



St. Olaf College General Education Curriculum Multicultural Studies–Global (MCG) Requirement

Description:

A Multicultural Studies course with a global focus.

Administrative guideline: The Multicultural Studies–Global course completed by a student must be from a different department or program than the Multicultural Studies–Domestic course.

Intended learning outcomes:

Students will demonstrate:

1. deep, contextualized knowledge about at least one culture located primarily outside the United States and considered to have experiences and/or a culture substantially different from those of the dominant groups in the United States, Canada, and Western Europe.
2. the ability to use concepts and tools of inquiry from at least one discipline to analyze issues related to cultural experience different from that of the dominant groups in the United States, Canada, and Western Europe.
3. the ability to reflect critically on their own cultural experience and the diverse cultural experience of others as well as on their understanding of their place in a world that is culturally complex and diverse, interdependent but divided.

Course guidelines with Curriculum Committee comments:

1. The course must focus explicitly on the beliefs, history, social experiences, artistic or literary expressions, and/or traditions of one or more cultures located primarily outside the United States, considered to have experiences and/or a culture substantially different from those of the dominant groups in the United States, Canada, and Western Europe.

Comment: The MCG course is intended to promote understanding of diverse experiences and cultural traditions of groups located primarily outside the United States considered to have experiences and/or a culture substantially different from those of the dominant groups in the United States, Canada, and

Western Europe. The course is compatible with a variety of approaches to the study of diversity, including literature (in translation or in the original language), fine arts, history, philosophy, religion, and social sciences, as well as area studies (e.g., Asian Studies, Hispanic Studies, Linguistic Studies, Media Studies, Women's Studies). An understanding of diverse experiences and cultural traditions outside the United States typically includes attention to issues of power, influence, status, and/or resources.

MCG courses may treat any of a variety of human differences, including ethnicity, gender, race, religion, sexual orientation, or social class. Courses that examine only non-cultural aspects of a group, without reference to broader cultural and social implications, usually would not be appropriate to the requirement.

Cultural diversity need not be the exclusive focus of an MCG course; however, material about cultural diversity should be an integrated and natural part of the course. In making proposals for the MCG course, faculty must show how their choice of geographical region or cultural group is appropriate for the requirement. For example, a course about contemporary France might satisfy the MCG criteria by focusing on the North African immigrant experience since the end of the Algerian War.

2. The course must engage students in the use of tools of inquiry considered appropriate within the disciplinary or interdisciplinary focus of the course.

Comment: Both disciplinary and interdisciplinary methods and tools of inquiry are appropriate. In making proposals for the MCG course, faculty are encouraged to describe the most appropriate way, in their own discipline, to engage students in inquiry, observation, and analysis. MCG courses offer more than simply the opportunity to "appreciate" global differences; rather, they promote a critical understanding of such differences, including the ways in which differences are conceptualized, defined, and structured.

3. The course must engage students in reflection on their place in an interdependent but divided global community.

Comment: The MCG requirement is also intended to engage students in reflection on their own and others' experience of cultural diversity outside the United States, Canada, and Western Europe. Students apply knowledge and tools of inquiry to issues of cultural diversity that are of historical, contemporary, or personal significance. This reflective element is intended to promote students' awareness of their own cultural experience to date and to encourage them to contemplate the implications of living in an interdependent but divided global community.

Information for instructors proposing MCG credit for a specific course:

The St. Olaf Curriculum Committee is responsible for reviewing and approving proposals to designate individual courses as meeting the Multicultural Studies–Global requirement. Instructors may seek MCG credit as part of a proposal for a new course, or may seek to add MCG credit to an existing course. MCG credit is attached to the *course*, not to the instructor or to the specific term in which the course is offered. A proposal for MCG credit must show how the course meets each of the MCG course guidelines; the comments following a guideline provide additional information about how the Curriculum Committee interprets and applies that guideline in reviewing proposals. Instructors are encouraged to consider the comments as well as the guidelines in preparing proposals. Forms and additional instructions for submitting proposals electronically are available on the website of the [Office of the Registrar](#).

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