

## Required Language Explaining Place of the Course in General Education

### Program

All courses in the General Education Program are required to include the relevant following paragraphs on their syllabi. These paragraphs serve to communicate the student learning outcomes of the General Education Program to both students and professors. Courses in Communication and Critical Thinking will put the first paragraph on their syllabi; courses in Foundations will use the first paragraph under that heading and a second paragraph relating to the area of Foundations that the course is in; Explorations classes will use the first paragraph here under that heading and the second paragraph that pertains to the area of Explorations that the class is in.

### Communication and Critical Thinking

This course is one of three courses that you will take in the General Education area of **Communication and Critical Thinking**. Upon completing this area of our General Education program, you will be able to: 1) craft well-reasoned arguments for specific audiences; 2) analyze a variety of texts commonly encountered in the academic setting; 3) situate discourse within social, generic, cultural, and historic contexts; and 4) assess the relative strengths of arguments and supporting evidence.

### Foundations

This course is one of nine courses that you will take in General Education **Foundations**. Foundations courses cultivate skills in reading, writing, research, communication, computation, information literacy, and use of technology. They furthermore introduce you to basic concepts, theories and approaches in a variety of disciplines in order to provide the intellectual breadth necessary to help you integrate the more specialized knowledge gathered in your major area of study into a broader world picture.

This course is one of three **Foundations** courses that you will take in the area of **Natural Sciences and Quantitative Reasoning**. Upon completing **Natural Science** Foundations courses in physical sciences, life sciences, and a lab, you will be able to: 1) explain basic concepts and theories of the natural sciences; 2) use logic and scientific methods to analyze the natural world and solve problems; 3) argue from multiple perspectives about issues in natural science that have personal and global relevance; 4) use technology in laboratory and field situations to connect concepts and theories with real-world phenomena. Upon completing a Foundations course in **Quantitative Reasoning** you will be able to: 1) apply appropriate computational skills and use basic mathematical concepts to analyze problems in natural and social sciences; and 2) use methods of quantitative reasoning to solve and communicate answers to real-world problems.

This course is one of two **Foundations** courses that you will take in the area of **Social and Behavioral Sciences**. Upon completing this area of Foundations, you will be able to: 1) explore and recognize basic terms, concepts, and domains of the social and behavioral sciences; 2) comprehend diverse theories and methods of the social and behavioral sciences; 3) identify human behavioral patterns across space and time and discuss their interrelatedness and distinctiveness; 4) enhance your understanding of the social world through the application of conceptual frameworks from the social and behavioral sciences to first-hand engagement with contemporary issues.

This course is one of four **Foundations** courses that you will take in the area of **Humanities and Fine Arts**. Upon completing of this area of Foundations, you will be able to: 1) analyze written, visual, or performed texts in the humanities and fine arts with sensitivity to their diverse cultural contexts and historical moments; 2) describe various aesthetic and other value systems and the ways they are communicated across time and cultures; 3) identify issues in the humanities that have personal and global relevance; 4) demonstrate the ability to approach complex problems and ask complex questions drawing upon knowledge of the humanities.

### Explorations

Courses that fulfill the 9-unit requirement for **Explorations** in General Education take the goals and skills of GE Foundations courses to a more advanced level. Your three upper division courses in Explorations will provide greater interdisciplinary, more complex and in-depth theory, deeper investigation of local problems, and wider awareness of global challenges. More extensive reading, written analysis involving complex comparisons, well-developed arguments, considerable bibliography, and use of technology are appropriate in many Explorations courses.

This is an **Explorations course in Natural Sciences**. Completing this course will help you learn to do the following with greater depth: 1) explain basic concepts and theories of the natural sciences; 2) use logic and scientific methods to analyze the natural world and solve problems; 3) argue from multiple perspectives about issues in natural science that have personal and global relevance; 4) use technology in laboratory and field situations to connect concepts and theories with real-world phenomena.

This is an **Explorations course in Social and Behavioral Sciences**. Completing this course will help you learn to do the following with greater depth: 1) explore and recognize basic terms, concepts, and domains of the social and behavioral sciences; 2) comprehend diverse theories and methods of the social and behavioral sciences; 3) identify human behavioral patterns across space and time and discuss their interrelatedness and distinctiveness; 4) enhance your understanding of the social world through the application of conceptual frameworks from the social and behavioral sciences to first-hand engagement with contemporary issues.

This is an **Explorations course in the Humanities and Fine Arts**. Completing this course will help you to do the following in greater depth: 1) analyze written, visual, or performed texts in the humanities and fine arts with sensitivity to their diverse cultural contexts and historical moments; 2) describe various aesthetic and other value systems and the ways they are communicated across time and cultures; 3) identify issues in the humanities that have personal and global relevance; 4) demonstrate the ability to approach complex problems and ask complex questions drawing upon knowledge of the humanities.

**For existing courses:** Complete a course modification via CurricUNET.

For either new or existing courses, the following procedures for dissemination of information apply:

### **Initial Dissemination**

- Contact the chair of any department whose course offerings may overlap the proposed course. Attach correspondence showing approval to the proposal record.
- Course proposals for General Education shall be reviewed by the individual and/or committee responsible for curriculum within the college.

### **College Level Decisions**

- Each college shall develop a procedure for informing all departments within the college about proposed changes to General Education sufficiently in advance of college curriculum committee meetings to allow for consultation.

### **Campus Level Decisions**

- Final comments from departments in the college shall be sent to the college curriculum committee chair and the sponsor of the proposal at least three days before the meeting.
- Conflicts that appear to be motivated by college-level issues shall be decided by the college committee before the course is forwarded to Academic Affairs. Conflicts that focus on the relationship of the proposed course to GE goals and criteria shall be handled by the SDSU General Education Committee.
- Conflicts focusing on the relationship of the proposed course to GE goals and criteria and all inter-college issues shall be decided by the General Education Committee.

**(Approved by the University General Education Committee April 22, 1982; Revised: March 8, 1983; October 4, 1988; April 13, 1989; May 1991; May 1999; February 2003; March 2008; June 2010)**

**NOTE: General Education Courses - Frequency of Offerings** - Policy adopted by the Senate, May 1983 and revised December 1998.

All General Education courses shall be offered with enrollment at least once every three years at any San Diego State University campus. Any course not offered during this time shall be dropped from the General Education program. Departments who wish to have a deleted course reinstated in General Education should submit a proposal for reinstatement through the regular curricular process. Justification for the reinstatement should be included.