

FALL 2007

GENERAL EDUCATION PROGRAM COURSE OFFERINGS

The General Education Program provides "core courses" in *World Civilizations*, *American Pluralism*, and *Great Discoveries in Science* to all students enrolled at the University at Buffalo.

General Education focuses on a broad array of skills, knowledge, and issues that the University's faculty considers being particularly important for all college graduates. The program is intended to help students prepare for success and fulfillment in a continually changing world. General Education complements the departmental major. The major provides depth of study in a particular area of specialization and prepares students for particular careers or for advanced study.



University at Buffalo *The State University of New York*

College of Arts & Sciences • General Education Program
708 Clemens Hall
<http://gened.buffalo.edu>

About General Education Courses...

World Civilizations. The World Civilizations course is about the people, forces and ideas which have shaped the way people have experienced (and still do experience) the world. The perspective of this course is global; its focus is on the origins and development, geographical context and interactions of world culture.

World Civilizations courses are designed and intended to serve a fundamental purpose of university education – to broaden one's view and extend one's comprehension of the variety of cultural experiences which surround us. These courses serve this purpose by "instilling a greatly expanded sense of time and space, of values, history and geography." This is accomplished by challenging the students to investigate, analyze, interpret and, ultimately, to integrate their unique cultural heritage with the diversity which surrounds us.

-- *Professor Thomas Barry, World Civilizations Instructor*

It is highly recommended that World Civ I be taken prior to World Civ II.

American Pluralism. The American Pluralism course examines the multicultural, multi-ethnic nature of American society. It introduces students to five important areas of American experience and culture: race, gender, ethnicity, class and religious sectarianism. Writings by and about Americans of color, women, and people from diverse ethnic, class and religious groups provide background and context for discussions of contemporary issues.

A diverse faculty selected from many of the University's departments teaches American Pluralism. Students learn from a variety of contemporary and historical sources, including literature, art, journalism, research articles, guest lecturers, films, and the experiences of their classmates.

Great Discoveries in Science. Students must complete UGC 302 or UGC 303, "Great Discoveries in Science", or a Cognate (an approved equivalent course). These courses focus on selected great discoveries of science, presenting a particular body of scientific facts and concepts and connecting them with the process of science, related history and philosophy, and the interdependence of science and technology. The courses emphasize the central ideas that set the framework for a discipline and its "great discoveries." The examples are selected from diverse fields to provide a breadth that complements the depth offered in the prerequisite introductory-level science course.



WORLD CIVILIZATIONS I UGC 111

UGC 111B
Wed & Fri 2:00-2:50 pm

Professor R.V. Des Forges
HistoryDepartment

This course attempts to understand continuities and changes in the human experience by tracing the origins and development of global civilization from earliest recorded times through the fifteenth century of the common era. It suggests that we may usefully divide these many millennia into three sub-periods, each dominated by its own principal center that interacted in various ways with different peripheries. It argues that each successive period made contributions to world civilizations that were distinctive in kind, equal in value, and universal in significance. In the first period of some hundred thousand years, human beings (*homo sapiens sapiens*) first appeared in what is known today as sub-Saharan Africa, developed various hunting and gathering communities and cultures, and, in one or two migrations, spread to the rest of the globe. In the second period of some ten thousand years, humans multiplied in the region around the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers (Mesopotamia), the Nile, and the Mediterranean Sea by engaging in agriculture, trade, and pastoralism, developing theistic religion, metallurgy, and writing, and forming cities, states, and empires, social and political units that spread to—or were independently invented in—much of the rest of the globe. In the third period of about two thousand years, people concentrated in the Yellow and Yangzi River and the Indus and Ganges River valleys developed technologies, concepts, and institutions that enabled them to unify large numbers of disparate peoples into congeries of successive or contemporary polities that produced new levels of peace, order, and prosperity and that attracted the interest, admiration, and appetites of much of the rest of the world.

The course includes: reading in a single volume of historical documents and three “classic” books, one from each of the three major world regions; slides, videos, and lectures by the principal instructor and a guest or two; a mid-term examination; and a final paper comparing and contrasting the three chosen classics. Grades will be based one quarter on participation in class, one quarter on the mid-term, and one half on the final paper.

UGC 111C
Mon & Wed 11:00-11:50 am

Professor Thomas Barry
ClassicsDepartment

This section is designed to create an awareness of the world's history as a coherent and meaningful process of which we are all a part. To this end, we shall study the most important political, economic, social, and religious occurrences which illuminate the universal history of this sphere. Thus, the first goal of the course is to instill a greatly expanded sense of time and space, of history and geography. Even more, the students will confront the very diverse ways by which cultures express their values, form their basic assumptions, and relate to other societies. Yet we shall also investigate underlying communities of values which we share, the identity of which is often hidden by surface appearance. In this way, we shall meet the second goal of the course: to demonstrate the ways world history is a common experience of shared values. Students will analyze and interpret original source documents and materials, especially works of art where values are best concentrated,

in order to participate directly in the struggle to understand world civilization through its own evidence.

UGC 111 E
Tues & Thurs 9:30-10:20 am

Professor Timothy Boyd
Classics Department

My focus in UGC 111 is upon attempting to understand how various strands which make up history, including technology, economics, geography, military, religion, and sexuality, among many, are woven together in so many different and in so many similar ways from the ancient Egyptians to the Middle Ages. Along the way, we will examine everything from developments in architecture to what gives women power within a society, even a society which appears, on the surface, to be completely male-dominated. Requirements will include weekly recitations, quizzes in lectures and recitations, and four hour exams with both objective and essay components.

UGC 111F
Tues & Thurs, 9:30 – 10:20 am

Professor John Dewald
History Department

This course examines a handful of societies, spread across the globe, as they developed between about 700 BCE and about 1400. Covering more than 2,000 years, the course is necessarily selective; it examines moments in these societies? development, rather than attempting a complete overview of them. We will approach these societies primarily through studying their literatures. The course will give close attention to eight major works, all of them to be purchased in the bookstore. On the other hand, there will be no textbook in the course. Basic information and background to the assigned readings will be presented in lectures. Regular attendance at both lectures and discussion sections will thus be necessary for passing the course.

UGC 111G
Tues & Thurs 2:00-2:50 pm

Professor Donald Grinde
American Studies Department

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to Ancient Civilizations around the world and to give students an appreciation of the extraordinary diversity of the human experience. We will examine the values, traditions, and ideas of cultures around the world in a comparative way. The emphasis will be on understanding different societies in a thoughtful and critical manner.

UGC 111 H
Tues & Thurs, 1:00-1:50 pm

Professor Warren Barbour
Anthropology Department

This course will cover the human career from 7 million years ago to the beginning of the age of western exploration around 1550 ca. Emphasis in lectures will be on those aspects of cultures and civilizations that entice the student to think about the construction and current expression of our society and its global context.

This “World Civilization” section will have two main foci. First will be the learning of the broad sweep of history and pre-history covered by your textbook. Importance will be placed on the rise

and fall of cultures and civilizations, with the goal of having the student understand the dynamic, fluid nature of the worlds past societies.

The second focus will be to understand the course material from an anthropological and archaeological perspective. This will be presented in lecture through lectures, powerpoint presentations and video. It is important for the student to know that the lectures in this class will not be rehashes of the chapters assigned from the textbook. The lectures will expand an idea from the textbook, or focus on a controversy in theory or interpretation of a point brought up in the textbook.

Civilizations share many characteristics but differ in others that makes for intriguing puzzles and comparisons. Students will be able to explore these issues in a ten page paper specifically comparing a focused aspect [economy, religion, etc.] of two civilizations.

UGC 111 J
Tues & Thurs, 11:00-11:50 am

Professor William Baumer
Philosophy Department

The development and interactions of societies from the dawn of recorded history through 1550 AD are surveyed in this approach to World Civilization I. The course considers the changes and interplay of societies' major components: agriculture, arts and crafts, technologies and sciences, economic systems, social and political structures, religious and philosophical beliefs. The impacts of these components and of various societies on one another and the consequences for the shape and state of present societies and the world in the 21st century are the foci of this overview. The course includes lectures, recitation discussions, texts and readings. Grades are based on three exams, a research essay, and recitation discussion performance; attendance is required.

UGC 111 K
Tues & Thurs 5:00-5:50 pm

Professor James Lawler
Philosophy Department

Many states and influential movements today are energetically renewing their allegiance to non-Western traditions. There is a renewal of Confucianism in the Far East, of Hinduism in India, and of Islam in the Middle East and elsewhere. Orthodox Christianity in Russia is in a period of revival. Even the animistic spirituality of the tribal societies of Africa and North America, as well as traditions such as that of the ancient Mayans in Mexico is an object of contemporary significance. Buddhism is a rallying point among Tibetan exiles, but it is also an increasingly powerful spiritual movement in Western countries. Fundamentalist Christianity, too, has become a dynamic force, especially in the United States.

To understand the contemporary world, it is more necessary today than ever before in history to comprehend the great civilizations of the past. This course will provide general historical overviews stressing the various styles of the great civilizations and major structural changes. Study of the socio-economic and political histories will be combined with readings in classic texts of the great religions and philosophies of the East and the West, the North and the South.

There will be short weekly quizzes, one comprehensive final exam, and one short paper. Students will keep a journal, and will be able to participate in e-mail discussions of topics relevant to the course.

UGC 111 L
Mon & Wed 10:00-10:50 am

Professor Al Price
Architectre & Urban Planning

This is Part I of a two-course sequence that utilizes the city—its people, its activity patterns, its physicality (that is, its space and form)—as the object of analysis in seeking to understand human cultures. In our language, the words “city,” “citizenship,” “civic,” “civil,” and “civilization” share the same Latin root. The course will attempt to trace changes in the physical pattern of permanent human settlements from their earliest known sites up to 1500 CE, emphasizing the connections between built form and the historic social, economic, political, and cultural forces which shaped it and gave it meaning. Formal lectures will be heavily illustrated with slides, with special attention given to examples of formal city planning, urban architecture, and civil engineering.

UGC 111 M
Tues & Thurs 12:00-12:50 pm

Professor Timothy Boyd
Classics Department

My focus in UGC 111 is upon attempting to understand how various strands which make up history, including technology, economics, geography, military, religion, and sexuality, among many, are woven together in so many different and in so many similar ways from the ancient Egyptians to the Middle Ages. Along the way, we will examine everything from developments in architecture to what gives women power within a society, even a society which appears, on the surface, to be completely male-dominated. Requirements will include weekly recitations, quizzes in lectures and recitations, and four hour exams with both objective and essay components.

UGC 111 N
Mon & Wed 9:00-9:50 am

Professor Donald McGuire
Classics Department

14 weeks; 7000 years; 7 continents; 7 seas; 7 Wonders of the Ancient World; 7 Hills; Septuagint; 7 Sages; 7 Pillars of Wisdom; 7 Deadly Sins; 7 Against Thebes; 7 Liberal Arts Actually, this course will ignore the world of numerology almost entirely--like other sections of UGC 111, ours will examine the major civilizations that developed around the world between prehistoric times and 1500 CE. As often as possible we will use literary/artistic products and archaeological remains as our windows into these past cultures. Along the way we will try not only to define the distinguishing features of the major civilizations, but also to assess the accuracy of the various generalizations on which a course of this nature must inevitably depend. Attention will be given as well to social status and its relationship to cultural evolution; to "classical" or "higher" culture vs. popular culture; and to the different ways in which modern cultures reconstruct and appropriate earlier cultures for their own purposes.

UGC 111 R
Mon & Wed 1:00-1:50 pm

Dr. James Bono
History Department

This course will introduce students to the major contours of world history and to a number of different societies and cultures by concentrating particular attention upon the role played by ideas of nature and the body, and of health and illness, in the shaping of individual civilizations. The development of ancient Greece, of medieval and Renaissance Europe, of China, of India, of Islam, and of African and Native American civilizations evidences continuing engagements with nature, illness, and the demands placed upon human life by humankind's physical, biological, and social environments-demands that lead to specific cultural beliefs and practices.

This course will use the ideas of nature, the body, health, and illness developed by specific cultures as lenses through which we can bring into sharp focus the foundational beliefs and values of different societies. In addition, this course will pay particular attention to the role of religion and to the stories produced by particular civilizations. Thus, we shall read a good deal of "literature"-selections from the Epic of Gilgamesh, Homer's Odyssey, Dante's Inferno, Boccaccio's Decameron, and Shakespeare's The Tempest, for example-and religious and philosophical texts from a variety of cultures. Toward the end of the course, we shall also examine how the cultural beliefs and "models" provided by literature and other imaginative texts shaped the encounters between different cultures in places like the "New World."

UGC 111 S
Mon & Wed, 12:00-12:50 pm

Staff
Comparative Literature

A description is not available at this time. Please check the website at: <http://gened.buffalo.edu>. This document will be updated daily.

UGC 111 T
Tues & Thurs, 3:30-4:20 pm

Professor Theresa Runstedtler
American Studies Department

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to Ancient Civilizations around the world and to give students an appreciation of the extraordinary diversity of the human experience. We will examine the values, traditions, and ideas of cultures around the world in a comparative way. The emphasis will be on understanding different societies in a thoughtful and critical manner.



WORLD CIVILIZATIONS II UGC 112

UGC 112 A
Mon & Wed 9:00-9:50 am

Professor Steven Jurek
Political Science Department

A description is not available at this time. Please check the website at: <http://gened.buffalo.edu>. This document will be updated daily.

UGC 112 B
Tues & Thurs 2:00 – 2:50 pm

Professor Andrew Wise
History Department

Course Description: The UB Undergraduate Catalog states that this course “concerns the peoples, forces and ideas that have shaped the way individuals have experienced (and still do experience) the world. The course’s perspective is global and focuses on the origins and development, geographical context, and interactions of world cultures. All sections of the course share common goals. Different sections emphasize different themes and perspectives.”

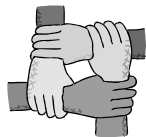
In this section, we will focus on two key themes of modern world history:

1) the ways in which global connections have developed; and 2) the ways in which different peoples at different times have resisted homogenization, instead seeking to preserve their distinct cultural traditions.

Student Learning Objectives: After completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Identify key events and developments in modern world history.
2. Explain how historical events and developments are the result of multiple and integrated causes.
3. Evaluate and prioritize the causes of historical events and developments.
4. Analyze and synthesize data from a variety of written and visual sources.
5. Evaluate the meaning of secondary and primary sources.
6. Display proficiency in written skills in paper assignments and essay exam questions.
7. Display proficiency in oral communication skills through recitation discussions.

Required Reading: 1) Robert Tignor, et al., *Worlds Together, Worlds Apart*. 2) Kevin Reilly, *Worlds of History: A Comparative Reader*. Volume Two: Since 1400 (2nd edition).



AMERICAN PLURALISM UGC 211

UGC 211 CAJ
Tues & Thurs, 3:00-4:20 pm

Professor Jesse Carter
African-American Studies

A more complete description is not available at the time of printing. Please visit our website, <http://gened.buffalo.edu> for updated descriptions.

UGC 211 CAR
Tues & Thurs 2:00-3:20 pm

Professor Wesley Carter
African American Studies

At no time in our nation's history has it been more important to understand the man next door or the nation in the furthest hemisphere. The world is growing smaller every day. We have only to turn on our TVs and there is France, South Africa, Iraq: all very much in the news. But we will never understand the individuals in those "foreign" hemispheres if no attempt is ever made to understand the individuals in our own society. What we do with the people next door, if they happen to be of another color or religion, will largely determine our response to others like them in our parts of the world. Through this course, you will be given the opportunity not only to examine your levels of tolerance and understanding, but also to acknowledge the prejudices, biases, and related misconceptions that you may have about a variety of ethnic groups. The future is in your hands, but it comes with ever increasing responsibility to fashion that future for the securing of rights and freedoms for all.

UGC 211 CAW
Tues & Thurs 5:00-6:20 pm

Professor Wesley Carter
African American Studies

At no time in our nation's history has it been more important to understand the man next door or the nation in the furthest hemisphere. The world is growing smaller every day. We have only to turn on our TVs and there is France, South Africa, Iraq: all very much in the news. But we will never understand the individuals in those "foreign" hemispheres if no attempt is ever made to understand the individuals in our own society. What we do with the people next door, if they happen to be of another color or religion, will largely determine our response to others like them in our parts of the world. Through this course, you will be given the opportunity not only to examine your levels of tolerance and understanding, but also to acknowledge the prejudices, biases, and related misconceptions that you may have about a variety of ethnic groups. The future is in your hands, but it comes with ever increasing responsibility to fashion that future for the securing of rights and freedoms for all.

UGC 211 GRA
Tues & Thurs 9:30 – 10:50 am

Professor Nathan Grant
English Department

Perhaps you've wondered whether American democracy, called by many the "grand human experiment," actually works for all Americans, or perhaps it has occurred to you that the laboratory itself is a colossal mess. The history of group success and survival in the United States has been one in which power and influence have been negotiated, legislated, and appropriated; groups have had to come to terms with the various forms of resistance to their claims to social access and their right to alter institutions to ensure their proper accommodation. The greatest guarantors of this success have been the interdependency between the disenfranchised and its adversary, and the recognition of that interdependency by both sides.

In this class, a largely historical approach, supplemented by sociological and literary works, we will seek to examine the tensions in American economics, justice, politics, and power, and mediating and appropriative strategies used even today by ethnic groups and by women to fashion and occupy their particular places at the frontiers of American enterprise. Our main texts will be Howard Zinn's *People's History of the United States* and *Rereading America* (Gary Colombo, et al.). There will be supplemental online readings as well.

Participants are expected to keep pace with the schedule of readings and contribute regularly to class discussion. Regular quizzes and response papers will apply.

UGC 211 KAN
Tues & Thurs 3:30-4:50 pm

Professor Sooyoung Kang
Asian Studies Program

This section of American Pluralism will address the history and ideas of American multiculturalism through examining the constant negotiations Asian Americans undertake to both expose and challenge the stereotypes that their social construction has historically depended upon. This course will reveal how the story of one minority group is inextricably linked to the stories of all other groups, and therefore sheds light on the enormously complex nature of this nation's history, present, and possible futures. By doing so, we will complicate the discussions of race and gender beyond the black/white binary as well as in a transnational context.

UGC 211 KOD
Tues & Thurs 3:30-4:50 pm

Professor Debra Kolodczak
American Studies Department

American Pluralism is a course designed to explore themes and social history in areas identified as race, class, gender, ethnicity and religion. Each student in this section is responsible for preparing a written summary (3 to 5 pages long) on one of the reading assignments and presenting an oral report. Time permitting, class discussions will follow the oral presentations. Additionally, each student is responsible for completing a ten page final essay (on an additional text), two in-class examinations, and active participation during class and on-line. In this section students who seek to gain computer-based skills may, as an alternative to certain written assignments, qualify for digital imaging assignments that center on collecting and interpreting images in the public domain pertaining to course themes and social history.

This course has two required textbooks. The required reading assignments average out to about a chapter per class. Additional reading assignments are selected from the course bibliography, available on UBLearn. Textbook readings are “common” to the entire class while additional reading assignments are portioned out to individual students to read and report on. Although not responsible for all additional readings, all students are responsible for ALL material covered during class discussions. Class attendance/participation is, therefore, mandatory and will directly impact the grade you receive for this course. This section utilizes UBLearn Blackboard as a means to extend class participation, as a repository for written assignments; and as a focal point for our web-based research.

UGC 211 KOL
Tues & Thurs 12:30-1:50 pm

Professor Debra Kolodczak
American Studies Department

American Pluralism is a course designed to explore themes and social history in areas identified as race, class, gender, ethnicity and religion. Each student in this section is responsible for preparing a written summary (3 to 5 pages long) on one of the reading assignments and presenting an oral report. Time permitting, class discussions will follow the oral presentations. Additionally, each student is responsible for completing a ten page final essay (on an additional text), two in-class examinations, and active participation during class and on-line. In this section students who seek to gain computer-based skills may, as an alternative to certain written assignments, qualify for digital imaging assignments that center on collecting and interpreting images in the public domain pertaining to course themes and social history.

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UGC 211 GIB
Tues & Thurs 5:00-6:20 pm

Professor Gloria Gibson
African-American Studies

This course analyzes the connections between and among classism, racism, and sexism, their mutually reinforcing nature, and the tensions arising from their interrelations. The course will examine the ideological and personal aspects of these phenomena and their institutional guises in

the United States. The course is designed to help students develop an understanding of structural inequality and group oppression from several different perspectives.



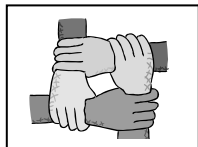
GREAT DISCOVERIES IN SCIENCE

UGC 302 DOM
Tues & Thurs 1:00-2:20 pm

Professor Darlene M Dombroski
Microbiology And Immunology

Great Discoveries in Science: Microworld

This course will examine important issues in human health and disease focusing on microbiology and immunology. We will delve into what is a "good" bacteria vs a "bad" bacteria and what causes a "good" bacteria to go "bad" - (Possibly hanging around with bad bacterial influences?) The lecture topics will focus on the current issues of the day - SARS, Mad Cow Disease, anthrax, bioterrorism, overusage of antibiotics etc. Also we will discuss such pertinent topics or urban legends such as - what is the most dangerous item in your kitchen; hidden hazards associated with summer barbecues; who is in the hot tub with you?; and when you hear "Singing in the Rain" at a local grocery store - is that stream of water really safe for the vegetables? There will be guest lecturers from the Microbiology and Immunology department and also from the local hospitals. The presentations will be informal with student participation encouraged. The topics presented will change dependent upon the current events. Contributing to the course grade will be attendance, class participation, and a short presentation by each student of a noteworthy (microbiology/immunology) news item.



COGNATE COURSES
Approved Equivalent Courses for American Pluralism

U.S. History I and II: U.S. history from Native American settlement to the end of the Civil War.

*See the History Department for a specific course description.

SOC 211 – Sociology of Diversity
Tues & Thurs 2:00 – 3:20 pm

Professor Michael Farrell
Department of Sociology

This course serves as a sociological introduction to diversity in American society. The basis and social implications of difference will be explored, with particular reference to issues of race, ethnicity, religion, class, and gender

DMS 213 – Immigration & Film
Tues & Thurs 3:00 – 4:50 pm

Staff
Media Studies Department

*See the Media Studies Department for a specific course description.

AAS 261
Tues & Thurs 9:30 – 10:50 am

Professor Keith Griffler
African American Studies Department

*See the African American Studies Department for a specific course description.