DIVERSE COMMUNITIES REQUIREMENT

Embracing the goal of graduating students who are committed to creating a just and equitable society, diverse communities courses (or “J” courses) focus on historically marginalized groups and are framed by theories that lend understanding to the analysis of structural inequities. They seek to foster an informed and reasoned openness to an understanding of difference. The requirement for a diverse communities course may be fulfilled by any approved course with a “J” designation in the course schedule. Approved diverse communities courses are indicated as such in the catalog course description. A diverse communities course may simultaneously fulfill another degree requirement or distributive requirement in general education if it has the same prefix as those in the science, behavioral and social sciences, humanities, or arts categories within the distributed requirements. (For example, PSC 301 could count as a course within the behavioral and social sciences category.) If a “J” course is used to fulfill one of the distributive area requirements, general education student electives increase from nine to 12 credits as needed to reach 48 general education credits and 120 credits for graduation. At no time can any course substitute within the academic foundations area. A single course may fulfill the “I” and “J” requirements.

NOTE: A diverse communities course may only transfer to WCU if the course from a student’s prior institution has been submitted to and approved by the Diverse Communities Committee of the Curriculum and Academic Policies Council (CAPC). Students must file a petition to transfer this type of course with the Office of the Special Assistant for Academic Policy.

Course List

ANT

ANT 321. American Indian Today. 3 Credits.
Native Americans in contemporary Anglo-America.
Gen Ed Attribute: Diversity Requirement.
Typically offered in Spring.

ANT 347. The Cultures of Cities. 3 Credits.
This seminar introduces students to the cultural dynamics of city life in the era of globalization. Topics of study include globalization, the politics of urban space, informal economies, and immigration.
Gen Ed Attribute: Diversity Requirement.
Typically offered in Spring.

CLS

CLS 165. Introduction to World Literature. 3 Credits.
This course is designed to introduce students to literature representative of both Western and non-Western cultures and can be taken as an alternative to LIT 165. Not open to English majors.
Distance education offering may be available.

CLS 203. African Studies. 3 Credits.
This course studies African culture through literature, anthropology, and history. It focuses on the socio-cultural and historical contexts of African writing through the colonial and postcolonial periods.
Gen Ed Attribute: Diversity Requirement.

CLS 258. Women’s Literature I. 3 Credits.
A survey of world women’s literature from 800 B.C. to 1800. Readings are chosen from the works of Sappho, Aspasia, Diotima, Mutta, Auvaia, Sei Shonan, Sule Sankaya, Murasaki, Hildegarde, von Bingen, Mirabai, Marguerite de Navarre, Phillis Wheatley, Aphra Behn, Madame de Stael, Jane Austen, and Fanny Burney among others.
Gen Ed Attribute: Diversity Requirement.

CLS 259. Women’s Literature II. 3 Credits.
A survey of women’s literature from 1800 to the present. Readings are chosen from the works of Harriet Jacobs, Ida B. Wells, Louisa Alcott, Charlotte Bronte, Jean Rhys, Virginia Woolf, Marguerite Duras, Christa Wolf, Merce Rodoreda, Jamaica Kincaid, Tsitsi Dangarembga, Alifa Rifaat, Louise Erdrich, Cherie Moraga, Maxine Hong Kingston, and Arundati Roy among others.
Gen Ed Attribute: Diversity Requirement.

CLS 260. World Literature I. 3 Credits.
A survey of world literary texts from pre-classical times to 1600.

CLS 333. Latina Writing. 3 Credits.
An examination of the literary works produced by Latinas in the 20th century. The study of this literature will include a cross-cultural approach that will elucidate sociopolitical themes emerging from the texts.
Typically offered in Fall.

COM

COM 250. Intercultural Communication. 3 Credits.
A study of factors that contribute to communication breakdowns between diverse cultures and between fragmented segments within the same society.
Gen Ed Attribute: Diversity Requirement.
Distance education offering may be available.
Typically offered in Fall, Spring & Summer.
Cross listed courses COM 250, MDC 250.

CPL

CPL 120. Leadership Theories for Today’s Society. 3 Credits.
Introduction to the study of leadership theory and practice as it relates to the students’ civic and professional development. The course content places special emphasis on leadership practices and the relationship between leaders and followers inspired by social inequities surrounding issues of race, ethnicity, class, gender and inclusion.
Gen Ed Attribute: Diversity Requirement.
Typically offered in Spring.

CRJ

CRJ 360. Race, Ethnicity and Criminal Justice. 3 Credits.
This course will explore the relationship between race and criminal justice, including the historical background of the role race has played in the system. The impact of race and ethnicity on discretion, sentencing, and disposition will be examined at the adult and juvenile levels. In addition, the causes and remedies of minority overrepresentation in the adult and juvenile criminal justice system will be explored.
Gen Ed Attribute: Diversity Requirement, Writing Emphasis.
Typically offered in Fall, Spring & Summer.

CRJ 434. Experiencing Peru: Examining the Criminal, Social, and Economic Impact of Voices4Peru. 3 Credits.
This course, which includes a 13-day study abroad experience, will provide students with an in-depth comparison of social issues related to crime, education, gender, poverty, and race that prevail in the United States and in South America. This course was designed on the belief that cross cultural comparisons of governmental initiatives and grassroots movements significantly shape the expectations and quality of life for the majority of a nation’s citizens. Course readings will examine criminological theories about race, class, and crime, while the social learning theories and current evidence-based practices will describe how social and cultural factors impact decision-making and problem solving skills.
Consent: Permission of the Department required to add.
Typically offered in Summer.
CSD
CSD 270. Introduction to Augmentative and Alternative Communication. 3 Credits.
The course is designed to introduce undergraduate students to a variety of augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) strategies (e.g., high-technology devices such as speech-generating computers and software programs and low-technology systems such as picture exchange communication) for people with communication disorders. Students will explore the Total Communication approach - an approach to deaf education that includes a number of modes of communication such as signed, oral, auditory, written and visual aids - for interacting with individuals who have complex communication needs.
Gen Ed Attribute: Diversity Requirement.
Distance education offering may be available.
Typically offered in Fall, Spring & Summer.

ECE
ECE 407. Diversity Perspectives in Early Childhood Education. 3 Credits.
This seminar will address the rewards and challenges of teaching in America’s diverse classrooms.
Pre / Co requisites: ECE 407 requires formal admission into teacher education or Early Childhood Minor.
Gen Ed Attribute: Diversity Requirement, Writing Emphasis.

EDA
EDA 230. Inclusive Classroom. 3 Credits.
The purpose of this course is to prepare preservice early childhood, elementary and special education students to teach students with disabilities effectively in general settings. The course will be co-taught by special education and early childhood education faculty.
Gen Ed Attribute: Diversity Requirement.

EDA 341. Inclusion & Reading in the Content Area. 3 Credits.
This course is co-taught by special education faculty and literacy faculty. It will help prepare secondary education and special education majors to effectively teach all students, including those with disabilities, in general education, content-specific settings. Practical guidelines, content literacy strategies, and adaptations will be emphasized to prepare pre-educators to meet the academic, social and affective needs of all students in the inclusive secondary classroom.
Pre / Co requisites: EDA 341 requires prerequisites of EDP 250, and EDF 100 or EDF 300. Honors students take HON 312 in lieu of EDF 300.
Gen Ed Attribute: Diversity Requirement.
Cross listed courses EDA 341, EDR 341.

EDF
EDF 230. Inclusive Classroom. 3 Credits.
The purpose of this course is to prepare preservice early childhood, elementary, and special education students to teach students with disabilities effectively in general education settings. The course will be co-taught by special education, early childhood education, and elementary education faculty.
Gen Ed Attribute: Diversity Requirement.
Typically offered in Fall & Spring.

EDF 352. Self and Group Processes Diverse Classroom. 3 Credits.
Analysis of self processes influencing teacher-student classroom interactions. Role of needs, defenses, motives, emotions, and early learning experiences as they shape the prospective teacher’s responses to elementary children. Application of social learning and interpersonal theory.
Pre / Co requisites: EDE 352 requires prerequisites of EDE 251 and formal admission into teacher education.
Gen Ed Attribute: Diversity Requirement, Writing Emphasis.

EDR
EDR 341. Inclusion and Reading in Content Area. 3 Credits.
This course is co-taught by special education and literacy faculty. It will help prepare secondary education and special education to teach all students effectively, including those with disabilities, in general-education, content-specific settings. Practical guidelines, content literacy strategies and adaptations will be emphasized to prepare pre-educators to meet the academic, social, and affective needs of all students in the inclusive secondary classroom.
Pre / Co requisites: EDR 341 requires prerequisites of EDP 250 and EDF 100 or EDF 300. Honors students take HON 312 in lieu of EDF 300.
Gen Ed Attribute: Diversity Requirement.
Cross listed courses EDA 341, EDR 341.
ESP 335. Latino Literatures in the US. 3 Credits.
This course examines the history of Latino groups (e.g., Mexicans, Cubans, and South Americans) in the U.S. through literary texts written by Latinos, and studies the cultural, economic, and political experiences leading to their acculturation or alienation in mainstream America.
Typically offered in Spring.
Cross listed courses CLS 335, ESP 335.

GEO
GEO 204. Introduction to Urban Studies. 3 Credits.
An examination of the breadth of urban studies from the perspectives of many social science disciplines. Philadelphia is emphasized as an object of perception, as a place of life and livelihood, and as an example of continual change in the urban environment.
Gen Ed Attribute: Diversity Requirement, Interdisciplinary Requirement.
Distance education offering may be available.
Typically offered in Fall & Spring.

GEO 312. Urban Geography. 3 Credits.
Analysis of patterns, processes, and consequences of urban growth and development. Theory of systems, size, spacing, and functions of cities. Students will conduct outside analysis using real data.
Gen Ed Attribute: Diversity Requirement.
Typically offered in Fall, Spring & Summer.

HEA
HEA 109. Health Issues of Women. 3 Credits.
The needs and concerns of women as consumers in our present health care system. Various biological, psychological, and social topics will be discussed.
Gen Ed Attribute: Diversity Requirement.
Typically offered in Fall & Spring.

HEA 110. Transcultural Health: Principles and Practice. 3 Credits.
This course examines the health beliefs and practices of a variety of subcultural groups in the United States. Emphasis is placed on the application of multicultural health beliefs and practices. It utilizes the cross-cultural approach in meeting the health needs of clients and families. It is open to all University students, regardless of major.
Gen Ed Attribute: Diversity Requirement.
Typically offered in Fall, Spring & Summer.

HIS
HIS 349. The Jew in History. 3 Credits.
The course covers the vast expanse of Jewish history going back to 2000 B.C., tracing the story of a people who belong to one of civilization’s major monotheistic religions.
Gen Ed Attribute: Diversity Requirement.
Typically offered in Fall.

HIS 362. Violence in America. 3 Credits.
A study of violence in American society as an instrument of change and a method of social control.
Gen Ed Attribute: Diversity Requirement.

HIS 368. Gay America. 3 Credits.
Encompasses four hundred years of gay and lesbian history, culture, and politics, from colonial settlers and Native American cultures to the present with emphasis on the 20th century.
Gen Ed Attribute: Diversity Requirement.
Typically offered in Summer.

HIS 373. African-American History. 3 Credits.
A survey of African-American history from 15th century West Africa to the present that focuses on the evolution of African-American culture and identity, and the struggle for freedom and racial equality.
Gen Ed Attribute: Diversity Requirement.

HIS 424. World of Communism. 3 Credits.
This course examines the history of communism. It traces the origins and development of Marxist theories of inequality as well as sometimes tragic efforts to put Marxist theory into practice in, among other places, Russia, China, and Cuba. Particular attention is paid to choices and commitments of individual communists. What vision of a new world motivated communists? What solutions to class, gender, and racial inequalities did they propose? Why was their idealism so often twisted into carnage?
Gen Ed Attribute: Diversity Requirement.
Typically offered in Fall.

HIS 451. Women In History. 3 Credits.
American women’s daily routines, social roles, and search for rights and identity since Colonial days. Recent goals, values, and conflicts.
Gen Ed Attribute: Diversity Requirement, Writing Emphasis.
Typically offered in Fall.

HON
HON 312. Educational Systems and Social Influence. 3 Credits.
An introduction to philosophy, history, and sociology of American education. The evolution of the school as an institution in a democratic society; its relationships to issues dealing with race, class, gender and ethnicity; the geographical implications the school has for the community and vice versa; the degree to which school should and/or can serve as agents for social change.
Gen Ed Attribute: Diversity Requirement.
Typically offered in Fall.

HON 322. Developing Leadership with ELLs in the Classroom & Community. 3 Credits.
The study of issues, leadership challenges and strategies for the effective teaching of English Language Learners (ELLs) in Pre-K-12 classrooms and for effective communicating with ELLs in the community.
Gen Ed Attribute: Diversity Requirement.
Typically offered in Fall.

KIN
KIN 254. Disability Studies: An Interdisciplinary Introduction. 3 Credits.
A study of the psychological and social implications of physical disabilities.
Distance education offering may be available.
Typically offered in Fall & Spring.

LAN
LAN 382. Teaching English Language Learners PK-12. 3 Credits.
A study of issues and the application of techniques, strategies, and materials for meeting the needs of English Language Learners (ELLs) in inclusive classrooms. Emphases include: sociocultural issues in educational contexts, TESOL through the content areas, linguistics, second language acquisition, the integration and applications of the PA English Language Proficiency Standards PK-12 (ELPS) and current trends in second language teaching, learning and assessment. Includes a field component.
Gen Ed Attribute: Diversity Requirement.
Typically offered in Fall & Spring.
Cross listed courses LAN 382, ENG 382.

LIN
LIN 211. Language Communities in the US and Canada. 3 Credits.
Exploration and analysis of how aspects of language usage (dialect, “accent,” bilingualism) relate to language-based discrimination in the U.S. and Canada generally. Emphasis is on bias, discrimination, and profiling based on race, class, gender, religious affiliation, and ethnicity. Examples will be drawn from mainstream media, including popular film and television.
Gen Ed Attribute: Diversity Requirement.
Typically offered in Fall & Spring.
LIT
LIT 213. Asian American Literature. 3 Credits.
Survey of representative Asian American authors from their earliest works at the turn of the twentieth century to contemporary works, examined in the context of the changing cultural, economic, and political experiences of Americans of Asian descent.
Gen Ed Attribute: Diversity Requirement, Writing Emphasis.

LIT 303. Intro to Multi-Ethnic American Literature. 3 Credits.
American ethnic, racial, and national groups in American literature and the contributions of creative literary artists representing these cultures.
Gen Ed Attribute: Diversity Requirement, Writing Emphasis.

MDC
MDC 250. Intercultural Communication. 3 Credits.
A study of factors that contribute to communication breakdowns between diverse cultures and between fragmented segments within the same society.
Gen Ed Attribute: Diversity Requirement.
Distance education offering may be available.
Typically offered in Fall & Spring.
Cross listed courses COM 250, MDC 250.

MHL
MHL 125. Perspectives in Jazz. 3 Credits.
Guided listening to improve understanding and enjoyment of jazz with emphasis on jazz heritages, chronological development, and sociological considerations, culminating in an analysis of the eclectic styles of the 1960s and 1970s. Not open to music majors.
Gen Ed Attribute: Arts Distributive Requirement, Diversity Requirement.
Typically offered in Fall & Spring.

MUE
MUE 332. Music Methods and Materials II. 3 Credits.
The study of music and the learning process at the secondary level to include technology, listening skills, multicultural diversity, general music programs, and administrative skills.
Pre / Co requisites: MUE 332 requires prerequisites of MUE 331 and formal admission into teacher education. Current Act 34, Act 114, Act 151 Clearances and TB test valid for semester.
Gen Ed Attribute: Diversity Requirement, Writing Emphasis.

NSG
NSG 109. Health Issues of Women. 3 Credits.
This course encompasses the needs and concerns of women as consumers in our present health care system. It examines various biological, psychological, and social topics related to women’s health care, including medical abuses, sexuality, sex roles, and women’s health in the workplace. This course is an enrichment to liberal education, encouraging inquiry into previously neglected areas of women and health. It is offered in the Women’s Studies Program and is open to all University students, regardless of major, as an elective.
Gen Ed Attribute: Diversity Requirement.
Distance education offering may be available.

NSG 234. Current Trends in LGBTQ Health. 3 Credits.
This course will expose students to historical, current, and emerging health issues experienced by the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer/questioning, and asexual (LGBTQA) communities. This course is rooted in the minority stress approach to health promotion problems amongst the sexual minorities. Introduction to health promotion activities, advocacy, prevention, and community health resources are emphasized. This course is open to all majors.
Gen Ed Attribute: Diversity Requirement.
Typically offered in Spring.

NTD
NTD 200. Nutrition and Culture. 3 Credits.
Students will increase awareness of the connection between health outcomes, diet and nutrition, and socio-cultural influences. Course studies will lay a foundation for understanding why people eat the foods that they do. A bio-cultural framework is applied to examine how individual dietary habits, choices, and nutritional health outcomes are influenced by social structure, historic patterns and events, and cultural beliefs and ideology. Students explore food ways, food scripts, health beliefs and practices, demographic characteristics, and population health across diverse communities within the United States. The course also employs a critical analysis of macro-structural inequalities, societal stresses, and cultural norms that alter access and availability to healthy foods and disparately undermine the nutritional health of some populations.
Gen Ed Attribute: Diversity Requirement.
Distance education offering may be available.
Typically offered in Fall, Spring & Summer.

PHI
PHI 130. Religion in the United States. 3 Credits.
This course will explore the rich diversity of religions in the United States and the impact of religion on our culture.
Gen Ed Attribute: Diversity Requirement.
Typically offered in Fall & Spring.

PHI 180. Introduction to Ethics. 3 Credits.
Introduction to major theories and contemporary work in moral philosophy. Offers tools for ethical decision making in our daily lives with emphasis on the influence of culture, power, privilege.
Gen Ed Attribute: Diversity Requirement, Humanities Distributive Requirement.
Typically offered in Fall, Spring & Summer.

PHI 280. Philosophy and Film. 3 Credits.
This course helps students understand and discuss philosophy, film, and how the two disciplines intersect. Students’ critical thinking skills will improve as they use film theory and terminology to decipher key philosophical texts, and vice versa.
Gen Ed Attribute: Diversity Requirement, Humanities Distributive Requirement.
Typically offered in Spring.

PHI 373. Business Ethics. 3 Credits.
The study of philosophical concepts and ethical criteria as applied to business practices. Through case studies and scholarly contributions, the course will cover issues such as the ethical nature of the free market system, foreign outsourcing, issues around environmental impact of business, consumer rights, worker rights and job discrimination, and more.
Gen Ed Attribute: Diversity Requirement.
Typically offered in Fall.

PHI 390. Women and Religion. 3 Credits.
An exploration of how the beliefs and practices of major world religions have both hampered and enhanced women’s lives. Particular attention will be paid to often marginalized voices of women from within these traditions.
Gen Ed Attribute: Diversity Requirement.
Typically offered in Spring.

PSC
PSC 101. Politics of Diversity in the U.S.. 3 Credits.
Uses the issues of our time as vehicles to an understanding of the political process. Emphasis is on American politics but in a world-wide perspective. Topics considered may include economic, race, gender, and civil liberty issues among others.
Gen Ed Attribute: Behavioral and Social Science Distributive, Diversity Requirement.
Distance education offering may be available.
Typically offered in Fall, Spring & Summer.

PSC 301. Women and Politics. 3 Credits.
The role of women in politics is surveyed. Considerations include the relationship between the sexes as it impacts politics.
Gen Ed Attribute: Diversity Requirement.

PSC 323. Racial/Ethnic Politics. 3 Credits.
This course examines the relationship between racial and ethnic groups’ political behavior and the American political system’s response to them in terms of its public policies.
Gen Ed Attribute: Diversity Requirement.
PSC 340. Latin American Culture and Politics. 3 Credits.
This course invites students to conduct comparative analysis of political cultures, parties, and decision-making, ideologies and political processes across the Latin American region. Students will learn how to explain the complexities of race, class and gender in Latin American social structures, relating historical, economic and cultural legacies to analysis on contemporary issues.
Distance education offering may be available.
Typically offered in Fall, Spring & Summer.

PSC 348. African Politics and Society. 3 Credits.
The course explores African politics, economics, and society through the critical lens of structuralist analysis. A strong focus on the historical and colonial framework's impact on current African developments will be emphasized. Case studies, political analysis, and current events will be used to illustrate the common misperceptions of Africa today.
Gen Ed Attribute: Diversity Requirement.

WOS 335. Gender, Race and Science. 3 Credits.
This course explores the role of gender and race in the formation of science.
Gen Ed Attribute: Diversity Requirement, Writing Emphasis.

WOS 351. Human Behavior and the Social Environment II. 3 Credits.
This course examines the life cycle from middle adulthood through older adulthood and death and dying with an emphasis on mezzo and macro theories of human behavior from a strengths and ecological systems perspective.
Gen Ed Attribute: Diversity Requirement, Writing Emphasis.

THA 250. Race and Gender in American Theatre. 3 Credits.
This course will focus on how some traditionally marginalized groups have been examined and portrayed in American theatre.
Gen Ed Attribute: Diversity Requirement.

WOS 100. Body Politics: Gender, Culture, and Representation. 3 Credits.
This course examines the body as a contested site of both pleasure and oppression. Considerable focus will be placed on the impact of culture on our understandings of the body, including ideas about gender, race, and sexuality. Students of all genders will be encouraged to explore how their own body image has been shaped by social norms that are simultaneously accepted and resisted. This course thereby provides an opportunity to question a variety of norms surrounding the body, including ideas about beauty, size, shape and ability.
Gen Ed Attribute: Diversity Requirement.
Typically offered in Fall.

WOS 225. Intro to Women's and Gender Studies. 3 Credits.
An interdisciplinary course designed to enable students to analyze the lived experience of women, to evaluate the impact of gender, to question the implications of changing cultural patterns, and to sample first-hand efforts for social change. Satisfies interdisciplinary requirement. Offered every semester.
Typically offered in Fall, Spring & Summer.

WOS 250. Women's Self Representation. 3 Credits.
An interdisciplinary approach to ways women record their lives.
Distance education offering may be available.
Typically offered in Fall, Spring & Summer.

WOS 305. Intellectual Roots of Western Feminism. 3 Credits.
The course examines the major issues and themes that have historically been included in feminist theorizing about women's situation and experiences, including: ethical foundations, the origins of patriarchy, feminist epistemology, education, body issues, issues of difference, religion, civil rights, and psychological development. Chronologically, the course covers from the enlightenment (Mary Wollstonecraft's A Vindication of the Rights of Women) through Simone de Beauvoir's The Second Sex.
Gen Ed Attribute: Diversity Requirement.

WOS 310. Women and Activism. 3 Credits.
Although often misrepresented or ignored, women were and continue to be active in a wide range of social justice movements. This course focuses specifically upon women activists in the United States and their resistance to structural inequalities based upon gender. In addition to social justice movements focused on sexism, this course uses intersectional theory to recognize the feminist value of women who work against racial, economic, sexual, and other oppressions.
Pre / Co requisites: WOS 310 requires a prerequisite of WOS 225 or WOS 250.
Gen Ed Attribute: Diversity Requirement, Writing Emphasis.
Distance education offering may be available.
Typically offered in Fall.

WOS 315. Women of the Global South. 3 Credits.
This course will examine the nature of women's lives in the global South, focusing on topics such as family, education, health, development policies, and political change. Geographic areas studied include Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Middle East.
Gen Ed Attribute: Diversity Requirement, Interdisciplinary Requirement.
Typically offered in Fall.

WOS 335. Gender, Race and Science. 3 Credits.
A course on the role of gender and race in the formation of science.
Gen Ed Attribute: Diversity Requirement, Interdisciplinary Requirement.
Typically offered in Fall & Spring.
WRH

WRH 210. Multicultural Writing. 3 Credits.
This course focuses on understanding the role that writing plays in shaping a multicultural society. Assignments will ask students to write for diverse social contexts and will help students expand their repertoire of genres and writing strategies.
Gen Ed Attribute: Diversity Requirement, Writing Emphasis.

WRH 301. The Rhetorics of Black Americans. 3 Credits.
This course views the language of Black America as a form of cultural expression and means of resistance to oppression in the U.S. Using historical and thematic frames, students will relate their understandings of Black linguistic and rhetorical practices to Black folks' experiences and struggles for improved social, political, and material realities.
Gen Ed Attribute: Diversity Requirement, Writing Emphasis.
Typically offered in Fall & Spring.