

Civilization Program

The required program in Civilization is a basic, foundational course at Claremont McKenna College. Classes will be intensively participatory and taught by faculty from several departments. The material will both prepare for and complement the student's subsequent work in virtually any discipline. Roughly one-half of the texts are common to all sections, with the remainder chosen by the instructor. Classes may be supplemented by evening events (e.g. lectures or films) in which all sections participate.

The course is a required general education requirement for all CMC students. For further information, contact Professor Valenza, Director of the Civilization Program.

Course

10. Questions of Civilization. Staff

An intensely participatory, seminar-style course that examines philosophical, social, aesthetic, and scientific questions fundamental to individuals in their relationship to society and the world. Among these questions are:

- What does it mean to be human?
- What is a good person and the role of the individual in society?
- What is the nature of science and knowledge?
- What is the nature of religion and religious experience?
- What is the meaning of art and aesthetic experience?

Via vigorous discussion and writing, students cultivate an informed understanding of such issues, and develop a clear voice to express their own evolving positions. They learn further how various prevailing views on these matters have suffused historical traditions and continue to underlie current cultures. Course materials incorporate texts covering a wide range of ages and continents (typically including writers such as Plato, Confucius, and Freud), as well as diverse contemporary sources from various media. Offered every semester.