

## Area 6: Historical Studies

### Recommendations for the Distribution Calendar

**Area 6 Definition:** *A systematic study of the way historians and other scholars interpret the past through documents, artifacts, and/or other primary source materials to understand the past and the present in historical context.*

**Area 6 Goals:** *To encourage students' understanding of and critical thinking about major events, ideas, institutions, personalities, and changes of the past, by developing their ability to evaluate traditional and online sources, form an interpretation based on these materials, and communicate their ideas and conclusions orally and in writing.*

The courses currently listed under Gen Ed Area 6 are:

AAS/HIS	245	History of African-Americans
ANT	212	Ancient Peoples and Cultures
HIS	241	Early Modern Europe, 1400-1815
HIS	242	Contemporary European History
HIS	243	Foundations of the U.S.
HIS	244	Modern U.S. History
HIS	246	Civilizations of the Ancient World
HIS	247	Medieval Civilization
HIS	250	Understanding History: Selected Topics
LAC/HIS	266	Introduction to Latin American and the Caribbean I
LAC/HIS	267	Introduction to Latin American and the Caribbean II
POL	241	Globalization
PRS	212	History of Puerto Rico

### Recommendations to UCC

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**TABLE 1: Recommendations to UCC for Gen Ed Area 6**

These recommendations are based on discussions and an analysis of information provided by faculty members and department chairs for courses under this Area.

<b>Courses</b>	<b>Continue</b>	<b>Probation monitoring</b>	<b>Discontinue</b>
AAS/HIS 245	X		
ANT 212	X		
HIS 241	X		
HIS 242	X		
HIS 243	X		
HIS 244	X		
HIS 246	X		
HIS 247	X		
HIS 250	X		
LAC/HIS 266	X		
LAC/HIS 267	X		
POL 241	X		
PRS 212	X		

**Table 2: General Education Skill Objectives Met by Area 6 Courses**

The Curriculum Committee has established that each distribution course must meet **at least 3 of these skill objectives:**

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

All of the courses currently listed in the distribution calendar for Area 6 meet at least three skills objectives as required by the UCC. The following table details which skill objectives are met by each of the Area 6 courses.

<b>Courses</b>	<b>Writing intensive/specific assignments</b>	<b>Oral expression</b>	<b>Scientific literacy</b>	<b>Critical thinking</b>	<b>Data analysis/quantitative reasoning</b>	<b>Library/database/ information literacy</b>
AAS/HIS 245	X	X		X		X
ANT 212		X	X	X	X	
HIS 241	X	X		X		X
HIS 242	X			X		X
HIS 243	X	X		X		X
HIS 244	X			X		X
HIS 246	X	X		X		X
HIS 247	X	X		X		X
HIS 250	X	X	X	X		X
LAC/HIS 266	X			X		X
LAC/HIS 267	X			X		X
POL 241	X			X	X	X
PRS 212	X	X		X		X

**Table 3: Area 6 Overall Student Learning Objectives Met by Courses**

Using the Gen Ed skill objectives defined by the UCC, Area 6 faculty wrote the following Student Learning Objectives for all courses in the area in the December 2008 faculty workshop. Area 6 faculty also approved these in the December 2009 workshop.

**Overall Student Learning Objectives for Area 6:**

1. Students will learn to locate sources, both printed and online, which are appropriate to college-level assignments.
2. Students will learn to distinguish between primary and secondary sources and between facts and opinions.
3. Students will learn correct citation methods and will be able to distinguish between plagiarism and proper documentation.
4. Students will learn how to form a historical interpretation by integrating information about the past with themes explored in the course and with their own personal experience. They will also learn how to engage with contrasting scholarly interpretations of the past.
5. Students will develop specific skills associated with “critical thinking” (e.g., to compare and contrast, to argue against one’s own opinion, and to recognize connections and explain relationships among different texts).

All of the courses currently listed in the distribution calendar for Area 6 meet these overall student learning objectives (see table below).

<b>Students will be able to:</b>	<b>Locate sources</b>	<b>Distinguish among sources</b>	<b>Cite correctly</b>	<b>Form and analyze historical interpretations</b>	<b>Develop critical thinking skills</b>	<b>Assignments that will develop these skills</b>
AAS/HIS 245	X	X	X	X	X	Readings, class discussions and three exams.
ANT 212	X	X	X	X	X	Readings, two exams, term paper, and several ungraded informal writing assignments.
HIS 241	X	X	X	X	X	Readings, midterm and final exams and writing assignments.

<b>Students will be able to:</b>	<b>Locate sources</b>	<b>Distinguish among sources</b>	<b>Cite correctly</b>	<b>Form and analyze historical interpretations</b>	<b>Develop critical thinking skills</b>	<b>Assignments that will develop these skills</b>
HIS 242	X	X	X	X	X	Readings, quizzes, midterm and final exams, and formal and informal written assignments.
HIS 243	X	X	X	X	X	Readings, midterm and final exams, student presentation, and writing assignments.
HIS 244	X	X	X	X	X	Readings, midterm and final exams and written assignments.
HIS 246	X	X	X	X	X	Readings, two midterm exams, a final exam, and an interpretive essay.
HIS 247	X	X	X	X	X	Readings, quizzes, two exams, and a research paper.
HIS 250	X	X	X	X	X	Readings, midterm and final exams, group exercise, research paper and document analysis assignments.
LAC/HIS 266	X	X	X	X	X	Readings, midterm and final exams and writing assignments.

<b>Students will be able to:</b>	<b>Locate sources</b>	<b>Distinguish among sources</b>	<b>Cite correctly</b>	<b>Form and analyze historical interpretations</b>	<b>Develop critical thinking skills</b>	<b>Assignments that will develop these skills</b>
LAC/HIS 267	X	X	X	X	X	Readings, quizzes, midterm and final exams, and writing assignments.
POL 241	X	X	X	X	X	Readings, films, and essay midterm and final exams with required library preparation.
PRS 212	X	X	X	X	X	Readings, two exams and two document analyses.

**Table 4: Course Syllabus Information**

The information presented in the table below is based on syllabi that were made available by Area 6 instructors.

<b>The course syllabus(i) includes:</b>	<b>Course description</b>	<b>Course goal(s)</b>	<b>Learning objectives</b>	<b>Course grade breakdown</b>	<b>Text/suggested reading list</b>	<b>Topics</b>	<b>Course policies (i.e., attendance, plagiarism)</b>	<b>Number of syllabi submitted</b>
AAS/HIS 245	X	X	X	X	X	X*	X	2
ANT 212	X*	X*		X*	X*	X	X	2
HIS 241	X	X	X*	X	X	X	X	3
HIS 242	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	2
HIS 243	X	X	X*	X	X	X	X	4
HIS 244	X	X	X*	X	X	X	X	5
HIS 246	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	1
HIS 247	X	X	X*	X	X	X	X	2
HIS 250	X	X	X*	X	X	X	X	4
LAC/HIS 266	X	X		X	X	X	X	1
LAC/HIS 267	X	X	X*	X	X	X	X	3
POL 241	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	1
PRS 212	X	X		X	X	X	X	1

\* not available in all sections

**Table 5: Course Statistics for Area 6**

	Fall 2006		Spring 2007		Fall 2007		Spring 2008		Fall 2008		Spring 2009		Fall 2009	
	Sec	Enrl	Sec	Enrl	Sec	Enrl	Sec	Enrl	Sec	Enrl	Sec	Enrl	Sec	Enrl
AAS/HIS 245 (1)	6	153	4	110	4	106	6	160	6	126	6	130	5	88
ANT 212	9	211	5	125	7	170	5	115	8	186	6	131	6	133
HIS 241 (2)	1	22	2	42	2	44	2	44	1	22	1	35	5	99
HIS 242 (3)	2	45	2	49	4	85	3	66	3	68	2	33	3	87
HIS 243 (4)	5	139	5	116	2	71	5	122	3	78	3	79	4	99
HIS 244 (5)	4	118	5	159	6	140	5	127	5	163	7	217	5	134
HIS 246 (6)	1	29			1	35			1	37			1	37
HIS 247			1	25			1	22			1	22	1	31
HIS 250	11	225	3	71	4	74	7	113	9	82	8	59	5	54
LAC/HIS 266	2	44	4	70	2	64	3	41	6	87	4	62	4	64
LAC/HIS 267	1	25	4	52	3	64	4	50	4	50	5	71	2	29
POL 241	1	20			1	24	2	20	1	24	1	22	2	43
PRS 212	2	51	2	51	2	46	2	50	2	23	2	36	2	37
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>1,082</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>870</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>923</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>930</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>946</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>897</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>935</b>

Notes:

(1) formerly BLS 245/HIS275

(2) formerly HIS 271

(3) formerly HIS 272

(4) formerly HIS 273

(5) formerly HIS 274

(6) formerly HIS 276