**Natural World**

This Way of Thinking examines the structures and interactions within the natural world. The natural world comprises the physical universe, both living and non-living, as well as the forces that act on it. This empirical mode of inquiry relies on constructing hypotheses and testing them with data collected through observation and experimentation to learn about the natural world.

Students will distinguish between inquiry that aims at empirical knowledge and other forms of human inquiry and knowing. These courses will enable students to have a deeper understanding of the natural world and prepare students to evaluate scientific claims critically through an appeal to factual evidence. These courses are accompanied by lab periods where students will make observations, collect data, appropriately analyze their results, and communicate their findings.

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A Way of Thinking course may only carry one Way of Thinking per instructor; team taught courses may have two distinct Ways of Thinking.

Will your course be team-taught? (Yes/ No)

If yes, then please list instructor and list second Way of Thinking (the proposal for the second Way of Thinking must be submitted at the same time):

Application date:

In what term will the course first be taught:

**Basic Course Information**

Department:

Instructor:

Course Number:

Course title (as listed in the official catalog). If a topics course, please list the specific title this request applies to:

Abbreviated title for class schedule (30 characters or less including parenthesis & designation):

Number of credits:

If new course, grading type: (Drop down)

Prerequisites (if any):

MOST RECENT Official course description from the Academic Catalog. If this is a topics course, please list description for this specific topic:

Date Proposal Received: (Auto-filled)

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In the Integrations Curriculum a course can be designated as either:

1. A Way of Thinking, OR
2. CSD: Identity or CSD: Systems, OR
3. Writing Foundations, Writing Explorations, or Writing Integrations, OR
4. Theological Explorations (Theo 1) or Theological Integrations (Theo 2).

Any course carrying one of the above designations may also have one or two engagements, except for Theological Explorations (Theo 1) and Writing Foundations, which cannot carry engagements:

1. Artistic engagement (ARTE)
2. Benedictine engagement (BEN)
3. Experiential engagement (EXP)
4. Global engagement (GLO)

Any course, except Theological Explorations (Theo 1) and Writing Foundations, may also satisfy the Quantitative Reasoning skill requirement.

Way of Thinking courses may also be themed (Thematic Encounter 100/200/300 or Thematic Focus 200/300). Way of Thinking courses are the only courses that can be designated as a Thematic Encounter or a Thematic Focus.

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Please note: the committee understands that some courses may still be in development. Prompts that ask for examples of assignments seek information about the spirit of what students will do, and instructors are not bound to the specific details (e.g. writing prompts) provided.

1. This way of thinking examines the structures and interactions within the natural world. The natural world comprises the physical universe, both living and non-living, and the forces that act upon it. What aspect(s) of the natural world will your course address?
2. This empirical mode of inquiry relies on constructing hypotheses and testing them with data collected through observation and experimentation to learn about the natural world. These courses will enable students to have a deeper understanding of the natural world and prepare students to evaluate scientific claims critically through an appeal to factual evidence. These courses are accompanied by lab periods where students make observations, collect data, appropriately analyze their results, and communicate their findings. Provide an example (or examples) of an assignment(s) where students demonstrate the capacity to perform this process.
3. Students must distinguish between inquiry that aims at empirical knowledge and other forms of human inquiry and knowing. Give an example (or examples) of an assignment(s) where students will demonstrate this awareness and the ability to distinguish these different forms of knowing.
4. This course should enable students to have a deeper understanding of the natural world and prepare students to evaluate scientific claims critically through an appeal to factual evidence.
   1. Please give an example (or examples) of an assignment(s) that will demonstrate an appropriate depth of understanding of the natural world.
   2. Please give an example (or examples) of an assignment(s) of an assignment that will requires students to evaluate scientific claims critically though an appeal to factual evidence.

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Will you be applying for a Thematic Encounter or Thematic Focus designation? (Yes/No)

If yes, you will need to fill out a separate application for either the Thematic Encounter (25% of course at 100, 200, or 300 level) or Thematic Focus (100% of course at 200 or 300 level).

Are you applying for an Engagement or Engagements (maximum 2 pending Senate approval of a different policy)? (Y/N)

If yes, you will need to fill out a separate application for all the Engagements that apply (please mark all that apply).

**For new students entering the 2019 – 2020 academic year, the Common Curriculum will apply until they graduate.**

Does your course currently carry any Common Curriculum designations? (Y/N)

If so, please list: (text box)

Will you be applying for any Common Curriculum designations? (Y/N)

If so, please list: (text box)