



THE BLOUNT SCHOLARS PROGRAM
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES • THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA
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The Blount Scholars Program invites interested faculty to apply to teach in the program during the 2020-21 academic year. Interested faculty should go to <https://blount.as.ua.edu/teaching-proposals/> and provide the information solicited. Those interested in the thematic seminars (BUI 301) should also attach a description of their proposed course. A description of the Blount Program and its curriculum follows.

The Blount Scholars Program is a selective, four-year, living and learning community at the University of Alabama featuring small, seminar-style classes, intensive interaction with faculty, and an integrated, interdisciplinary curriculum which confers a minor in Liberal Arts. Overall enrollment in the program is approximately 400 students. Blount is open to students of any major.

All first-year Blount students, along with a cadre of upper class mentors, live in the Blount Living and Learning Center, a campus residence hall designed to integrate social and intellectual life. Two buildings on UA's main quadrangle, Oliver-Barnard Hall and Tuomey Hall, contain additional classrooms, a computer lab, and study space for the use of Blount students. These resources provide students with the atmosphere of a small liberal arts college in the midst of a major research university.

The Blount Curriculum

- First Year 2 Foundations Seminars (6 hours) + 2 Convocation Lectures (2 hours)
- Sophomore/Junior 3 Elective Thematic Seminars over the two years (9 hours)
- Senior 1 Capstone Senior Seminar (3 hours)

Foundations seminars are capped at 15 students; Thematic and Capstone seminars are capped at 12. Faculty may, with their chair's approval, teach the following Blount courses either in load or as an overload.

BUI 101 (Fall) & 102 (Spring) - Foundations

This mandatory year-long course uses a survey of influential works of philosophy, theology, science, political theory, and literature produced in the West over three millennia to provide first-year students with an introductory practicum in the program's principal objectives: cultivating the skills of textual and cultural interpretation and an understanding of the relations between the two. Within this framework, concepts to be explored include the nature of society, the nature of the individual, the nature of government and justice as regulatory mechanisms between the two, the nature of power and its various forms, the concept of nature itself, and America as a historical experiment in which these concepts are in play. The syllabus is fixed and teachers are provided with extensive preparation materials and attend a weekly faculty colloquium. All sections of the course have a GTA in addition to the teacher of record.

BUI 301 – Thematic Seminars

These courses are developed by individual instructors in their areas of expertise/interest. Although, there are no prescriptions for their content or form, it is expected that they will broadly hew to the Program's mission of cultivating in students the skills of critical textual and cultural interpretation.

BUI 401 – Capstone Senior Seminar: Worldviews

This mandatory senior seminar returns to an explicit focus on the interanimating relationship between textual and cultural interpretation in both a theoretical and a practical vein. Students read a selection of theoretical reflections on the concept of a worldview (variously and broadly synonymized by terms such as culture, conceptual scheme, system, *mentalité*, paradigm, ideological regime, *Weltanschauung*, etc.) generated by theorists in a variety of disciplines. Alongside these readings, students develop, in conjunction with the instructor, a research or creative project that explores some aspect of textual and cultural interpretation. Syllabus is fixed; faculty meet regularly to discuss course pedagogy.