

# Interdisciplinary Programs of Study

The College offers a variety of programs of study that are informed by more than one disciplinary field. They include the college's Honors Program, the major in Latin American and Latino Studies, and several minors, including Community Service Learning (CSL); Core Texts and Enduring Questions (CTEQ); Law, Ethics, and Constitutional Studies (LEX); Medieval and Early Modern Studies (MEMS); and Women's Studies (WMS).

## FORTIN AND GONTHIER CORE TEXTS AND ENDURING QUESTIONS PROGRAM (CTEQ)

The Fortin and Gonthier Core Texts and Enduring Questions (CTEQ) Program is a unique program at Assumption College. This select Catholic liberal arts program offers an intellectually rich interdisciplinary minor that complements any pre-professional, natural science, mathematics, or humanities major. Students in this engaging Program attend lectures by nationally known speakers, compete in student essay contests, take part in intercollegiate student research conferences, and travel on CTEQ class-related trips to major cities in the United States and Europe.

### MINOR IN CORE TEXTS AND ENDURING QUESTIONS (6)

Specifically designed for select students seeking an intense and integrated liberal arts education as they simultaneously pursue a specialized major, the minor in Core Texts and Enduring Questions brings faculty and students together to study great works of human thought not simply to learn something about them and their authors, but, more importantly, to learn something vital and enduring about ourselves as human beings. Believing that the dialogue between the best of ancient and modern thought gives us profound access to permanent truths about ourselves and our world, the CTEQ minor contributes to the integration of students' specialized education by allowing them to hone their reasoning, writing, and speaking skills as they engage in a substantive, ongoing dialogue about timeless human questions and perennial human goals. Compatible with any major, this six (6) course, integrated minor also fulfills twelve (12) credit hours in Assumption College's core curriculum program. Students can thus pursue the CTEQ minor, which will appear on their official transcript, while they work their way through the College's required core curriculum program.

Inspired by Fr. Emmanuel d'Alzon's, the founder of the Augustinians of the Assumption, vision of a truly dialectical and liberal education, the CTEQ minor combines four academic departments—Art History, Theology, Philosophy, and Political Science—in one concentrated minor. Exploring enduring questions about the nature of justice, beauty, human nature, and God, students in this interdisciplinary minor enter into meaningful dialogue with great artists and thinkers like Plutarch, Plato, Augustine, Michelangelo, Descartes, Pascal, Baudelaire, Tocqueville, and Pope Benedict XVI. Rooted in the idea that Core Texts are not the property of particular disciplines or particular periods or particular fields of study and drawing on the best aspects of Catholic liberal education, participants in the CTEQ minor form a distinctive learning community at Assumption College.

### Requirements (6)

The Core Texts and Enduring Questions minor consists of six courses. Students are required to take all four (4) of the following courses:

- ARH 160 Art Ancient and Modern: The Question of Beauty (fulfills 3 credit hours in the "Culture and Expression" area of the core curriculum)
- THE 153 Revelation: Ancient and Modern (fulfills 3 credit hours as a second required theology course in the core curriculum)
- PHI 245 Reason: Ancient and Modern (fulfills 3 credit hours in the "Great Conversation" area of the core curriculum)
- POL 351 Republicanism: Ancient and Modern (fulfills 3 credit hours in the "Great Conversation" area of the core curriculum)

Students must also elect to take two (2) of the following single book seminars:

- THE 285 Augustine's The City of God
- PHI 351 Plato's Republic
- POL 358 Tocqueville's Democracy in America

Students are encouraged to take ARH 160, THE 153, and POL 351 in their first two years of study and PHI 245 and two of the single book seminars in their second two years of study. For further information, contact Dr. Marc Guerra, Director of the Fortin and Gonthier Core Texts and Enduring Questions Minor, at (508) 767-7575 or by email at [mguerra@assumption.edu](mailto:mguerra@assumption.edu)