

DEFINITION FROM MHEC: Interdisciplinary and Emerging Issues

Courses in this category address emerging issues which many colleges have identified as essential to a full program of general education for their students. Institutions may include courses which provide an interdisciplinary examination of issues across categories, or may include content or courses which address other categories of knowledge, skills, and values which lie outside of the five traditional areas (Arts and Humanities, English Composition, Social and Behavioral Sciences, Mathematics, Biological and Physical Sciences). Such courses may not be included in a General Education program unless they provide sufficient academic content and rigor equivalent to disciplines traditionally defined as general education as presented within this document. An institution need not require any courses in this category. The maximum which may be included in this category by any institution is 8 semester hours (8 credits).

Upon successfully completing a general education course in **Global, Historical and Cultural Perspectives: Topics, Trends, and Themes**, students will be able to:

1. acquire knowledge of a specific subject or topic which enhances personal awareness or interest;
2. connect this knowledge to larger body of information, thus promoting thematic engagement across disciplines;
3. develop experiential as well as formal understandings of these topics;
4. demonstrate the complexities of collective learning through appropriate activities, including but not limited to linked courses, collaborative learning, service learning, reflective journals or portfolios, and cultural encounters.