Patterns, form, space and structure as they occur in music and nature are fundamental themes of this learning community. Students will explore basic ideas in mathematics and physics to discover ways to analyze and categorize structures in music and the natural phenomena of light and sound. Through the music component, students will examine and study the human use of pattern and geometrical structure in the context of human endeavor and creative personal expression.
Enrollment in learning communities is available on a first-come first-serve basis. Eligibility is determined by contacting an academic advisor at 216-687-9376 through CampusNet or by contacting the Advising Center at advisingcenter@csuohio.edu.

How to Enroll

Attend classes with a common cohort of 25 highly motivated students who progress through the semester as a group.

Advantages of Enrolling in a Learning Community

- Accumulate General Education credit while being part of an enriched learning experience linking courses from different disciplines around themes or questions.
- Participate in active learning experiences for first-year students involving field trips, service learning, guest speakers, undergraduate research, panel discussions, and more.
- Attend classes with a common cohort of 25 highly motivated students who progress through the semester as a group.
- Share a sense of community and engagement among faculty students, and staff around common, rich, and intellectually compelling experiences.

Eligibility

Enrollment in learning communities is available on a first-come first-serve basis to first-year, full-time students.

What are Learning Communities?

Learning Communities provide a new and attractive opportunity for first-year students to complete three to four General Education requirements in one semester in course clusters that enroll a common cohort of 25 students. The General Education courses are organized around interdisciplinary themes, taught by faculty who employ pedagogically distinctive approaches, and who deliver the course content in a fashion that is inspired by the unique resources of the city of Cleveland. Such communities break students and faculty into groups that are smaller than other classes on campus thus allowing for a small college atmosphere on a large Metropolitan campus.

Astronomy, Philosophy, and Science Fiction

Director: Paul Hamburger, Physics
Faculty Participants: Michael R. Buirne, Philosophy

Embedded Librarian: Preston White

Course, Day & Time:

ASC 101 M 9:00-10:00
ENG 101 T/TH 9:00-10:00
PHL 201 MWF 11:00-12:00
PHY 201 MWF 12:00-1:00

This cluster will offer students a look at the wonders of the universe from three different viewpoints. First, it will examine modern astronomy and its remarkable scientific discoveries about stars and galaxies, how they formed, and how they are changing, illustrated by beautiful Hubble Telescope photos. Second, students will explore how Philosophy uses mystery and logic to learn about reality and the universe. Finally, this cluster will employ science fiction and its exciting depictions (some possible, some not) of the universe to extend one’s appreciation of our past and future.

Energy and the City

Director: Roberta Steinhacker, Urban Studies
Faculty Participants: Terra S. Podus, Physics
Sanda Kaufman, Urban Studies

Embedded Librarian: Diane Kolosionek

Course, Day & Time:

ASC 101 Th 1:00-2:00
ENG 101 T/TH 10:00-11:00
PHL 103 Th 1:00-2:00
PHY 115 MWF 1:00-2:00
UST 203 MWF 11:00-12:00

The primary focus of this learning experience will be to provide students with different perspectives on how human civilization interacts and changes its environment. In particular, students will be introduced to basic concepts related to energy, its sources, transport and storage, and how these issues relate to the development of urban communities.

Cities, Sanctuaries, and Social Change in American History and Literature

Director: Regina N. Williams, History
Faculty Participants: Barbara Walker, English
Richard Klein, Urban Affairs

Embedded Librarian: Marianne Nolan

Course, Day & Time:

ASC 101 Th 1:00-2:00
ENG 101 T/TH 10:00-11:00
HIS 216 T/TH 11:00-12:00

This community provides students the opportunity to consider the role of religion in the history of various groups, especially African Americans. Students will explore the social role of the church, the rise of the Gospel Blues, and study faith-based initiatives in American history. Students will also visit area libraries, churches/sacred landmarks, and art institutions including Karamu House and the Cleveland Play House, where African American history and culture are presented, discussed and studied on a regular basis.

How We Know What We Know About Molecules and Living and Nonliving Systems

Director: David Hall, Chemistry
Faculty Participants: Paul Doeder, BGES
Ralph Gibson, BGES

Embedded Librarian: Theresa Nazaralainen

Course, Day & Time:

ASC 101 W 11:00-12:00
ENG 101 T/TH 10:00-11:00
BIO 200 MWF 11:00-12:00
BIO 201 M 9:00-10:00
CHEM 261 MWF 2:30-3:30
CHEM 266 Th 1:00-2:00

In this cluster, students will be presented with how scientific methodologies, popularly called ‘the scientific method’, work to generate new knowledge. In both the Chemistry and Biology courses, examples focusing on specific atoms or molecules will be used to demonstrate how scientific critical thinking works to provide scientific insights into the functioning and history of living and nonliving things. For example, the properties of the element carbon are discussed in General Chemistry, but those properties can also be used to explain why carbon is the central element in living beings. The increasingly molecular nature of modern Biology allows its pairing with Chemistry. The English 101 course in this cluster will use scientific critical thinking and molecule-based topics as the central writing theme.

Human Language, Human Reason

Director: Barbara Hoffman, Anthropology
Faculty Participants: Nelson Pole, Philosophy
Marshall Lewis, Anthropology

Embedded Librarian: Fran Berchik

Course, Day & Time:

ASC 101 W 8:30-9:30
ENG 101 MWF 9:00-10:00
ANT/LIN 120 MWF 9:45-10:45
PHL 101 M 9:00-10:00

Language is the principal medium of human communication, thought, and social life. By participating in this learning community, students will develop an in-depth understanding of the phenomenon of language as a human property, how its structure is tied to ways of thinking about what is true and what is false, and how it is used to convey a wide variety of meanings referential, emotive, logical, pragmatic, and social.

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