

General Education Distribution Area V - March 2010
Recommendations to the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee (UCC)

Description of Area 5: *Systematic ways of thinking about similarities and differences among cultures*

Goal of Area 5: *To develop students' understanding and appreciation of cultural dynamics from a comparative perspective.*

Distribution courses are 100 and 200 level courses without prerequisites that meet at least three of the following **skill objectives**:

1. Writing intensive assignments
2. Oral expression
3. Scientific literacy
4. Critical thinking
5. Data analysis/Quantitative reasoning and
6. Library/database/Information literacy

The courses currently listed under Gen Ed Distribution Area 5 are:

ANT (WST)(LAC) 210: Women in Latin America
ANT 230-238: Selected Studies in Society and Culture
 230: Africa---231: Middle East---232: Europe---
 233: India---234: Oceania---235: Native North America --236: Southeast Asia--
 -237: East Asia---
 (LAC) 238: Latin America
AAS 232: African Civilizations
AAS(LAC) 235: Caribbean Societies
AAS(WST) 240: Women In African Society
GEH 240: Urban Geography
HIS 240: East Asian Civilization
HIS 249 Islamic Civilization
IAS 250 (ANT/SOC 250): The Italian-American Community
MES 245: Introduction to Middle Eastern Studies
MLJ 211: Intro to Multilingual Media
POL 266: Politics and Culture
POL (RUS) 220: Russia Today
PRS 213: Puerto Rican Culture

New Proposed Course:

WST 220 – Introduction to Women's Studies

All the course recommendations for Distribution Area 5 are based on discussions and analyses of information provided by faculty members and department chairs. They meet at least three of the above skill objectives as required by the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee.

Table 1: Distribution Area 5 Recommendations to the UCC

Courses	Include	Continue	Probation monitoring	Discontinue
AAS 232		X		
AAS/LAC 235		X		
AAS (WST) 240		X		
ANT (WST)(LAC) 210		X		
ANT 230-238		X		
GEH 240		X		
HIS 240		X		
HIS 249		X		
IAS 250 (ANT/SOC 250)		X		
MES 245		X		
MLJ 211		X		
POL 266		X		
POL (RUS) 220		X		
PRS 213		X		
New Proposed Course				
WST 220	X			

WST 220: Introduction to Women's Studies

The committee's reasons for including WST 220 in Area 5 of the General Education Distribution Curriculum are the following:

WST 220 introduces students to the interdisciplinary field of Women's Studies in cross-cultural perspective. The course investigates and critically examines the cultural, social, economic, and political forces that shape women's lives, with emphasis on intersections of gender, race, class, creed, sexuality, nationality, ability, aging, and other identity markers. Theoretical, historical and cross-cultural frameworks are employed to explore various aspects of women's experiences, both with public institutions and private relationships. WST 220 squarely fits the Gen Ed Distribution Area 5, which addresses systematic ways of thinking about similarities and differences among cultures.

The course also offers students an opportunity to explore simultaneously the theories and concepts proposed by feminist/women's studies scholars and their applicability across cultures within the United States and among selected societies in Africa, Asia, Australia, the Caribbean, Europe, and Latin America. Given its contents and skills objectives, WST 220 is a perfect fit for Distribution Area 5 and will help achieve its goal to develop students' understanding and appreciation of cultural dynamics from a comparative perspective.