Way of Thinking - Natural World Course Proposal

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**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.

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.

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 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. 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.a. This empirical mode of inquiry relies on constructing hypothesis and testing them with data collected through observation and experimentation to learn about the natural world. How will students develop an understanding of the scientific method (e.g., hypothesis formation, designing experiments, appropriate exploration of data)?

2.b. 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) describing the kind of lab periods students will have.

3. 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 evidence. Please give an example (or examples) of an assignment(s) that will require students to evaluate scientific claims critically through an appeal to empirical evidence.

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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