

Cultures and Communities Certificate

About Us

One of the most exciting things about college is the opportunity to meet and work with people from so many different backgrounds and walks of life. The Cultures and Communities (CC) program promotes such experiences through its unique array of interdisciplinary classes, collaborative projects, and community-based learning.

Since all CC courses count towards completing UWM's General Education Requirements, many students find they can earn the Certificate at the same time. The program offers students courses that focus on U.S. multicultural studies, global and international developments, issues of gender and sexuality, understanding environmental challenges, and the community and cultural contexts of art, health, science, and technology.

In their service-learning assignments, students work in community settings on projects that expand their academic knowledge through hands-on experience. They test and apply ideas learned in the classroom and gain the ability to make connections across local and global communities, which is a critical tool for success in the 21st century.

Value of the Certificate

Students who obtain the certificate in Cultures and Communities will be able to:

- Understand the social construction of cultural identities and their relationship to historical, political, and economic forces.
- Collaborate and communicate constructively with people from diverse backgrounds.
- Utilize a multicultural framework for appreciating and interpreting works of art.
- Describe the basic components of modern globalization and international interaction.
- Identify the roles played by differences of race, ethnicity, gender, class, and cultural identity in the theory and practice of science, technology, and health care.



- Analyze debates over social justice, including the systematic inequalities between the dominant and the marginalized and how they can be addressed.
- Articulate approaches to democratic citizenship and community problem-solving in a pluralistic society.
- Use a variety of intellectual methods for exploring the conflicts of beliefs and values between people.

By earning the CC Certificate, students can strengthen their preparation for careers in education, business, law, government, and health care, among many others, because these professions increasingly demand multicultural awareness, intercultural communication skills, and an understanding of how globalization affects us all.

Certificate Requirements

For the certificate, students must complete 15 credits of CC courses as well as a minimum of 15-20 hours of service-learning.

All students take "Multicultural America" for three credits. This course is offered in many departments and can meet the humanities, social science, or arts General Education Requirement depending on the specific course the student takes. The remaining twelve credits are chosen from an approved list of courses covering the following areas:

Certificate programs are similar to minors. They are comprised of 15 to 26 credits in a specialized subject matter, and include coursework from different departments. Certificates can be combined with a degree program, or they are available as stand-alone options for individuals who already hold a bachelor's degree from any accredited college or university. Many certificates also will enroll individuals with a strong interest in the topic area but who do not have a degree.

- Cultures and Communities of the United States (3 credits).
- Global Perspectives on Culture and Community (3 credits). In addition to options from the approved course list, a study abroad experience can fulfill this area requirement.
- Art, Culture, and Community (3 credits).
- Science, Culture, and Society (3 credits).

All students must maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or better and must pass all Cultures and Communities courses with a grade of 'C' or better.

Approved Courses

There are over 100 courses from which to choose to meet the requirements for the CC certificate. The full list can be found on the web site, but a sampling includes:

Cultures and Communities of the United States

- Africol 265 – Psychological Effects of Racism
- AIS 321 – Contemporary Issues of the American Indian
- Arabic 164 – Arabs and Islam in America
- Commun 350 – Intercultural Communication
- Econ 248 – Economics of Discrimination
- Ed Pol 560 – Education and Hispanics
- English 375 – Survey of Asian-American Literature
- Ethnic 200 – Racial Minorities in the U.S.
- Hist 243 – History of Women in American Society
- Jewish 282 – Jewish Identity in Contemporary America
- LGBT 200 – Introduction to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Studies
- Sociol 250 – Sex and Gender

Global Perspectives on Culture and Community

- Africol 232 – Survey of African Societies and Cultures
- Anthro 102 – Introduction to Anthropology: Culture and Society
- ArtHist 105 – Asian Art and Architecture
- Comp Lit 208 – World Literature in Translation: The 17th to the 21st Century
- Geog 110 – The World: Peoples and Regions
- Hist 287 – The Vietnam War
- Philos 204 – Introduction to Asian Religions
- PolSci 175 – Introduction to International Relations
- Sociol 235 – Social Change in the Global Economy

Art, Culture, and Community

- Art 100 – American Art and Culture
- Dance 122 – Beginning African Dance I
- Dance 320 – Rituals and Culture
- Music 102 – American Popular Music
- Music 310 – Introduction to World Music
- Theatre 120 – Performance and Popular Culture

Science, Culture, and Society

- Geog 114 – Geography of Race in the United States
- Geog 125 – Introduction to Environmental Geography
- CES 210 – Introduction to Conservation and Environmental Science
- Hist 229 – History of Race, Science, and Medicine in the U.S.
- Nurs 101 – Cultural Diversity in Health Care
- Philos 244 – Ethical Issues in Health Care

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