



# Learning Communities

FOR CSU STUDENTS



Creating a Small College Atmosphere on a Major Metropolitan Campus



# Learning Communities

College is an exciting time for students and their families, and filled with many challenges. Learning Communities help students meet those challenges and make a smooth transition from high school to higher education. They create a small college atmosphere and promote success with smaller classes, interesting courses, coordinated assignments and co-curricular activities that compliment classroom instruction. It is an exciting way to experience the first year of college.

## How do Learning Communities Operate?

Learning Communities feature a cluster of courses organized with a thematic focus. Students study the theme from multiple perspectives, in small classes taught by highly motivated and engaged faculty. Coursework is intellectually stimulating with a range of well integrated co-curricular activities. This interdisciplinary process helps students develop strong critical thinking and problem solving skills. An Embedded Librarian and Peer Mentor Coaches work closely with students to assist them as they move confidently through the semester as a group.

## Who participates in Learning Communities?

All admitted CSU students have the opportunity to participate in a Learning Community. Enrollment is voluntary and reflects the rich cultural diversity of the larger campus community. About 64% of Learning Community students are female and 36% are male. The average ACT Composite score for participants in the inaugural cohort was 19. Many courses satisfy General Education requirements, so students from all majors can enroll if the theme or topic is of interest.

In just two years, enrollment in Learning Communities has increased from 10% of first year students in Fall 2007 to 18% in Fall 2008. Check the CSU website for updates and selections for 2009. [www.csuohio.edu/academic/learningcommunities.html](http://www.csuohio.edu/academic/learningcommunities.html)

## What Distinguishes CSU Learning Communities?

CSU Learning Communities offer a dynamic blend of local and global interests, examining issues and studying traditions and cultures that inform our understanding of the world, from antiquity to the present. Students have an extraordinary opportunity to gain first hand knowledge through service learning, international exposure and immersion experiences, research initiatives in cooperation with senior faculty, and a range of engaged learning activities.



To learn more about CSU Learning Communities  
call 216-687-5561 or Email [learningcommunities@csuoho.edu](mailto:learningcommunities@csuoho.edu).

# Learning Communities

SPRING 2009 - Signature Communities

These unique CSU Learning Communities are ideal for students who are academically motivated and enjoy active and engaged learning that extends beyond the classroom. Space is limited, priority given to early applicants.

## Civic Engagement & Social Working

Students who are public minded and wish to play significant roles, leading and working in the community at large for the improvement of the human condition will enjoy this experience. Gain a theoretical understanding of communities, how they are formed and operate. Investigate roles of public and private sectors in shaping lives. Explore new strategies for social working and implementation of positive social change. Visit neighborhoods, local institutions, and interact with civic leaders and community activists from around the region.

## Healing Across Cultures

Develop ideas and skills for undergraduate research projects to increase our understanding of the integrated effects of mind, body, spirit, and environment in health and wellness. Examine belief systems, healing practices and age-old traditions of diverse cultures. Study cutting-edge strategies for combining modern medical knowledge and practice with methods and wisdom of traditional healers and elders from around the world, promoting health, wellness, and sustainability. A voluntary international study-research trip to India is planned during Summer 2009. Costs will be discussed in class and Learning Community meetings. Students must enroll in any two of the three courses listed. Students planning to participate in the international study-research trip to India in Summer 2009 must enroll in SWK 399.

## Urban Sensibilities:

### Embracing Local Challenges with Global Understanding

Learn to work and lead effectively in the urban community with an expanded and global understanding of world issues. Develop broad understanding of inter-dependence of local and global communities with advanced problem-solving skills. Engage with leaders and managers working in public, private, and nonprofit sectors and gain knowledge from their experience and guidance. A voluntary 7-10 day international study trip to El Salvador is planned where students will have the experience of total immersion in an urban community, uniquely different from their own. Develop observational research skills. Costs for the international study-trip will be discussed in class and Learning Community meetings.

## Virtues, Voices and Vibes in the Spoken Word

Focus on the Spoken Word movement, contemporary performing arts, poetry, singing, and acting. Unique opportunity for students to learn and share their talents with others, performing and competing in special events. Enrolled students will have the additional benefit to study with visiting artists and learn from others who are experienced and excel in the art of literary performance. The Cleveland Playhouse Square Foundation serves as a community collaborator and partner for this Learning Community.

### COURSES

- ASC 101** Introduction to University Life
- MTH 087** Basic Math and Algebra for Liberal Arts Majors
- SWK 200** Introduction to Social Work
- UST 240** Democracy and the City

### COURSES

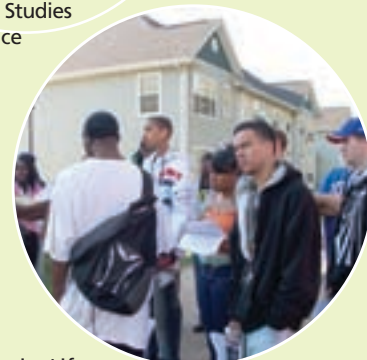
- ANT 321** Psychological Anthropology
- HSC 341** Environmental Health
- SWK 399** India Experience: Pre-departure orientation

### COURSES

- ASC 101** Introduction to University Life
- MUS 262** Nonwestern Popular Music
- UST 200** Introduction to Urban Studies
- UST 296** Urban Field Experience

### COURSES

- ASC 101** Introduction to University Life
- COM 293** Communication Lab
- DRA 225** Principles of Acting for Television, Film, and the Stage
- MUS 263** Black Music of Two Worlds



# Learning Communities

Learning Communities create the sense of a small campus... helping students get connected, grow intellectually and socially... achieve better grades and succeed. Students are exposed to a variety of disciplines and programs of study allowing them to learn multiple perspectives.

Research shows that students who participate in Learning Communities are more engaged, earn higher grades, more likely to be involved in campus activities and are more likely to graduate in 4-5 years.

## What are CSU students saying about Learning Communities?



“I like being in a Learning Community because it helps you connect with faculty and students.”

*Chantal  
Cleveland Heights, OH*



“When you enroll in a Learning Community, get ready to be WOW-ed!”

*Nick  
Middleburg Heights, OH*



“I did not expect to do so many different things in my Learning Community classes. It is a different way to learn and I like it.”

*Shaye  
North Olmsted, OH*



# Learning Communities

SPRING 2009



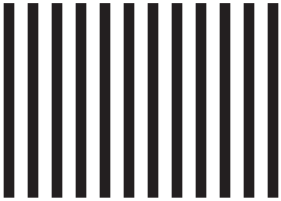
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# Learning Communities SPRING 2009

Please check the Spring 2009 Learning Community that you find most interesting.

- Civic Engagement and Social Working
- Healing Across Cultures
- Urban Sensibilities: Embracing Local Challenges with Global Understanding
- Virtues, Voices and Vibes of the Spoken Word

**For more information:**

Please contact: Learning Communities Activities at 216-687-5561 or Email [learningcommunities@csuohio.edu](mailto:learningcommunities@csuohio.edu)  
[www.csuohio.edu/academic/learningcommunities.html](http://www.csuohio.edu/academic/learningcommunities.html)

Yes, I am interested in participating in a CSU Learning Community. Please send me more information.

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

High School \_\_\_\_\_

Graduation Date \_\_\_\_\_

Male \_\_\_\_\_ Female \_\_\_\_\_

How did you hear about CSU Learning Communities?

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