

Global and Multicultural Requirement, Common Course of Study

Operational Rubric

As part of its continuing efforts to respond to ongoing theoretical developments in the academy, the “Global and Multicultural” (GM) requirement was added to the Common Course of Study (CSS). Starting with the class of 2016, Lafayette College students must take two courses in the GM category, one of which must receive the GM1 designation, and the other the GM2 designation. To assist faculty in developing such courses and as well as members of the Curriculum and Educational Policy Committee (CEP) in evaluating them, we have developed the following guidelines.

1. GM 1 and 2 requirements:

GM1: Recognize the existence of structures of identity, diversity, and difference, and demonstrate how they are formed by and exist within specific contexts (e.g., historical, regional, cultural, social, material, and linguistics).

GM 2: Understand identity, diversity and difference in the domestic and global frames, both independently and as they intersect and affect one another.

2. GM1 in Detail: Courses fulfilling GM 1 should be focused primarily on dimensions of difference, which include but are not limited to race, gender, class, sexuality, or religion. Many of these courses will focus on these subjects in a U.S. context, but such courses may be focused on a site other than the United States. Scholars working on these questions tend not to view them in isolation but often combine variables (such as women AND class, or race AND gender). They often view these distinctions as worked into the structure of society, and explore how they relate, or even reinforce each other (how they “intersect”). These dimensions of difference are often discussed as systems of privilege and power.

Since it would be difficult for courses to cover in detail every identity dimension (race, class and so forth) in one course, courses that cover in depth at least two identity dimensions are acceptable. **To receive GM1 designation**, as judged from the syllabus readings and topics covered, dimensions of identity and difference **must be the primary focus** of the course, and the course should consider **at least two dimensions of difference**. Examples include the following:

- gender, women, or sexism
- race, racism
- ethnicity, ethnocentrism
- class, classism
- sexuality, homophobia, heteronormativity
- transgender
- religion, anti-Semitism, Islamophobia

Other language that might be used includes:

- discrimination, domination, resistance, hegemony
- intersectionality

3. GM2 in Detail: Courses meeting GM 2 will be exploring these same questions of identity and systems of difference **in a global frame**. This could involve **one location**, such as the course *Twentieth-Century Russia* (HIST 244), a course focused on **a region**, such as *International Politics in the Middle East and the Persian Gulf* (GOVT 230), or a course considering **a process**, such as *Atrocity, Genocide and Reparations* (IA 250).

To qualify for GM2 designation, a substantive portion of the course (for instance, a multi-week unit or a theme woven across the course) should contain some discussion of identity and difference, **AND a substantive portion of the course** should involve consideration of a place and/or people in a global frame or a process that brings people outside of their domestic context, such as a regional social movement, immigration, colonialism, forced migration, refugee movements and so forth.

4. Interim and Study abroad must follow the criteria as established. Just because a course is taking place in another country does not automatically qualify it for a GM1 or GM2 designation.

6. Can a course be both GM1 and GM2?

While it is difficult, courses can be designed to meet both criteria.