

Goals and Assessment Plan

GEC GOALS/RATIONALE

GEC Third Writing: The abilities to read and listen with comprehension and critical acuity are requisite to the gaining of knowledge in a university setting. The ability to express oneself with clarity, both orally and in writing, provides the deepest proof of understanding. Only through such expression can one demonstrate the powers of careful thinking and critical analysis. Further, we recognize that writing especially is a primary tool in learning itself, not just a means of expressing learning that has taken place. Writing is a powerful mode of thinking; writing involves making choices and then ordering those choices effectively.

The intent of the required third writing course in writing and related skills is to assure that junior and senior year students are provided an upper-level course in their major that contains a significant writing component.

Diversity: International issues courses help students become educated, productive, and principled citizens of their nation and world.

Students exhibit an understanding of economic, political cultural, and social differences among the nations of the world, including a specific examination of non-Western culture.

I. Goals and Objectives

Economics 508 is a GEC course in the Third Writing Course Category. The readings, class discussions, written assignments and examinations will further students' abilities:

- To read and listen with comprehension and critical acuity
- To express oneself with clarity, both orally and in writing, using arguments based on economic theory

Economics 508 fits directly into this category by addressing these main learning objectives. Economics 508 uses economic methodology, reflecting the discipline it represents, to allow students to apply writing skills to their major:

1. Students will develop skills in the oral articulation of ideas as well as their critical and analytical abilities in reading demanding texts and synthesizing ideas.
2. Students will be exposed to scholarly literature in their major and will improve their library and computer skills through a research project.
3. Students will be guided through the entire writing process through meetings with the instructors and lectures as they develop their research project.
4. Students will be required to present their work in a coherent and effective manner.

Economics 508 is a GEC course in Arts and Sciences, Social Diversity in the Non Western Category. Economics 508 has been designed with the general learning objectives of this category in mind. The readings, class discussions, written assignments and examinations will further students' abilities:

- To understand the social, cultural, economic and geopolitical dynamics of countries experiencing economic transition.
- To assess the role of globalization on shaping the policies of countries experiencing economic transition.
- To recognize the role of social and economic diversity in shaping economic development in the world.

Economics 508 fits directly into this category by addressing these main learning objectives. Economics 508 uses economic methodology, reflecting the discipline it represents, to quantify the impact of

geopolitical conditions and economic policies in the well being of people of countries experiencing economic transition.

1. The course will address various dimensions of international and global issues associated with countries experiencing economic transition through discussion and analysis that is cognizant of social and economic differences and similarities, diversity, and complexity.
2. Students will be required to synthesize and apply knowledge from diverse disciplines to the study of a wide range of dimensions associated with countries experiencing economic transition.
3. Students will be required to apply knowledge and insights to the comparative study of contemporary economic issues in countries experiencing economic transition.
4. A range of theoretical/methodological approaches will be discussed and analyzed that will provide students with the scientific tools of inquiry to examine and gain knowledge associated with issues in countries experiencing economic transition.
5. The course will bring into focus the integration of social, cultural, economic, geopolitical, and historical dynamics that will enrich and widen the students' understanding of countries experiencing economic transition.

Economics 508 draws on economics principles and applied research to study contemporary economic issues in countries experiencing economic transition. Examples of issues that will be investigated include:

- Labor Market and Human Resource Development
- The structure of government and the role of foreign investment in shaping economic development in the region
- The effects of international trade on economic development
- Poverty: its social consequences and solutions
- Privatization: fairness vs. efficiency
- Land reform

III. Method of Assessment

Students' knowledge of the contemporary economic issues in countries experiencing economic transition will be measured by written final exam, in-class presentation, a term paper, and regular homework assignments. Also, students will complete survey above at conclusion of the quarter.

IV. Plan for course continuity

Copies of the course syllabus, including GEC Goals and Objective and Survey will be retained in the Economics Department office and provided to teaching faculty and graduate students.

V. Plan for course improvement

Summary of the student surveys will be reported to the Director of Undergraduate Studies. In consultation with the DUS, instructors will make modifications to the course content or pedagogy will be made to better achieve the GEC goals.