

APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL OF COURSE TO FULFILL
COMPETENCY REQUIREMENT

Name_____

Department/Program_____

Date_____

Course title and College Catalogue number_____

Please check competency to be examined:

Multicultural _____

Ethics/Philosophy _____

Advanced writing _____

Research paper _____

In one or two paragraphs please describe how you believe this course fulfills the particular competency or competencies you wish to address. Note the standards provided with this form.

Please attach a copy of the course guide/syllabus under consideration.

Perspectives: Aspects of learning which develop students' understanding of knowledge essential for the well educated person.

HUMANITIES PERSPECTIVE

Requires studying courses in the humanities, sociology, history, or literature; strongly emphasizes reading and analyzing academic, philosophical, and/or literary texts from classical and modern sources. Discussion must center on human values, including philosophical inquiry into morals and ethics, religion, life choices, the fine arts and the performing arts, as well as the influence of politics and society on these values. Consideration should also be given to the historical forces in Western and world-wide cultures that shaped the development of these human values and conflicting value systems.

Focuses on active student participation in class discussions, attending art and music events on their own or as a group, and writing essays based on assigned readings, to demonstrate knowledge, awareness of others' opinions, critical thinking, and logical presentations of their reflections.

An “**H**” course requires three or more two-page essays and a major paper in one of the following categories: a 5-10 page research paper on a relevant topic; a 10-20 page heavily illustrated photomontage with appropriate write-ups on some topic from the visual or performing arts; or a 10-minute student performance of a dramatic or musical piece, accompanied with a 5-10 page journal of the creation, preparation, and rehearsals for the piece.

GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

Requires study in history, politics, or literature examining historical events and social, cultural, and political forces that shape societies and individuals. Strong emphasis on cause-and-effect relationships of the past and present in national and world politics and economics. Requires study of sufficient factual information to provide a chronology of significant persons, events, and trends in the periods covered in the course. Requires examination of the individual's relationship to history and politics.

Focuses on active participation in class discussions and simulations; emphasizes observation of political and economic trends; provides out-of-classroom course-pertinent activities such as working for a candidate, attending town council meetings, writing appropriate letters to the editor of local newspapers, or visiting museums to observe objects relevant to a historical or political period. Requires essays based on assigned readings, in which students demonstrate knowledge, awareness of others' opinions, critical thinking, and logical presentations of their reflections.

A “**G**” course requires three or more two-page essays and a major paper in one of the following categories: a 5-10 page research paper on a relevant topic; a 10-20 page journal record and analysis of experience in out-of-class course-related activity; or an oral history project with notes and a final write-up of 10-20 pages on a topic relative to the course.

SOCIAL/CULTURAL PERSPECTIVE

Requires studies in sociology, psychology, anthropology or multiculturalism. Demands active participation in class discussions regarding social, cultural and cross-cultural norms and sanctions. Includes activities such as attending films, lectures or dramatic presentations of social and/or cultural issues to help understand and analyze the importance of human behavior and cultural forces on society.

Focuses on the impact of these forces as they affect human behavior and mental processes. Emphasis is on analysis of social, political, economic, cultural and cross-cultural factors and their impact upon the individual and society.

An “S” course requires three or more two-page essays and a major paper in one of the following categories: a 5-10 page research paper on a relevant topic; or a 10-15 page journal record and analysis of experience in out-of-class course-related activity.

COMMUNICATIONS PERSPECTIVE

Requires extensive student preparation and practice in building the skills needed for written, oral or technological modes of communication. Provides built-in application opportunities for students to demonstrate communication competency; at least 75% of the course encompasses direct communication objectives.

Focuses on developing student skills in written and oral presentation of materials/assignments including relating to the listening or reading “audience” and gaining proficiency in using various models of self-expression and rhetoric. Standards in grammatical English, clarity and appropriateness of style will be maintained.

Technological communication courses focus on developing proficiency in computer skills needed for functioning in today’s academic, business and social arenas.

A “C” course in written communications or public speaking arenas will require written drafts of assigned papers, multiple revisions of papers, and extensive research and organization of materials prepared for all required oral or written assignments. Keeping current on latest developments in the electronics communication fields is a goal of the computer technology courses.

ANALYTICAL PERSPECTIVE

Requires study of methods of critical thinking including the scientific method, inductive and deductive reasoning, comparative analyses, and the application of statistical techniques, mathematical processes and general paradigms of logical thinking.

Focuses on developing ability to analyze and synthesize data, use quantitative methods to solve problems and draw inferences, recognize sources of errors, prejudices or stereotypes and apply evidence for valid argumentation; provides opportunity to question, hypothesize, collect data, plan solution strategies, experiment, analyze and conclude.

An “A” course requires students to solve qualitative and/or quantitative problems, recognize unsupported assertions, question invalid assumptions, detect incomplete evidence; an “A” course requires students to take given information and break it down into its component parts, identify relevancies to problem solving, implement plans for solution and assess soundness of conclusions.

Competencies: Skills necessary to deal effectively with academic and intellectual endeavors.

Writing Competency (Only courses at the 200 level or higher may meet the writing competency)

Requires course to focus assignments on writing based on the reading, interpretation, and discussion of academic and literary texts from personal, literary, scientific, and technological sources (e.g. Internet and electronic media sources). Course emphasizes questions and responses that stimulate thought, relate the material to broader global issues, and necessitate critical interpretation. “W” courses demonstrate how reading and writing in standardized English assist in enriching our lives and include vigorous review of grammar, mechanics, paragraphing, essay structure, and development of stylistic strategies and techniques, often utilizing group/collegial critiques.

“W” courses must meet or exceed the following: assignment of 3 or more 5-paragraph essays and 1 semester-long writing project, including a research paper consisting of a minimum of 5 pages. These writing assignments count for at least 40% of the course grade. Alternatively, “W” courses might include students’ participation in writing workshops, culminating in a completed manuscript or, at minimum, 40 pages of scholarly material.

MULTICULTURALISM – mc

A course to provide students with opportunities to gain a better understanding of their own culture while forming or increasing awareness and sensitivity to others’ cultures. Through a variety of delivery strategies and effective communication strategies, the multicultural course

demonstrates the contribution of each studied culture from a societal standpoint and concentrates on the similarities of each culture while respecting and embracing differences.

Focus is on developing student skills to recognize and shape, if necessary, a preconditioned attitude or pattern of behavior into new actions and responses that encourage cooperation and harmony in professional, sociological, clinical, national, and global spheres.

ETHICS/PHILOSOPHY – e/p

A course to provide students with the substantial opportunity to examine the bases for ethical conduct, ethical standards in the real world of daily human dealings, and the relationship of ethics and morals; to weigh a variety of philosophical answers to questions such as the purpose of human existence, freedom versus determinism, and the nature of aesthetics; and finally to develop logical and critical thinking skills in analyzing and evaluating arguments in ethics and philosophy.

RESEARCH – r

Course must require students to produce a research paper. Upper level courses only.

Research must reflect an in-depth study of a problem, topic or issue in an advanced academic or program discipline. The purpose of the research paper is to require students to become immersed in a topic, experienced in organization and presentation of significant information and facile at handling sources in a given field of study or practice. This is to be a scholarly assignment requiring use of primary sources; research paper must consist of at least twenty pages of solid text with ample documentation of sources and use of citations. Complete list of sources must be provided. Organization and grammar must reflect a scholarly level of writing competence. The research paper is to represent at least 40% of the grade for the course.

(Under consideration)

*Students may opt for taking a form of a course which is not designated with a “W” but can offer an alternative form of the course calling for the stringent writing requirements as described in the “W” competency. (e.g. A course like PSY 300 would appear on the transcript as PSY 300A)