

GE World Cultures -Course Approval Description

1. Regulations

The U.C. Davis Requirements for Higher Degrees, Regulation 522, sets forth the Baccalaureate Degree Requirement in General Education. Civic and Cultural Literacy, a component of Core Literacies (522-C), is subdivided into requirements for courses in American Cultures, Governance and History as well as in World Cultures (522-C-2). Regulation 523 sets forth the Criteria for General Education Certification of courses, stating “A course in World Cultures combines the historical and social context, and core analytic skills, necessary to understand, and adopt a critical perspective on, social relations and/or cultural practices in one or more cultures outside of the United States” (523-C-5).

II. Interpretation: Core Literacy in World Cultures (at least 3 units)

The objective of the GE Core literacy requirement in World Cultures is to train graduates to develop a global perspective, graduates who can live productively and exercise critical judgments in a world where communication technologies, economic relationships, and the flow of people across national borders increasingly challenge national identities and create transnational cultures.

Courses that fulfill this core literacy requirement in world cultures aim to provide students with the necessary interpretive and analytic skills to understand and critically negotiate the demands of an increasingly globalized world. Intensified interconnectedness translates into everyday experiences that require students to understand, assess, and exercise critical judgment about multiple frameworks irrespective of their specific cultural location. Transnational relations have reshaped the national from within.

For the pedagogic objectives of the GE core literacy in world cultures, culture is understood in two ways: culture in the anthropological sense as the practices, ideas and values of a particular society; and culture that comprises the diverse cultural practices and modes of cultural production in the arts (writing, visual arts, music, theater, dance, film, digital media) in relation to their socio-cultural context.

Courses that fulfill the GE Core Literacy requirement in World Cultures will include the following three components:

- (1) An exposition of social relations and/or cultural production in one or more society outside the United States;
- (2) Understanding of the social relations and/or cultural production in a historical framework;
- (3) Teaching of the critical and comparative skills necessary for students to be able to analyze and assess the patterns of social relations and/or cultural production in relation to corresponding paradigms in other societies.

Education Abroad Program courses may be used to satisfy the GE World Cultures Literacy requirement if they meet these criteria.

III. Guiding Questions for courses fulfilling GE Core Literacy in World Cultures

1. Relevance: How does this course address social relations and/or cultural practices in one or more society outside the United States?
2. Specific Content: Which specific aspects of social relations and/or cultural practices does the course address?
3. Approach: How does the class provide an opportunity to think critically, analytically and comparatively about what it means to learn interpretive skills and multiple literacies commensurate with the demands of a global world?
4. Assessment: How will the class assess whether these goals have been achieved in the students' academic performance (i.e., sample test questions, paper topics, etc)?