

Comparative Studies 339 Transnationalism and Culture in the Americas

We are submitting this course, which is already on the books and currently fulfills the GEC category 5. Arts and Humanities, Section B. 3. Analysis of Texts and Works of Art, Cultures and Ideas, for approval in the additional category International Issues: Non-Western or Global.

A statement as to how this course meets the general principles of the GEC Model Curriculum and the specific goals of the category for which it is being proposed

The course fulfills the general principles of the GEC by teaching students

- to write and speak with clarity and precision so as to advance thoughts and arguments coherently and persuasively
- to engage in critical analysis
- to understand research methods used in the field of intercultural and cross-cultural studies
- to understand, evaluate and present data based on critical inquiry and analysis
- to comprehend the forces that have shaped societies and thus understand aspects of the contemporary world in terms of both individuals and groups
- achieve an understanding of and develop an appreciation for cultural diversity and global interdependence of the world
- appreciate and understand other cultures and modes of thinking through facility with multilingual material from other cultures and nations

The **GOALS of “International Issues” Requirement** are defined as follows:

- International Issues courses help students become educated, productive, and principled citizens of their nation and the world.

“Transnationalism and Culture in the Americas” will meet the **GOALS of International Issues Requirement** as follows:

- In its focus on the plural cultures of the Americas this course will allow students to develop greater knowledge and understanding of the hemisphere.

The **LEARNING OBJECTIVES/OUTCOMES** of the International Issues requirement are defined as follows:

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

This course will meet the **LEARNING OBJECTIVES/OUTCOMES** of the International Issues requirement as follows:

- This course explores “transnationalism” as a central feature of social experience and cultural production in the Americas, focusing on those arts genres that

cross national, ethnic and racial borders; speak multiple languages; and engage the politics of citizenship, migration and national belonging. Students will consider how the arts have contributed to social and political change. Comparative study of multiple cultures of the Americas, including those informed by non-Western influences and non-Western cultures within the Americas, will enhance student understanding of the complexity of cultural and social difference in the hemisphere in an era of increasing globalization.

Assessment plan for the course

Assessment is embedded in the grading criteria for the assignments; that is, assignments will be evaluated based on the goals and objectives of the course. Specifically the course will evaluate whether students' written and oral assignments display that they have learned to

- write and speak with clarity and precision so as to advance thoughts and arguments coherently and persuasively
- engage in critical analysis of diversity and multiculturalism
- understand research methods used in the field of transnational and intercultural studies
- achieve an understanding of and develop an appreciation for cultural diversity and global interdependence of the world
- appreciate and understand other cultures and modes of thinking through facility with material from various nations and cultures

The instructor will assess the degree to which the main objectives of the course, as stated above, have been achieved in the various course assignments. In particular, the assessment will focus on students' ability to express a critical understanding of diversity in the United States with regard to race, class, and gender. The assessment will also focus on students understanding of inter-state relations and transnational processes.

In addition, students will be asked to fill out narrative evaluations at the end of the quarter. Narrative evaluation forms used in Comparative Studies ask detailed questions regarding the effectiveness of the course, including the teaching materials. Based on the comments of the students, but also including the instructor's assessment of the course (which includes an evaluation of the materials and pedagogy employed to reach the objectives of the course), the appropriate changes will be made to the syllabus.