General Education Submission Form

Electronic submissions are preferred.

A. GE component for which course is being proposed:
   III. Common Skills: Writing Intensive

B. Submitted by  Caryn Reeder

C. Ideally, submissions should be discussed by the entire department prior to submittal.
   Chair has reviewed and approved the course.
   Helen Rhee and Cheri Larsen-Hoeckley have also commented on the course proposal.

D. Course being proposed (please attach syllabus):
   RS 104, Special Topics: Women and the Bible

E. This course
   [ ] Has not been modified, but is being submitted to check its suitability
   [ ] Has had its syllabus rewritten to communicate the course’s contribution to GE
   [ ] Has had its contents modified to address the relevant GE issues
   [x] Is a new course designed to fulfill the GE requirement

F. This course is being submitted as
   [ ] A Template. Applicable to courses with multiple sections which require only general training in the discipline. The submission should come with the approval of the department chair and should clearly identify what course content and what elements of the syllabus the department has agreed will common to all sections. Upon approval by the GE Committee, any course whose syllabus is determined by the department to meet the specifications of the template is approved to satisfy this area requirement. A copy of each syllabus should be forwarded to the G.E. committee for record keeping purposes.
   [x] An Individual Course. Applicable to courses requiring specialized training in the discipline or are typically offered by a particular instructor. The course should be resubmitted and reassessed in the event of a change in staffing or syllabus.

G. Brief statement of rationale:
The writing assignments for the class include different kinds of writing as well as a major project that will receive significant feedback from the professor over the course of the class. Overall, students will write 23 to 32 pages for the class.

1. Kinds of writing:
   A. A personal response paper to the topics covered during each week asks students to evaluate the topic (known through readings and class discussions) as well as formulate a reasoned, supported opinion on the topic. Students will turn in four essays, totaling 8 to 12 pages.
B. A pre-research discussion of the student’s proposed subject for the major project asks students to explain their personal interest in the proposed project as well as their expectations for the results of their study (2-3 pages).

C. Students will complete an outline of their research of primary sources and an annotated bibliography of secondary research. This element of the research project will help the students analyze, assimilate, and organize their research papers.

D. Students will write a 10-12 page research paper on their chosen topic. This paper is expected to be a thoughtful, analytical engagement with primary sources and scholarship.

E. The research project culminates in a 3-5 page sermon summarizing the research completed to make it accessible to the church, and expanding on the significance of the research project for the life of the church. This sermon will be presented to the entire class on the last day of the course.

2. Professorial feedback:
   A. The weekly essays will be commented upon.
   B. The pre-research discussion of the proposed project will receive careful attention and analysis, including suggestions for improving and focusing the project.
   C. After completing their outlines and annotated bibliographies, students will meet individually with the professor to get feedback and guidance on the preliminary results of their research. This meeting will help students see any weaknesses in their arguments, holes in their research, and strengths of their projects, and students will be able to develop deeper, stronger papers as a result.
   D. Students will be encouraged to exchange their research projects with each other for review. The final paper will be commented upon carefully by the professor with respect to grammar, logic, analytic strength, and creativity.
   E. The presentation of the sermon will be discussed and questioned by the class.