Herbst Program of Humanities

Since 1989, the Herbst Program of Humanities has equipped engineering students with the tools to gain intelligent, relevant access to the great ongoing conversations of human existence. CU’s College of Engineering and Applied Science is unique in sponsoring its own, in-house humanities program to promote the non-technical education of its students.

Through small-group seminars averaging only 12 students and an interdisciplinary curriculum based on literature, philosophy, and the arts, the Herbst Program of Humanities encourages the flexibility of mind that engineers, like other skilled professionals, require in a rapidly changing technological and social environment.

The Herbst Program offers courses at all levels of undergraduate study. Readings and assignments are selected with the goal of helping students learn to examine

The Herbst Program emphasizes the development of communication and thinking skills that will enhance students’ lives as well as their careers.

Herbst Seminar Features

> Small class size (typically 12-14 students)
> Highly qualified, interdisciplinary faculty
> Lively discussion
> Comfortable and challenging environment

Students visit the Great Wall during a summer seminar based in X’ian, China.
their own convictions, to consider seriously the views of others, and to engage in a conversation with great thinkers of the past and present. Students develop clear oral expression styles and lucid writing while putting into practice the critical Renaissance balance among the sciences and the arts, philosophy and social thought, and ethics and creative innovation.

The Herbst Program has partnered with the Center for Science and Technology Policy Research at CU-Boulder to provide an undergraduate certificate program that explores the nexus between technology, science, and society. Another Herbst partner that helps students bring together the social sciences, the humanities, and engineering is the ATLAS Institute through its Technology, Arts and Media program. At a time when technological innovation is transforming how we interact as humans with each other and with our environment, it is essential for students of engineering to understand the ethics and potential impacts of the technologies they will help to develop.

Opportunities for Giving

- Contribution to endowment to increase the number of CEAS students Herbst serves
- Student financial assistance for visits to the opera, and other performing arts events
- Support of study abroad opportunities
- Funding visiting lecturers and artists
- Expanding classroom spaces and other venues for engaged learning

Herbst Professor Leland Giovannelli introduces students to film study. The Junior Seminar continues to engage students with roundtable discussion of original texts in literature and philosophy. For three of their class meetings students address the arts, not through reading, but through doing. In these classes, students create works of art.