

## General Education Category Outcomes and Syllabi Statements

Please use these statements and outcomes for the appropriate category(ies) in your course syllabi.

### Rhetoric and Writing: Course I

This course is certified as a General Education course fulfilling the **Rhetoric and Writing I Category**. Please consult with your advisor and check the specific requirements for your major to determine if this course is a good fit for your plan of study.

Upon completion of the required credit hours in this course and receipt of a grade of C or better, students will be able to:

- Read and understand multiple genres and texts.
- Use academic writing strategies with an emphasis on developing ideas, formulating a thesis, constructing an argument, and adjusting organization and details to meet audience needs.
- Use revision strategies to clarify and improve a writing project's purpose, thesis, organization, use of supporting details, use of source material, and audience appropriateness.
- Work effectively in peer groups to give and receive feedback on emerging drafts.
- Use at least one multi-subject database to find relevant research and effectively incorporate material from their research into formal assignments.
- Apply basic citation principles in at least one style (such as MLA or APA).
- Complete formal writing projects using appropriate grammar, mechanics, formatting, and tone.

### Rhetoric and Writing: Course II

This course is certified as a General Education course fulfilling the **Rhetoric and Writing II Category**. Please consult with your advisor and check the specific requirements for your major to determine if this course is a good fit for your plan of study.

Upon completion of the required credit hours in this course and receipt of a grade of C or better, students will be able to:

- Develop effective arguments for multiple audiences using appropriate rhetorical strategies and various types of evidence.
- Develop a focused research question and identify research strategies for finding appropriate primary and secondary sources.
- Understand and use several multi-subject databases to locate sources; evaluate sources for reliability and persuasive potential; understand and use other research methods where appropriate.
- Effectively and ethically incorporate the words and ideas of others into their own original writing.
- Confidently use at least one common citation method, (such as MLA or APA).
- Successfully complete several formal writing projects, including research-driven arguments, using appropriate grammar, mechanics, formatting, and tone.

## **The Fine Arts and Humanities: Historical Understanding Category**

This course is certified as a General Education course fulfilling the **Fine Arts and Humanities: Historical Understanding Category**. Please consult with your advisor and check the specific requirements for your major to determine if this course is a good fit for your plan of study.

Upon completion of the required credit hours in this category, students will be able to:

- Describe the forms and limits of knowledge in the arts and the humanities.
- Identify the relationships among ideas, text, and artistic works and their cultural and historical contexts.
- Recognize and evaluate competing interpretations of texts broadly defined.
- Compare the differences and commonalities among the various disciplines in the Fine Arts and Humanities.
- Apply the techniques of interpretation and analysis characteristic of disciplines in the Fine Arts and Humanities to explore significant issues, texts, and artistic works.
- Communicate the results of their inquiries and analyses in writing.

### **Historical Understanding Subcategory Outcomes:**

Upon completion of the required credit hours in this subcategory, students will be able to:

- Explain concepts such as cause and effect, change over time, context, and contingency.
- Explain the varieties of historical evidence and assess their strengths and limitations.
- Analyze and interpret primary and secondary source material, distinguish between them, and place them in context.
- Evaluate multiple perspectives that emerge from differing narratives and sources.
- Follow and construct logical and coherent historical arguments.
- Articulate the relationship between the past and the present.

## **The Fine Arts and Humanities: Literature Category**

This course is certified as a General Education course fulfilling the **Fine Arts and Humanities: Literature Category**. Please consult with your advisor and check the specific requirements for your major to determine if this course is a good fit for your plan of study.

Upon completion of the required credit hours in this category, students will be able to:

- Describe the forms and limits of knowledge in the arts and the humanities.
- Identify the relationships among ideas, text, and artistic works and their cultural and historical contexts.
- Recognize and evaluate competing interpretations of texts broadly defined.
- Compare the differences and commonalities among the various disciplines in the Fine Arts and Humanities.
- Apply the techniques of interpretation and analysis characteristic of disciplines in the Fine Arts and Humanities to explore significant issues, texts, and artistic works.

- Communicate the results of their inquiries and analyses in writing.

### **Literature Subcategory Outcomes:**

Upon completion of the required credit hours in this subcategory, students will be able to:

- Recognize and analyze figurative language.
- Identify and discuss multiple levels of meaning.
- Construct theses and logical arguments related to the meaning or contexts of texts.
- Arbitrate competing interpretations.
- Articulate differences in genre (e.g. fiction, poetry, drama, etc.) and sub-genre (e.g. short story, essay, epic, sonnet, etc.).
- Address the influence of cultural and historical contexts on literary texts.
- Read and comprehend college-level literature.

## **The Fine Arts and Humanities: Thought, Values & Beliefs Category**

This course is certified as a General Education course fulfilling the **Fine Arts and Humanities: Thought, Values & Beliefs Category**. Please consult with your advisor and check the specific requirements for your major to determine if this course is a good fit for your plan of study.

Upon completion of the required credit hours in this category, students will be able to:

- Describe the forms and limits of knowledge in the arts and the humanities.
- Identify the relationships among ideas, text, and artistic works and their cultural and historical contexts.
- Recognize and evaluate competing interpretations of texts broadly defined.
- Compare the differences and commonalities among the various disciplines in the Fine Arts and Humanities.
- Apply the techniques of interpretation and analysis characteristic of disciplines in the Fine Arts and Humanities to explore significant issues, texts, and artistic works.
- Communicate the results of their inquiries and analyses in writing.

### **Thought, Values & Beliefs Subcategory Outcomes:**

Upon completion of the required credit hours in this subcategory, students will be able to:

- Identify the key components of at least one body of thought.
- Explain and analyze a body of thought.
- Apply the unique perspective of the body of thought to a specific problem or question.
- Effectively articulate in writing their individual perspective in relation to the body of thought.

## **The Fine Arts and Humanities: Visual and Performing Arts Category**

This course is certified as a General Education course fulfilling the **Fine Arts and Humanities: Visual and Performing Arts Category**. Please consult with your advisor and check the specific requirements for your major to determine if this course is a good fit for your plan of study.

Upon completion of the required credit hours in this category, students will be able to:

- Describe the forms and limits of knowledge in the arts and the humanities.
- Identify the relationships among ideas, text, and artistic works and their cultural and historical contexts.
- Recognize and evaluate competing interpretations of texts broadly defined.
- Compare the differences and commonalities among the various disciplines in the Fine Arts and Humanities.
- Apply the techniques of interpretation and analysis characteristic of disciplines in the Fine Arts and Humanities to explore significant issues, texts, and artistic works.
- Communicate the results of their inquiries and analyses in writing.

### **Visual and Performing Arts Subcategory Outcomes:**

Upon completion of the required credit hours in this subcategory, students will be able to:

- Describe, interpret, and analyze creative modes of expression.
- Offer multiple solutions to specific creative problems.
- Form and defend judgments about creative modes of expression.
- Compare ideas, issues, or themes in human civilizations' achievements.

### **Non-Western Culture Category**

This course is certified as a General Education course fulfilling the **Non-Western Culture Category**. Please consult with your advisor and check the specific requirements for your major to determine if this course is a good fit for your plan of study.

Upon completion of the required credit hours in this subcategory, students will be able to:

- Identify and analyze knowledge, artifacts, or practices of at least one non-Western\* culture.
- Recognize and articulate the complexities of human differences within the culture or cultures under examination.
- Draw comparisons between the culture or cultures under examination and Western\* traditions or practices.
- \*For the purposes of this document, “Western” is defined as an ideological, not a geographic, construct referring to peoples whose traditions trace their origins predominantly to European or American cultural heritages, recognizing that virtually no culture can be said to be “purely” Western or non-Western.
- Among the clearest examples of Western cultures as defined above would be the nations and non-indigenous cultures of the continents of North America, Europe, and Australia. Likewise the clearest examples of “non-Western” cultures would be the nations and cultures of Asia and Africa and the indigenous cultures of North and South American and Australia. We recognize that there are some gray areas, such as the cultures of South and Central America or countries like Israel or even Russia, which are sometimes characterized as “Western” and sometimes not. Departments seeking certification for courses dealing with such nations or cultures should explain their rationale for labeling their course “non-Western.”

## **The Natural Sciences Category (No Lab)**

This course is certified as a General Education course fulfilling the **The Natural Sciences Category (No Lab)**. Please consult with your advisor and check the specific requirements for your major to determine if this course is a good fit for your plan of study.

Upon completion of the required credit hours in this category, students will be able to:

- Explain intellectual foundations, conceptual approaches, and methodologies of the natural sciences.
- Understand and explain scientific terminology.
- Discuss historical, social and political issues related to scientific data and advances.
- Construct graphic and analytical models from a description of a specific natural phenomenon.
- Formulate a hypothesis based on empirical data.
- Apply the scientific method to solve problems.
- Design experiments to test hypotheses.
- Express conclusions and implications from scientific experiments using a variety of methods.

## **The Natural Sciences (with Lab) Category**

This course is certified as a General Education course fulfilling the **The Natural Sciences with Lab Category**. Please consult with your advisor and check the specific requirements for your major to determine if this course is a good fit for your plan of study.

Upon completion of the required credit hours in this category, students will be able to:

- Explain intellectual foundations, conceptual approaches, and methodologies of the natural sciences.
- Understand and explain scientific terminology.
- Discuss historical, social and political issues related to scientific data and advances.
- Construct graphic and analytical models from a description of a specific natural phenomenon.
- Formulate a hypothesis based on empirical data.
- Apply the scientific method to solve problems.
- Design experiments to test hypotheses.
- Express conclusions and implications from scientific experiments using a variety of methods.
- Experience the methods and technology of scientific inquiry.
- Demonstrate significant concepts of the discipline.
- Use scientific technology to gather and interpret data.
- Practice the development of independent thought.

## **Behavioral and Social Science Category**

This course is certified as a General Education course fulfilling the **Behavioral and Social Science Category**. Please consult with your advisor and check the specific requirements for your major to determine if this course is a good fit for your plan of study.

Upon completion of the required credit hours in this category, students will be able to:

- Use and communicate evidence and theory to examine individual, social and or cultural phenomena.
- Explain the strengths and limitations of behavioral or social science methods in predicting human behavior.
- Describe and explain social or behavioral phenomena by applying a discipline's concepts and/or theories.
- Engage in reasoning using qualitative or quantitative social science or behavioral science tools and information.
- Analyze empirical observations in relation to discipline-appropriate theoretical constructs.

## Mathematics Category

This course is certified as a General Education course fulfilling the **Mathematics Category**. Please consult with your advisor and check the specific requirements for your major to determine if this course is a good fit for your plan of study.

Upon completion of the required credit hours in this category, students will be able to:

- Explain key mathematical concepts or prove mathematical statements.
- Describe both the strengths and limitations of mathematics in addressing human problems.
- Use a variety of appropriate mathematical concepts, skills, tools, and methods to solve quantitative problems that arise in students' personal and professional lives.
- Analyze and resolve real-world and abstract quantitative situations that require critical thinking, logical reasoning, and the ability to identify assumptions and separate relevant from irrelevant information.
- Communicate, interpret, and justify results with clarity and coherence.

## Statistics Category

This course is certified as a General Education course fulfilling the **Statistics Category**. Please consult with your advisor and check the specific requirements for your major to determine if this course is a good fit for your plan of study.

Upon completion of the required credit hours in this category, students will be able to:

- Apply conceptual understandings of basic statistical principles to real-world situations.
- Use statistical thinking.
- Explain statistical concepts and interpret statistical results using appropriate statistical vocabulary.
- Apply techniques of descriptive and inferential statistics and basic probability principles to real data.
- Recognize the strengths and limitations of statistics in addressing human problems and conduct investigations of statistically accessible problems.
- Use software packages for data analysis and statistical understanding.