Way of Thinking - Human Experience Course Proposal

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**Human Experience**

This Way of Thinking seeks to recognize and understand how humans have represented and constructed the human experience, and to thereby empower students as critical and creative agents in their own lives and communities. This Way of Thinking is the study of how human beings use texts, in different times and places, to understand, represent, and shape their world, and their experience of that world. Students will investigate, interpret, and analyze texts such as written works, spoken language, visual images, film, song, performance, or other cultural artifacts, in order to explore how human engagement with the world constructs meaning and shapes particular social and historical contexts. Particular attention will be paid to the ways in which elements of expression are influenced by their place and period of production.

Students will explore human efforts to make sense of the world around them and the ways in which those efforts shape the human experience. This Way of Thinking recognizes that human experience may involve textual engagement with community, internal life, the natural world, and/or the past and future. Key to engaging this process is the act of writing, in which students learn to reflect, refine, focus, and clarify their own analysis as active participants in making meaning of the world around them.

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

1. A Way of Thinking, OR
2. CSD: Identity (CI) or CSD: Systems (CS), OR
3. Learning Foundations, Learning Explorations, or Learning Integrations, OR
4. Theological Explorations (THEO 1) or Theological Integrations (THEO 2).

Thematic Encounters or Thematic Focus\* designations must be attached to a course with a Way of Thinking designation.

Any course carrying one of the above designations may also have one engagement^, except for Theological Explorations (THEO 1), CSD: Identity, Learning Foundations, Learning Explorations, and Learning Integrations, which cannot carry engagements:

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

* Any course may satisfy the Quantitative Reasoning skill requirement.
* Any course (except courses that fulfill Theological Explorations, Theological Integrations, Learning Foundations, or any course with a THEO course number) may also satisfy the Benedictine Raven.

\*Thematic Focus courses will be renumbered based on theme and course level to be consistent across the curriculum. They will still carry the Department prefix.

The renumbering will be as follows:

277/377 - Justice Theme  
278/378 - Movement Theme  
279/379 - Truth Theme

Each course under the Theme will have a different letter, for example:

HIST 276A  
HIST 276B, etc.

^Semester-length study abroad courses may carry both GLO and EXP.

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):

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 course title for the class schedule (30 characters or less including parenthesis & designation)

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:

Please note:

A.  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.

B.  The committee includes faculty from a variety of disciplines. Please remember to briefly explain disciplinary terms, contexts, and/or texts to allow all the members of the committee to best understand how your responses address the question.

C.  As you are answering these questions, please keep in mind that students will need to produce work to assess their fulfillment of the related learning outcomes if applicable.

Questions:

1.a. This Way of Thinking is about how human beings use texts, in different times and places, to understand, represent, and shape their world, and their experiences of that world.What aspect(s) of human experience will your course address?

1.b. Provide examples of the type of texts and specific texts students may investigate.

2.a. This Way of Thinking asks students to explore how human engagement with the world shapes particular social and historical contexts. How will students learn to do this?

2.b. Provide an example(s) of an assignment(s) where students will demonstrate their understanding of social and historical contexts.

3.a. This Way of Thinking is the study of how human beings use texts, in different times and places, to understand, represent, and shape their world, and their experience of that world. How will students learn to interpret and analyze the assigned texts to explore how human engagement with the world constructs meaning?

3.b. Provide an example (or examples) of an assignment(s) where the students will demonstrate this.

4.a. In this Way of Thinking, students will be active participants in making meaning, as demonstrated, in part, through the act of writing. How will student engage in the writing process throughout the course?

4.b. How will students learn to reflect, refine, focus, and clarify their own analysis in the course? Provide specific examples of activities or assignments, such as multiple drafts, peer review, outlines, etc., where students will do this work.

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 4-credit course at 100, 200, or 300 level) or Thematic Focus (100% of course at 200 or 300 level).

Are you applying for an Engagement (only one Engagement is allowed, unless your course is a semester-length study abroad which can apply for GLO and EXP)?

  Yes   No

If yes, you will need to fill out a separate application for the Engagement that applies (please list the Engagement for which you are applying).

(Optional) Additional information (is there anything else that you would like the GECC to know about this course or application?):

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