CRITICAL AND CREATIVE THINKING, MA

College of Arts and Sciences

Vision Statement
The Master of Arts in Critical and Creative Thinking (MA CCT) embodies the College of Arts and Sciences’ ongoing commitment to personal enrichment as well as to the practical application of analytical skills and knowledge in a diverse array of both for-profit and nonprofit professional environments. This interdisciplinary degree provides a unique opportunity to pursue both breadth and depth within the rich and diverse landscape of the liberal arts and sciences. Students pursuing this degree will enhance their career potential by developing advanced skills and abilities necessary for critical thinking, creativity, and leadership.

Program Contact Information
Joseph (Joe) Price, PhD, Administrative Coordinator
Arts & Sciences Hall (ASH)
402.554.2545
jprice@unomaha.edu (katieberger@unomaha.edu)

Katie Berger, Advisor/Program Coordinator
Arts & Sciences Hall (ASH)
402.554.6638
katieberger@unomaha.edu

Program Website (http://www.unomaha.edu/college-of-arts-and-sciences/master-of-arts-in-critical-and-creative-thinking/)

Admissions
General Application Requirements and Admission Criteria (http://catalog.unomaha.edu/graduate/admission/)

Program-Specific Requirements
Application Deadlines (Spring 2022, Summer 2022, and Fall 2022)
• Fall: July 15
• Spring: November 1
• Summer: March 1

Other Requirements
• All applicants must have the equivalent of a four-year undergraduate degree from a regionally accredited four-year institution of higher learning or the equivalent international institution with a minimum GPA of at least 3.0 in undergraduate courses related to major.

• English Language Proficiency: Applicants are required to have a command of oral and written English. Those who do not hold a baccalaureate or other advanced degree from the United States, OR a baccalaureate or other advanced degree from a predetermined country on the waiver list, must meet the minimum language proficiency score requirement in order to be considered for admission.

• Paper-based TOEFL: 600, Internet-based TOEFL: 100, IELTS: 7.5, PTE: 76, Duolingo: 120

Degree Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CACT 8000</td>
<td>INTRODUCTION TO CRITICAL AND CREATIVE THINKING ¹</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Concentrations
Select one area of concentration. 12

Elective Courses
Select 12 hours of elective courses; of those 9 hours maybe outside the CACT program. 12

Exit Requirement
CACT 8090 CRITICAL AND CREATIVE THINKING GRADUATE PROJECT ² 3

Total Credits 30

¹ This course must be completed within your first nine (9) hours of study.
² This course can be completed in your second or last semester of study.

At least 15 hours of the MA CACT program must be done at the seminar level (courses ending in zero). Students can apply up to nine (9) hours of coursework outside of the MA CACT to their program of study with the permission of the administrative coordinator. Other course substitutions may be made with the permission of the administrative coordinator.

Concentrations
Cultural and Global Analysis

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CACT 8106/PSYC 8536</td>
<td>CULTURAL PSYCHOLOGY</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CACT 8100</td>
<td>GLOBAL CINEMA</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CACT 8116/GEOG 8556</td>
<td>GEOGRAPHY OF ECONOMIC GLOBALIZATION</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CACT/BLST 8110</td>
<td>GLOBAL-LOCAL: OPPORTUNITIES, BARRIERS, ENGAGEMENT</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CACT 8420</td>
<td>MEXICO AND THE U.S. BORDERLANDS: TWO HISTORIES, ONE DESTINY</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Credits 12

Ethics and Values

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CACT/RELI 8206</td>
<td>COMPARETIVE RELIGIOUS ETHICS</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CACT 8200/PSCI 8300</td>
<td>SEMINAR IN POLITICAL THEORY</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CACT 8215</td>
<td>VALUES AND VIRTUES</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CACT/RELI 8226</td>
<td>VIOLENT CONFLICTS, PEACEBUILDING, AND THE ETHICS OF INTERVENTION</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CACT 8650</td>
<td>WRITING ACROSS DIFFERENCES: RHETORICAL THEORY FOR PERSUASION AND PUBLIC ADVOCACY</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Credits 12

Health and the Environment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CACT 8306/PSCI 8296</td>
<td>INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT &amp; SUSTAINABILITY</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Cultivate critical thinking and creative problem solving skills with courses like CACT 8000: *Introduction to Critical and Creative Thinking*. This foundational course challenges students to develop interdisciplinary knowledge and skills, focusing on recognizing and leveraging tools, resources, and ideas to find innovative solutions to everyday problems.

**CACT 8000: Introduction to Critical and Creative Thinking (3 credits)**

- **Course Overview:** This course is the foundational introductory course for the Master of Arts in Critical and Creative Thinking program. It emphasizes the development of critical thinking and creative problem-solving skills.
- **Course Content:** The course covers topics such as cultural and global analysis, organizational science, and leadership, with a focus on applying these skills to real-world problems.
- **Prerequisites:** Graduate status and acceptance into the Master of Arts in Critical and Creative Thinking program.
- **Course Objectives:** The course aims to develop students' abilities to think critically, creatively, and interdisciplinarily, preparing them for careers that require innovative problem-solving.

**Enrollment Requirement:** Permission of instructor or MA CCT program.

---

**International Migration, Development and Citizenship**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CACT 8100</td>
<td>INTRODUCTION TO CRITICAL AND CREATIVE THINKING</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CACT 8106</td>
<td>CRITICAL AND CREATIVE THINKING GRADUATE PROJECT</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CACT 8108</td>
<td>INDEPENDENT STUDY</td>
<td>1-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CACT 8110</td>
<td>LITERATURE/CULTURE: CENTRAL AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN 1898-2000</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CACT 8120</td>
<td>INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION, DEVELOPMENT AND CITIZENSHIP</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CACT 8130</td>
<td>MEXICO AND THE U.S. BORDERLANDS: TWO HISTORIES, ONE DESTINY</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Organizational Science and Leadership**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CACT 8200</td>
<td>CRITICAL AND CREATIVE THINKING GRADUATE PROJECT</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CACT 8206</td>
<td>INDEPENDENT STUDY</td>
<td>1-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CACT 8210</td>
<td>LITERATURE/CULTURE: CENTRAL AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN 1898-2000</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CACT 8220</td>
<td>INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION, DEVELOPMENT AND CITIZENSHIP</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CACT 8230</td>
<td>MEXICO AND THE U.S. BORDERLANDS: TWO HISTORIES, ONE DESTINY</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Writing and Critical Reflection**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CACT 8300</td>
<td>INTRODUCTION TO CRITICAL AND CREATIVE THINKING</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CACT 8306</td>
<td>CRITICAL AND CREATIVE THINKING GRADUATE PROJECT</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CACT 8310</td>
<td>LITERATURE/CULTURE: CENTRAL AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN 1898-2000</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CACT 8320</td>
<td>INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION, DEVELOPMENT AND CITIZENSHIP</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CACT 8330</td>
<td>MEXICO AND THE U.S. BORDERLANDS: TWO HISTORIES, ONE DESTINY</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**Prerequisites:** Permission of instructor or MA CCT program.
CACT 8110 GLOBAL-LOCAL: OPPORTUNITIES, BARRIERS, ENGAGEMENT (3 credits)
This course focuses on global cultural and social forces and how they interact to form nexuses of both opportunity and obstacle to constructive human engagement on a wide array of social issues. An overview of topics covered in the Cultural and Global Analysis concentration in the Master of Arts in Critical and Creative Thinking. This course will provide students with the analytical tools, collaborative engagement skills, and applied problem-solving techniques that will help students succeed in this concentration and program. (Cross-listed with BLST 8110)
Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): Graduate standing.

CACT 8116 GEOGRAPHY OF ECONOMIC GLOBALIZATION (3 credits)
A study of the geography of economic globalization and the geography of the world economy. The major topics include the historical development of the world economy and globalization from the geographical perspective, trends in geography of global production, trade and investment, the most important factors and actors in the globalization processes and its geographic effects, geography of transnational corporations, case studies of economic geography of selected industries and service activities, effects of globalization on the developed and developing countries. This course also supports the Cultural and Global Analysis concentration in the Master of Arts in Critical and Creative Thinking. (Cross-listed with GEOG 4550, GEOG 8556)
Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): Graduate status.

CACT 8200 SEMINAR IN POLITICAL THEORY (3 credits)
This course introduces students to the history of political theory, from its origins in ancient Greece to its manifestations in contemporary thought. (Cross-listed with PSCI 8300)
Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): Permission of graduate advisor.

CACT 8206 COMPARATIVE RELIGIOUS ETHICS (3 credits)
An introduction to historical and contemporary approaches to comparative religious ethics, with special focus on specific case studies as encountered in societies and religious communities across the globe. In addition to reading authors from a variety of perspectives (Aristotelians, natural law theorists, philosophers of law, pragmatists, theologians, and historians of religion), students will be introduced to special topics in the field, e.g., religion and public life, religion and law, syncretism, the secular/non-secular divide, etc. This course supports the Ethics and Values concentration in the Master of Arts in Critical and Creative Thinking. (Cross-listed with RELI 4200, RELI 8206)

CACT 8215 VALUES AND VIRTUES (3 credits)
This course explores advanced topics in ethics with particular emphasis on value theory and virtue ethics. Topics to be considered include the meaning and status of value claims, sources of value, intrinsic goods, agent-relative goods, practical reason, moral development, happiness, moral ambiguity, moral luck, the identification of virtues, and relationships of care, trust, and responsibility. This course supports the Ethics and Values concentration in the Master of Arts in Critical and Creative Thinking. (Cross-listed with PHIL 3060)

CACT 8226 VIOLENT CONFLICTS, PEACEBUILDING, AND THE ETHICS OF INTERVENTION (3 credits)
This course is designed to familiarize the student with the nature of violent conflict, including terrorism, and a variety of the mechanisms for peacebuilding. The course will also explore human rights and the ethics of intervention. This course supports the Ethics and Values concentration in the Master of Arts in Critical and Creative Thinking. (Cross-listed with RELI 4220, RELI 8226)

CACT 8306 INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT & SUSTAINABILITY (3 credits)
This course introduces students to different concepts of international development through the lens of sustainability. The course explores a broad range of activities related to international development, including international aid, trade, philanthropy, interventions in conflict, peacebuilding, public health, human rights, social justice, and the environment. (Cross-listed with PSCI 4290, PSCI 8296)
Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): PSCI 2210 or equivalent is recommended.

CACT 8310 ECOLOGICAL WRITING AND ANALYSIS (3 credits)
This course provides students with the opportunity to develop expertise in a wide range of foundational works and key techniques of ecological writing and theory in English. By engaging mindfully with these works and techniques, students will develop advanced skills in ecologically oriented critical analysis and creative thinking. This course supports the Writing and Critical Reflection and the Health and the Environment concentrations in the Master of Arts in Critical and Creative Thinking. (Cross-listed with ENGL 8310)
Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): Graduate standing.

CACT 8316 OUR ENERGY FUTURE: SOCIETY, THE ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY (3 credits)
In this course, students will analyze our energy options including the environmental, economic, and ethical connections with a particular emphasis on electrical energy. The course doesn't prescribe a particular energy future but rather emphasizes development of the knowledge and skills to more effectively contribute to the conversation. To understand our future, the course begins with the present energy landscape and its historical underpinnings, then focuses on developing a student's ability to critically assess energy options by examining the associated implications, consequences, intent, origins, and bias. Students' own work, life, and academic experience are used in the course to underscore the individual relevance of these energy choices. The course includes the necessary science, but the greater emphasis is on the associated critical and creative thinking so that ultimately students can make informed, creative, sustainable energy choices. (Cross-listed with ENVN 4310, ENVN 8316)
Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): Graduate standing.

CACT 8326 ECOLOGICAL SUSTAINABILITY AND HUMAN HEALTH (3 credits)
The course will explore and develop the complex context of the systemic links among ecosystems and human health (and more broadly human well-being) using case studies including climate change, water quality, infectious diseases and agricultural production. Students will develop skills in critical thinking and applied research by studying biological connections between humans and ecosystems and how social, economic and cultural processes and practices mediate these connections. This course supports the Health and the Environment concentration in the Master of Arts in Critical and Creative Thinking. (Cross-listed with ENVN 4320)
Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): Graduate standing.

CACT 8400 A HISTORY OF AMERICAN IMMIGRATION POLICIES AND LAWS (3 credits)
This seminar will examine the evolution of American immigration policies and laws from the colonial period to the present day. Where appropriate, the course will examine American immigration laws in a comparative context. It will pay particular attention to how state policies create and/or sustain inclusionary or exclusionary practices for members of different racial, ethnic, religious, or gender groups in American society. 
Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): Graduate standing.
CACT 8410 IMMIGRATION, MIGRATION, AND DIASPORA: CRITICAL APPROACHES AND THEORIES OF MOVEMENT IN LITERATURE (3 credits)
This seminar in literature and some film analyzes the depictions in non-fiction and fiction of displacement as a result of immigration, migration, refugee status, or any other considered movement, intentional or imposed. It will focus largely on the U.S. experiences of those displaced from all locales. (Cross-listed with ENGL 8410)
Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): Graduate standing.

CACT 8416 LITERATURE/CULTURE: CENTRAL AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN 1898-2000 (3 credits)
"Literature/ Culture: Central America and the Caribbean 1898-2000" studies major historical and socio-cultural events in Latin American history in the 20th century, through their articulation in literary texts, film, and other cultural expressions from Central America and the Hispanic Caribbean. (Cross-listed with SPAN 4150, SPAN 8156)

CACT 8420 MEXICO AND THE U.S. BORDERLANDS: TWO HISTORIES, ONE DESTINY (3 credits)
Exploration of U.S.-Mexico Borderlands history and its pathways to current developments. It reviews borderland encounters, miscategorization, and wars between Indigenous groups, Europeans, North Americans, and Mexicans. It looks at the history of the drafting of the imaginary U.S.-Mexico borderline and follows its development until the construction of a wall to separate an undivided socio-cultural space. The course integrates a comparative conceptual approach to empires, nation-building, territorial expansion, identity formation, code-mixed English-Spanish uses, and state sovereignty.

CACT 8430 INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION, DEVELOPMENT AND CITIZENSHIP (3 credits)
The course allows students to gain an understanding of the forces driving contemporary world migration, the policies and practices of development expelling or attracting migrants from and to different parts of the world, and migrants' relative success in their quest for belonging and citizenship in their host communities. This course supports the International Migration, Development and Citizenship concentration in the Master of Arts in Critical and Creative Thinking.

CACT 8500 COMPLEX ORGANIZATIONS (3 credits)
This graduate seminar provides an overview focused on the understanding and analysis of intricate internal and external organizational forces such as organizational bureaucracy, organizational culture, autonomy and control systems, which affect performance of organizational members as well as influence organizational survival. (Cross-listed with SOC 8500)
Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): Graduate enrollment or permission of class instructor.

CACT 8506 CREATIVITY AND INNOVATION IN ORGANIZATIONS (3 credits)
To provide a discussion of the antecedents of individual and organizational creativity, including measurement, models, characteristics of the individual and the environment that facilitate creativity and innovation in an organizational setting. Students in this course will be able to understand the research literature related to creativity and innovation and apply the findings to improve critical and creative thinking, implementation of creative ideas, and development of creative teams and organizations. This course supports the Organizational Science and Leadership concentration in the Master of Arts in Critical and Creative Thinking. (Cross-listed with PSYC 4650, PSYC 8656)

CACT 8510 SEMINAR IN LEADERSHIP (3 credits)
This course introduces students to classical and contemporary scholarship on leadership theory, research, and application. Students gain a foundation in models of leadership, assess their own leadership styles, and learn to integrate what they learn in corporate, governmental, non-profit, or community organizations. (Cross-listed with PSCI 8120)
Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): Permission of graduate adviser.

CACT 8520 POSITIVE ORGANIZATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY AND LEADERSHIP (3 credits)
This course is a graduate seminar on organizational psychology and leadership that focuses on the understanding and critical analysis of theory and practice pertaining to individual functioning at work. Positive organizational psychology theories and practices will provide the overarching framework in understanding potential solutions to challenges and problems facing leaders and their employees. (Cross-listed with PSYC 9421)
Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): Graduate standing or permission of instructor.

CACT 8530 PERSONNEL PSYCHOLOGY AND LEADERSHIP (3 credits)
This course provides an overview of personnel psychology from a leadership perspective. Topics include methodology, employee selection, performance appraisal, organizational attitudes and behavior, motivation, and leadership style.
Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): Graduate standing or permission of instructor

CACT 8610 PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL WRITING (3 credits)
This course will introduce students to the theory, research, and practices of professional and technical writing. Through readings, discussions, and assignments, students will gain an understanding of the types and circumstances of communication challenges encountered in the workplace. The course will also consider the roles of persuasion and ethics in written communication. (Cross-listed with ENGL 8610)
Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): Graduate standing.

CACT 8630 DIGITAL RHETORIC (3 credits)
This course provides students with the opportunity to develop expertise in the theory and practice of digital rhetoric by considering technology's deep impact on how we define and engage in writing. Students examine contemporary writing practices as part of a rich rhetorical tradition while they design and create effective multimodal compositions and analyze foundational works in digital rhetoric. This course supports the Writing and Critical Reflection concentration in the Master of Arts in Critical and Creative Thinking. (Cross-listed with ENGL 8630)
Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): Graduate standing.

CACT 8640 CREATIVE NONFICTION IN DIGITAL ENVIRONMENTS (3 credits)
Students in this course will study creative nonfiction in digital environments, analyze rhetorical situations created in digital environments, and create individual creative nonfiction blogs which might include, in addition to other modalities, sounds, animations, and hypertext. The course will also focus on the study and analysis of craft-elements of creative nonfiction: narrative persona, tone, rhythm and style, scenic construction, among others. Students taking this course will learn to read with interpretative and analytical proficiency a broad range of creative nonfiction in digital environments. (Cross-listed with ENGL 8640).
Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): Graduate standing.

CACT 8650 WRITING ACROSS DIFFERENCES: RHETORICAL THEORY FOR PERSUASION AND PUBLIC ADVOCACY (3 credits)
This course provides students a theoretical foundation for understanding how language is used in various types of discourses and texts as a means of convincing others of a given viewpoint or idea. Students will apply this theory to real-world writing scenarios in their scholarly areas of interest, to advocacy and social issues movements, or to address workplace needs and goals. This course supports the Writing and Critical Reflection concentration in the Master of Arts in Critical and Creative Thinking. (Cross-listed with ENGL 8650)
Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): Graduate standing.