

## **Proposed Changes to the GE Combined Document** *draft in progress*

In the “Common Inquiries” area, the GE document should distinguish between (1) which department(s) should be consulted by the GE committee when they are considering course proposals in each area and (2) which departments are presumed to be the only ones allowed to offer courses in those GE CI areas. Also, since presumptions can be overridden on the basis of adequate reasons, consulted departments should be allowed to recommend that a course offered by other departments and taught by professors outside of those presumed departments be approved for those areas (see “Comment on Process” below).

Because Mathematics and Philosophy specialize in the type of formal reasoning involved in the Reasoning Abstractly GE Common Inquiry area, there is a strong presumption that only courses in those areas can be approved (but see the “Comment on Process” paragraph below).

Because historical context and primary sources are significant in many areas of scholarship, such as art, religious studies, mathematics, and the sciences, it is expected that many courses outside of the History Department could be approved for this category. However, because the History Department specializes in the type of reasoning involved in this inquiry, the Department Chairperson of History should approve of proposed courses, consulting the faculty of the History Department if the case is difficult or ambiguous.

Because faculty in English and Modern Languages have special training in reading imaginative literature, these departments should be consulted to approve proposals in this area. And because only courses offered by these departments—and the department of Theater Arts—involve a sufficiently substantial focus on works of imaginative literature, there is a strong presumption that only courses in these three departments will be approved for this GE area (but see the “Comment on Process” paragraph below).

Similarly, faculty in Physics and Chemistry have special training in the methodologies of the physical sciences, so those departments should be consulted about proposals in this area—and there is a strong presumption that only courses offered by these departments will be approved (but see the “Comment on Process” paragraph below).

In the life sciences area, Biology and Psychology should be consulted and there is a strong presumption that only courses in those disciplines—and appropriate courses in Kinesiology—will be approved (but see the “Comment on Process” paragraph below).

In the working artistically area, Art, Music, and Theater should be consulted and there is a strong presumption that only courses in those disciplines—and courses in other disciplines that focus on working artistically (such as courses involving filmmaking) can be approved (but see the “Comment on Process” paragraph below).

In the Understanding Society area, all the social science departments should be consulted—at least in cases in which the proposed course would be offered by a department that is not in the social science division.

Because global interconnectedness is important in a wide range of disciplines, courses meeting this inquiry will be found in a number of areas such as Sociology/Anthropology, Political Science, Religious Studies, or Economics and Business. There is a mild presumption that only courses in these disciplines will be approved for this GE area.

### **Comment on Process**

If a course is proposed to count for a particular category, but the proposed course is in a department outside of those where there is a strong presumption of approval, the GE Committee will consult the chairs of the departments presumed to be associated with the area. Courses outside these departments may be approved by the GE Committee if the department chairs in the closely associated disciplines all agree that the proposed course meets the guidelines. It is expected that department chairs will consult the faculty in their department for formal departmental approval in cases that are difficult or ambiguous.