

Humanities

By Laura Siliezar

Step One: Don't get lost. As you set foot on campus, you immediately get an earthy feel emanating from the large trees standing throughout campus. They sway in the wind waving to the incoming students. I'm walking at a fast pace, trying to keep up with our guide. She has been showing us almost everything a normal campus has to offer for students, but suddenly, we come across Humanities, "Hogwarts" is what they call it. I'm amazed by its timeless pretense; yet, it feels like home. We walk up the stairs and I can hear the hollow thumps as the group steps onto the porch. I immediately get a breath of fresh air as I walk through the doors, escaping the blazing summer heat, and into an air-conditioned space. In that moment I know I will be spending most of my time here, in this old looking mansion, overlooking the campus and its students.

Humanities is the ideal spot for studying and socializing. The cottage vibe makes it welcoming to all students as it brings a sense of nostalgia for home. As the only building on campus that looks like a house, you can see why it feels like home. The crisp red window frames and brownish outline



create a neutral ambiance, which is comforting for all. As the flagship of this school, Humanities is home to the honors program, history, the admissions department, CCSJ, philosophy, counseling center, the international students office, financial aid and more. The guided tours are also all arranged through this very building.

Past the main doors, you may have also noticed a bright room to your left. With its clear windows, you might think the room has a professional, presidential look to it and you would not be completely wrong; it may even look familiar. For those acquainted with the show *House of Cards*, you may remember this room from its several appearances on



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"Some beautiful paths can't get discovered without getting lost."

Erol Ozan



camera, replicating the oval office. The building is very aesthetically pleasing but I assure you that, after a few weeks on campus, you will realize what all the fuss is about. Not only because it is a chill spot and famous on a show, but because this old historical landmark "is confusing as hell" (sophomore on campus).

"It's big and twisty," said a student here at Loyola. Aaron, a freshman, claims he spends several hours studying in Humanities along with adventuring inside the building at night. Ironically, this same building that is home to organizing tours to help you familiarize yourself with the rest of campus is also one the most overwhelmingly confusing buildings on campus. A buddy of mine says he takes classes in Humanities regularly and still manages to get lost.

In a sense the Humanities maze is what college students are meant to go through—this trial and error process that helps us shape our lives for the future. The intertwining hallways within Humanities reflect the average student journey here at Loyola. This overwhelming jumble that comes with being a college student may be the rigorous courses a student might take, or balancing academics with a sport. It may be you taking a service-learning class and having to find your way around or trying to decide on a major. College life is confusing and oftentimes hard to find a steady balance during your time here. As college students, our lives may be a maze when dealing with new classes, grades, homesickness, etc. So I challenge you, go take a walk through Humanities and get lost in a nook. The building really makes you think. And can help you to find your way.

Moreover, Humanities' looks aren't always what they seem. This also goes for every other student on campus. If you feel that you are being consumed by your classes, think of Humanities and everyone else who is trying to find their class within the building. Find yourself in the midst of company. And if you still don't believe me, ask any one, I'm pretty sure their response will also be "I'm lost, too. But let me help you." Don't worry about not knowing where you are—just pick a spot in Humanities and enjoy your college experience.

I leave you with your final step, Step two: Graduate.



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