Way of Thinking - Social World Course Proposal

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**Social World**

This Way of Thinking uses the scientific method to examine and understand social phenomena, such as human behavior, cognition, and how institutions, structures, and norms shape human behavior.

This way of thinking involves both qualitative and quantitative research methods. The ultimate goal of such work is to draw generalizable conclusions about societies, institutions, groups, and individuals that are valid beyond the context of the research. Students in these courses will consider theories, learn basic social scientific methods, and engage with social scientific evidence to describe the world and test ideas about societies, institutions, groups, and/or individuals.

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 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. This Way of Thinking uses the scientific method to examine and understand social phenomena, such as human behavior, cognition, and how institutions, structures, and norms shape human behavior. What aspect(s) of the social world will your course address?

2. What social scientific theories will be explored that attempt to explain or predict social phenomena (e.g., individual behavior, group behavior, organizational behavior)

3. What methods of social scientific research will the course explore and/or employ?

4.a. In considering the methods of research that test theories to determine their generalizability, courses in this Way of Thinking may rely on research findings from primary sources, summaries of findings in literature reviews or textbooks, and/or student-generated data. What type of research findings will be used in the course, including specific examples if possible?

4.b. Provide an example (or examples) of an assignment(s) that will require students to describe the world and/or test theories about societies, institutions, groups, and/or individuals.

4.c. What generalizable conclusions might students draw from their exploration of quantitative or qualitative research methods?

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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