Gender Matters: Exploring the Social Significance of Sex
12 Credit Hours

This Learning Community offers a progressive and penetrating study of changing gender roles and the impact of these changes on family, workplace dynamics, politics, health, and equity in modern society. Students will conduct an interdisciplinary study of the biological, sociological and cultural significance of sex in educational, political and social settings and strive to understand the social significance of sex as an important factor of modern society. Students in this Learning Community will be actively involved in a Service Learning Project.

Courses:
- ASC 101 – Introduction to University Life
- ENG 101 – Freshman English
- SOC 201 – Race, Class and Gender
- WST 151 – Introduction to Women’s Studies

Life, Leadership and Logic
12 Credit Hours

Students will examine contemporary societal issues and the various ways in which we try to make sense of our worlds, analyze situations, define realities, and engage with others in society. Issues of personal and shared responsibility for society and its members will be considered in the context of the way we live our lives and construct our worlds. Students will be challenged to examine old ways of knowing as they develop strong analytical skills and explore this theme in the context of their own lives and visions for the future.

Courses:
- ASC 101 – Introduction to University Life
- ENG 090 – Introductory Writing
- PHL 130 – Deductive Logic
- SWK 200 – Introduction to Social Work

Images, Social Action and Change
12 Credit Hours

This Community is a powerful and constructive way for tomorrow’s leaders to imagine the future and examine the role of leadership in society. Understand the nature of effective moral, ethical, social, artistic and economic dimensions of leadership. Students will closely examine real-time contemporary issues with hands-on application of theories. Using strong analytical and critical thinking skills, students will develop strategies for organizing and leading positive social action.

Courses:
- ASC 101 – Human Diversity
- ASC 101 – Introduction to University Life
- ENG 090 – Basic Math and Algebra for Liberal Arts
- MTH 089 – Math Laboratory – Applications, Practice and Preview
- SWK 493 – Community Leadership Development Seminar

Politics of the Global Market Place
17 Credit Hours

Students will study contemporary topics in business, influences of politics and governing structures, technologies, cultural competencies and ethics. The primary focus will be emerging trends in the global market place. This Learning Community will challenge our ways of thinking and operating in global business environments. Students will participate in a variety of co-curricular learning activities and field trips.

Courses:
- BUS 101 – Intro to University Life for Business Students
- BUS 193 – The World of Business
- ENG 101 – Freshman English
- MTH 147 – Statistical Concepts with Applications
- PSC 231 – International Politics

Power, Passion and Privilege
16 Credit Hours

How do selected groups acquire and operate on the basis of power, passion and privilege? Examine the ways in which language and privilege serve as instruments to create and sustain hierarchies and influence social and cross-cultural interactions. Students will explore how cultures of domination are created and how wisdom serves the interest of peace and peace making as we shape our worlds. Lectures, demonstrations, films, co-curricular activities, and frequent participation with diverse groups are important features in this interdisciplinary study.

Courses:
- ANT 260 – Language, Culture and Society
- ASC 101 – Introduction to University Life
- CSC 224 – Career Exploration
- ENG 101 – Freshman English
- REL 265 – Religion and Culture

Science in Service to Society
12 Credit Hours

This Learning Community includes foundation courses to explore a range of careers in Health Care. Implications of new scientific discoveries, use of technologies, and ethics in the profession will be explored. Students will be actively involved in co-curricular activities and a variety of service learning opportunities for hands-on and real-time learning.

Courses:
- ASC 101 – Introduction to University Life
- BIO 266 – Human Anatomy and Physiology
- BIO 267 – Human Anatomy and Physiology Lab
- MTH 151, 152, 153 – Math Concepts
- PSC 231 – International Politics

Cleveland State University Learning Communities for First-Year Students
Fall 2008

Creating a Small College Atmosphere on a Major Metropolitan Campus
Learning Communities create the sense of a small campus—helping students get connected, grow intellectually and socially... and achieve better grades and succeed. In Learning Communities, students are exposed to a variety of disciplines and programs of study allowing them to make connections from multiple perspectives. This usually leads to more engaged learning, better understanding, and higher grades.

WHAT IS A Learning Community?

Learning Communities are “student-centered models” for the delivery of education that feature five components proven effective to support academic achievement:

- Clustered courses organized around a provocative, unifying theme
- Cohort participation where 25 students attend small classes together
- Easy access to Faculty to develop positive, supportive relationships
- Field trips and co-curricular activities that extend learning beyond the classroom
- Academic supports and services that contribute to engaged learning and balance

Being in a community helps students balance the academic and social dimensions of University life and research shows that students who participate in Learning Communities are more likely to achieve higher grades and graduate in 4–5 years.

WHAT DISTINGUISHES CSU Learning Communities?

- Our location gives us the unique advantage to make the City our classroom: learning extends beyond the classroom, taking full advantage of area landmarks, museums, and resources to stimulate intellectual growth.
- Highly motivated and engaged faculty collaborate to integrate course content, assignments, and co-curricular activities that foster active and engaged learning
- An embedded Librarian serves each Learning Community and assists students as they develop information literacy and complete intellectually challenging assignments
- Peer Mentor Coaches serve as excellent role models and support student transition from High School to the demands of University life, coordinating study groups, and facilitating positive learning activities.

WHY PARTICIPATE IN a Learning Community?

Learning Communities are designed for first-year students to provide a powerful supportive system to make a smooth transition to the rigorous demands of University life. It is an exciting way to experience the first year of higher education with smaller classes, interesting and intellectually challenging coursework, positive interactions with faculty and peers, and lots of co-curricular activities.

Ask your Academic Advisor about the Fall 2008 Learning Communities, or contact the Learning Community Staff at 216-687-5561 or by e-mailing learningcommunities@csuohio.edu

Learning Community students experiencing first-hand what they learned in the classroom.

Cities, Sanctuaries and Social Change

13 Credit Hours

Local and global history comes alive as students explore the role of African American institutions in this area, since the abolitionist movement and Reconstruction. With a focus on changing cultural, political, and economic structures of the local urban experience, students will visit historic landmarks to examine the sites where much of the history being studied has taken place. This Learning Community is ideal for students who want to study history in the context of contemporary cultural reality.

Courses:
- ASC 101 – Introduction to University Life
- ENG 101 – Freshman English
- HIS 216 – History of African American Culture (since 1867)

Colors of Mind: History, Culture and Social Life

12 Credit Hours

Trace the patterns of the African Diaspora and explore the historic events that contribute to contemporary notions of race, color diversity and the aesthetics, multicultural perceptions associated with the range of skin colors. Patterns of dance, theatre and other ethnic forms of cultural expressions will be examined. Students will gain deeper understanding of the connection between history patterns of thinking and color biases that contribute to the creation of social and political systems and contemporary issues.

Courses:
- ENG 101 – Introduction to University Life
- HST 200 – Cleveland Past, Present and Future, The African American Experience
- MTH 127 – Mathematics for Elementary/Middle School Teachers
- EDC 300 – Diversity in Educational Settings
- ASC 101 – Introduction to University Life
- UST 200 – Introduction to Urban Studies

Demystifying Math and Science: Unveiling the Secrets to Success

12 Credit Hours

Learn about the practice of teaching in contemporary environments and Education as a profession. Using technology, combined with enhanced teaching strategies, instructors will teach strategies and practice methods that demystify math and science principles helping students understand and achieve greater success. Students will be actively involved with Service Learning Projects that provide opportunity for immediate application and deeper understanding.

Courses:
- ASC 101 – Introduction to University Life
- EDU 300 – Diversity in Educational Settings
- MTH 127 – Mathematics for Elementary/Middle School Teachers
- PHY 115 – Physics, Technology and Society
- PHY 103 – Physics Lab

Computer and Information Science

12 Credit Hours

Students interested in a Computer and Information Science major will enjoy this opportunity. It is a rigorous course of study examining the history of computing, evolving and expanding use of computing technology in the business environment, management of computational resources, ethics, security and future trends. Students in this Learning Community will be introduced to opportunities for application of learning in internship situations.

Courses:
- BUS 101 – Introduction to University Life for Business Students
- CIS 280 – Intro to Programming
- MTH 181 – Calculus I
- PHY 215 – Engineering Ethics

Energy and the City

13 Credit Hours

In this Learning Community students will engage in the scientific study of energy, fuel and motion with an emphasis on the social and cultural implications for urban development including planning, technological, economic, and political implications. Joining with another Learning Community, students will participate in a variety of co-curricular activities including field trips and interactive laboratory sessions.

Courses:
- ASC 101 – Introduction to University Life
- ENG 101 – Freshman English
- PHY 115 – Physics, Technology and Society
- PHY 103 – Physics Lab
- UST 200 – Introduction to Urban Studies

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