a pathway into modes of thinking that are central to the HASS curriculum and offer students an opportunity to explore concepts, topics, and histories that are crucial to understanding and inhabiting the complex world in which we live.

HEX subjects are open to undergraduates of all years. Class sizes vary but student enrollment should not exceed 25 students per instructor (faculty or senior lecturer).

Criteria	Rationale for Criteria
Appropriate for and accessible to all undergraduates.	Initially, these subjects were piloted under the First Year Focus Program (designed for first-year students specifically). Upon assessment of that pilot, it was determined that students appreciated the perspectives and experiences that sophomores, juniors, and seniors brought to class.
Encourages the development of foundational skills common in HASS — <i>e.g.</i> , critical reading and analysis of primary materials.	SHR determined (Interim Report on FYF Program and Report on the HEX Program) that students should be introduced to the key modes of thought and analysis characteristic of scholarship in HASS including: developing a critical orientation, working with a variety of textual and other sources, framing appropriate questions, and formulating arguments.
Team-taught and emphasizes close interaction with faculty (25 students per instructor).	Students have reported that they do not know three faculty members well enough to ask for letters of recommendation. SHR determined that students should be encouraged to interact with faculty early in their academic careers. By having multiple faculty members involved, students have a greater chance to make these connections. A limit of 25 students per faculty member follows the CR guidelines for enrollment, which are based on educational recommendations.
Examines a major concept or topic from multiple viewpoints found across or within HASS disciplines and showcases the generative value of dialogue and debate among diverse disciplines, specialties, theoretical frameworks, or methodologies.	Focusing on “big ideas” or issues is a way to engage students who may be less oriented towards specific academic disciplines; exploring a topic through generative debate emerging from multiple viewpoints associated with different disciplines, specialties, or theoretical frameworks provides students the opportunity to see how discussion from different points of view can deepen their understanding of a topic.