



The Civilization Studies Program (CVSP), Center for the Arts and Humanities (CAH), and Anis Makdisi Program in Literature (AMPL), American University of Beirut (AUB)

*present,*

CVSP FORUM 2016 - STATE OF THE FIELD WORKSHOP

***Liberal Arts and the Modern University: The Role and Place of the Core Curriculum - AUB, Lebanon and Beyond***

[May 5, 2016: West Hall (Aud. B), AUB]

The 2016 CVSP forum/state of the field workshop aims to precipitate a broad discussion and assessment of the role and centrality of a liberal arts core curriculum program committed to general education and the advancement of knowledge in the modern university, and at AUB in particular at the cusp of the institution's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

To that end, the workshop aspires to build upon past and present initiatives and experiences to explore with colleagues from institutions in Lebanon and overseas points of intellectual, conceptual, pedagogical and institutional interest, convergence and divergence. These points could ultimately serve as a platform from which to imagine and implement possibilities and proposals for any

future restructuring of the program at AUB, as well as benefitting other institutions that share AUB's interest in enhancing the role of liberal arts education within the broader academic context.

**Panel I: "Liberal Arts, General Education and the Modern University,"** aims broadly to identify and assess the institutional and pedagogical merits of liberal arts education, and the role of a core curriculum within a program of general education at AUB and elsewhere. Concurrently, it aims to put in conversation various models and experiences and surveys their historical inception and course, present commitments and challenges, as well as their future prospects.

**Panel II: "Canon, Civilization, Critical Thought"** involves a more focused conceptual and pedagogical discussion on what it is that a core curriculum does and how, by reflecting on the interconnections between the concepts that frame and organize such programs. Namely, the idea of a canon or great books series, its composition and reproduction across time and space, and its role in generating critical thought through an interdisciplinary textual engagement with a set of salient ideas that shape and are shaped by various intellectual contexts.

**Panel III: "Positionalities: CVSP in and from the Region"** returns to consider more directly the relationship, past and present, between the University and the City – or more broadly, the Region – in order to contextually situate specific intellectual and pedagogical needs, challenges and aspirations of CVSP and similar programs in the region from the vantage point of place and positionality.

**PROGRAM:**

8.30 - *Arrival/Morning coffee*

9.00 - 9.15 **Introductions**

**9.15 - 12.00 -- Panel I: "Liberal Arts, General Education and the Modern University"**

**Moderated by:** Nader El-Bizri - Professor, Director of CVSP, AMPL & Islamic Studies Program, AUB.

**9.15 - 10.15:** Presentation by Patricia Grieve - Professor of Latin American and Iberian Cultures, Chair of the Committee on the Global Core, Columbia University, New York.

*\* Coffee provided in the room*

**10.15 - 12.00:** Round table discussion: "Where We Stand"

**12.00 - 13.00** *Lunch Break*

**13.00 - 15.45 -- Panel II: "Canon, Civilization, Critical Thought"**

**Moderated by:** Eric Goodfield, Assistant Professor, Civilization Studies Program, AUB.

**13.00 - 14.00:** Presentation by Robert Switzer - Associate Professor of Philosophy, Dean of Undergraduate Studies, Director of the Core Curriculum, American University in Cairo.

*\* Coffee provided in the room*

**14.00 - 15.45:** Round table discussion: "What We Do"

**15.45 - 16.00** *Coffee Break*

**16.00 - 18.30 -- Panel III: "Positionalities: CVSP in and from the Region"**

**Moderated by:** Peter Shebay'a, Senior Lecturer, Associate Director, Civilization Studies Program, AUB.

**16.00 - 17.00:** Presentation by Ferial Ghazoul - Professor and Chair of English and Comparative Literature, American University in Cairo.

*\* Coffee provided in the room*

**17.00 - 18.30:** Round table discussion: "Where We Are"