General Education Course Application
GE-2012: ELEMENTS 1--6
Revised: Fall 2012

Department: Foreign Languages and Humanities

Course Prefix and Number: HUM 360

Course Title: Non-Western Traditions

For which GE Element is the course designed? Element 6

Identify the General Education Goals addressed in this course:

Goal 1**:** Communicate effectively by applying skills in reading, writing, speaking, and listening and through appropriate use of information technology.

Goal 2: Use appropriate methods of critical thinking and quantitative reasoning to examine issues and to identify solutions.

Goal 7: Distinguish the methods that underlie the search for knowledge in the arts, humanities, natural sciences, history, and social and behavioral sciences.

Goal 8: Integrate knowledge that will deepen their understanding of, and will inform their own choices about, issues of personal and public importance.

Goal 9: Recognize perspectives from other cultures and/or historically marginalized groups.

Student Learning Outcomes for HUM 360:

The General Education Goals are achieved through the study of selected works of literature, visual arts, drama, and music. Students will be introduced to various critical methods to enable them to interpret such art works in a systematic and rational way. Such critical models will help students explore and articulate their interpretations so that they may better understand and define the cultural and personal values inherent in the Non-Western arts. Students will acquire the ability to:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of the content and form of selected Non-Western literature, dramatic and visual arts, music, design and myth / religion / philosophy in a series of written assignments and/or presentations. (GE Goals 1, 2, 9)

2. Interpret works of Non-Western literature, art, music and design according to appropriate religious, historical, social, and cultural contexts. (GE Goals 1, 2, 7, 8, 9)

3. Utilize particular methods of interpretation to discover and articulate meaning from Non-Western artistic perspectives and to analyze significant issues confronting Non-Western cultures. (GE Goals 1, 2, 7)

4. Integrate concepts from various media and from Non-Western cultures to address issues of personal, societal, or universal importance. (GE Goal 8)

5. Articulate and examine significant aspects of the perspectives of Non-Western cultures. (GE Goal 9)

Course Abstract

1. Describe the course content.

   The course offers sustained exploration and detailed appreciation of Non-Western cultures, focusing on one or a few inter-related cultures each time, or on the cultural heritage of a Non-Western region of the world. In recent years, the course has focused on Modern Asia, The Modern Middle East, and Native American Cultures – Traditional and Contemporary (Maya and Native North American). Sample syllabi from the past few years, including updated GE Element 6 goals, are attached for reference. The course, which immerses students in Non-Western Culture(s) from an integrated and interdisciplinary arts and humanities perspective, is appropriate to Element 6 and is likely to offer something different from many of the other courses in that Element.

   The catalog entry for the course includes the following (with newly proposed language underlined): Studies in the literature, visual and dramatic arts, music, and design of non-Western cultures. This course may focus on a single non-Western tradition or on a few inter-related non-Western traditions in a given semester.

2. Describe the instructional methods (lecture, discussion, small groups, laboratory, or simulation), faculty qualifications, and course coordination.

   The course involves lectures and discussions primarily. It is taught exclusively by full-time tenure-track or tenured professors of Comparative Humanities. It is generally offered on a rotating basis such that different faculty members mount courses with different cultural foci in successive academic years.

3. Describe any new resources needed to implement or to assess the course
   None.

4. Describe the assessment process.
    (a) What type of assessment instruments will be used to evaluate student learning?
    As with other HUM General Education courses, assessment will be done through an Integrative Essay question as part of the final exam with a recommended length of 3-4 pages.

    (b) When will data be collected?
    As part of the final exam.

    (c) For how many students will assessments be scored?
    In classes of over 20 students, scoring will be done on a subset of 10, randomly selected. In classes of less than 20, scoring will be done for all students.

    (d) Who will score the assessment instruments?
    The professor of the course.

    (e) Who is the faculty person responsible for assessment data for this course?
    Dr. Erik Liddell, FRLH Gen Ed Liaison

5. Provide at least one example of an assessment item *(e.g., question on exam; portion of an assignment)* that could be used to assess student learning on each of the criteria on the GE scoring rubric appropriate for this course.

Identify and define a significant concern, problem or issue confronting the Non-Western culture(s) explored in this course, and analyze the ways in which this concern is expressed and presented in at least 3 works of your choice from at least 2 different artistic media or genres. In the course of your answer, explain how each work addresses the issue and how aspects of each genre or form contribute to the search for a resolution. Based on your analysis, articulate what is unique (or uniquely Non-Western) about this cultural perspective, and consider also how understanding this Non-Western perspective might contribute to a more complete understanding of concerns of humanity in general.

A full answer to this question clearly involves all of the Gen Ed Goals for the course: Effective communication (Goal 1), Critical thinking (Goal 2), Methods underlying the search for knowledge (Goal 7), Integrated understanding of issues of personal and public importance (Goal 8) and Recognition of perspectives from other cultures (Goal 9).