

Guiding Principles for CLAS General Education Areas

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A: ARTS

Courses that satisfy the requirements of Area A (Arts) engage students in the exploration of visual arts, multimedia arts, the dramatic arts, music, and/or analytical and creative forms of writing. Moreover, these courses engage students in one or more of the following:

- Investigation of the conventions and aesthetics of a particular art form.
- Inquiries into aesthetic theory.
- Analysis of the historical and social significance of one or more art form.
- Analysis of the role that art plays in the formation, expression, and revision of human culture.
- Comparative analysis of cultures through their modes of artistic expression.
- Investigation of an art form through creative and practical engagement with that form (i.e. making art).

B: LITERATURE

Courses that satisfy the requirements of Area B (Literature) 1) explore written texts or their dramatic performances in live theater, film, or video with respect to their aesthetic, philosophical or rhetorical qualities, 2) study historical, critical, and theoretical approaches to such texts, or 3) analyze texts of any description to illuminate the ways in which they produce meaning.

C: HISTORY

Courses that satisfy the requirements of Area C (History) aim to understand and reconstruct the human past with an emphasis on change over time through consideration of pertinent evidence, methods of documentation, interpretation, and explication.

D: PHILOSOPHICAL/ETHICAL ANALYSIS

Courses that satisfy the requirements of Area D (Philosophical/Ethical Analysis) introduce students to reasoning about fundamental questions of human existence and to critical reflection on the evidence for our most basic convictions. The skills to be cultivated include analyzing and evaluating arguments in defense of various positions. Such analysis is used to explore questions in one or both of the following broad categories: 1) the nature of reality together with the nature and extent of our capacity to represent and know about reality, and 2) which values and principles we ought to embrace in our lives, institutions, and communities.

E. WORLD CULTURES

Courses that satisfy the requirements of Area E (World Cultures) have two key components: 1) they examine one or more of the following: ethnic or cultural identity, cultural heritage and custom, the arts and other cultural expressions, cultural history, and cultural patterns and ways of

life; and 2) while they may focus on individual ethnic, cultural, or national groups or particular cultural domains (e.g., film, literature, specific domains of social life), they do so in the context of a cross-group comparative and/or an historic/developmental perspective intended to convey global understandings.