

GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

The General Education Committee is currently reviewing the General Education and Additional College Requirements. This outlines current criteria and objectives for 2015-2016.

SPECIFIC DEFINING CRITERIA FOR FACULTY APPLICATIONS FOR GENERAL EDUCATION DESIGNATION OF COURSES

The following criteria are the principal guide used to approve courses for the General Education Program. The course proposal application requires faculty to demonstrate, point by point, how a course meets each of the following criteria. You will also be asked to demonstrate how you propose to assess student learning of the SUNY learning outcomes through your course. Departments and faculty members interested in applying for a General Education designator must complete the application and submit all requested materials as outlined on the form.

Application forms are available in the Faculty section of the General Education web site, http://www.potsdam.edu/academics/general_education/ , or from Patty Stone, Administrative Assistant for General Education, Office of Academic Affairs, Raymond Hall 712, Ext. 2108.

[AH] AMERICAN HISTORY (*minimum 3 credit hours*)

Studies significant portions of the narrative of American History, focusing on the political, economic, social and cultural, including an examination of unity and diversity in American society. Attention must be paid to common institutions in American society and to how they have affected various groups, as well as to developing an understanding of America's evolving relationship with the rest of the world.

The course must:

- a. examine at least one significant issue of unity and diversity in American society;
- b. examine common institutions in American society and their effects upon various groups within that society;
- c. examine some aspect of America's evolving relationship with the rest of the world;
- d. emphasize the process of identifying, selecting, and interpreting historical data;
- e. stress a sense of history by suggesting continuities and discontinuities in the development of the topic under study;
- f. introduce students to the use of primary sources;
- g. include written and/or spoken exercises which demonstrate an understanding of the issues and methodologies laid out in the preceding criteria.

[WC] WESTERN CIVILIZATION (*minimum 3 credit hours*)

The developmental study of significant aspects of Western Civilization, defined as any civilization constitutive of or derived primarily from European Civilization.

The course must:

- a. take as primary subject the historical development of some significant theme or aspect of Western Civilization, excluding the U.S.;
- b. examine the development of the distinctive features of that theme or aspect, placing them into the broader context of the development of Western Civilization;
- c. relate the development of the theme or aspect to that of other regions of the world;
- d. stress a sense of history by suggesting continuities and discontinuities in the development of the theme or aspect under study;
- e. provide experience in the critical use of primary sources and the evaluation of evidence whenever possible;
- f. include discussion of the nature of historical inquiry and the limitation of scholarly authority;
- g. include written or spoken exercises which demonstrate an understanding of the issues and methodologies laid out in the preceding criteria.