

CORE CURRICULUM

Typically, colleges divide the four years of academic study into three categories of learning. Students usually take one third of their credits in a major, one third as electives, and one third in a college-wide curriculum that fosters the institution's central mission and values.

WHAT IS CORE CURRICULUM ?

The Core Curriculum is an innovative and interdisciplinary program designed around our liberal arts mission. A liberally educated person learns to approach the unknown using powerful tools of inquiry and to see the familiar in new and deeper ways. By its very nature, becoming a liberally educated person is a life-long voyage of discovery. Liberal Arts students connect rather than compartmentalize knowledge and are well equipped for life in the twenty-first century.

THE DOMAINS OF KNOWLEDGE

Core Curriculum is an interdisciplinary exploration of ideas and experiences organized into four areas or domains of knowledge. These broad categories are **Creative Arts, Human Heritage, Self and Society, and Science and Technology**

CREATIVE ARTS - The overall goal of the Creative Arts Domain is to enable students to become active, informed audiences of the creative arts by facilitating and exploring such questions as:

- What standards of imitation and representation does the artwork generate and/or reflect?
- What are the evocative properties of an artwork as related to its intent, design, techniques, style, emotional content, and/or aesthetic language?
- In what ways is the artwork open to interpretation and ambiguity?
- How do artworks of different media shape and configure the presentation of similar ideas or themes?

CCCA 100 Foundations in the Creative Arts

3 cr

Explores basic themes shared by all arts and addresses important aspects of artistic expression. One is the relationship between vision and reality. Another is how various arts are constructed. The interplay between artist and audience is also explored. Students learn how different arts interact with one another. Examples of artworks include physical objects as well as performances. Field trips and hands-on experience augment readings and discussion as students explore the creative experience.

Prerequisite: None

CCCA 200 The Arts of Native America

3 cr

Deepens students' understanding of the basic Creative Arts questions through close examination of case studies drawn from works of art produced by Native American artists in both traditional and modern settings. Artistic genres will be drawn from traditional artifacts, novels, film, poems, traditional tales, quest visions, and modern painting and sculpture.

Prerequisite: CCCA 100

CCCA 201 American Identity

3 cr

Concentrates on the creative potential to shape the student's comprehension of such basic questions as order, value, character and history through exploration of questions, about what it means to be an American as evidenced through literature, art, music and film.

Prerequisite: CCCA 100

CCCA 202 The Good Earth: The Theme of Agrarianism

3 cr

Studies agrarian themes and their importance by surveying literature, music, paintings and photography. Focuses on artistic perceptions of the earth and human relationships to it. Explores agrarian traditions, values and beliefs. Includes a study of agrarian social, political and economic issues.

Prerequisite: CCCA 100

CCCA 203 Invention of Modernism: Europe in 1900

3 cr

Reviews the conditions that gave rise to this dominant twentieth century philosophy and arts movement by considering how its values and aesthetic ideals dominated film, painting, communication, fashion, theater, architecture and more. Investigates such thinkers and artists as Freud, Gropius, Mahler, Klimt and Schiele.

Prerequisite: CCCA 100

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CCCA 205 Popular Hollywood Films of the 1950's

3 cr

Uses the basic concepts and insights of CCCA 100 for examining the ways in which American popular film of the 1950's incorporates ideas and society reality into its modes of representation. Explores the relationships between American films and American popular culture.

Prerequisite: CCCA 100

CCCA 206 Rumi's Vision

3 cr

Studies the poetry, life, and times of the great 13th century Sufi mystic, Jelaluddin Rumi. For students who want to expand their horizons and explore a view of reality that is not based on secular materialism. Because of excellent modern translations, Rumi is rapidly becoming one of the most relevant and powerful poets of our time.

Prerequisite: CCCA 100

CCCA 207 Children's Literature: A Lively Art

3 cr

Develops a critical understanding of the verbal and visual art of children's literature. Reflects major stories of world art and literature through two centuries of English language publications. Include novels, short stories (including folk tales) and picture books. Readings will be placed in historical, cultural and literary contexts, with emphasis on techniques of writing and publishing as well as pedagogical philosophies.

Prerequisite: CCCA 100

CCCA 208 Myth, Media & Madness

3 cr

Examines myths and realities of madness from the perspective of the creative arts (e.g., art, literature, film, poetry). Explores a variety of artistic forms from the viewpoint of the artist and observer in studying the dimensions of maladaptive traits and behaviors. Emphasis is on critical thinking and analysis of the subject matter, the creator and the artistic medium within which it is portrayed.

Prerequisite: CCCA 100

CCCA 209 Contemporary American Poetry & the Times

3 cr

Covers American poetry from the 1950's to the present and focuses on how American poetry reflected the cultural and political life in the United States from 1956 into the next millennium. Areas covered will be: poetry's connection with the other arts (particularly music and the visual arts), poetry and politics, poetry and race, and the resurgence of the oral tradition. Students will compose their own poems in order to better understand the creative process.

Prerequisite: CCCA 100

CCCA 301 Arts of Medieval and Renaissance England

3 cr

Explores medieval and Renaissance English literature, history, and culture, centering on a 12-day trip to England. Contextualizes literature and cultural heritage via art, architecture, music, theatre, and natural and human landscapes and cityscapes. Weekly meetings preview the trip and discuss a wide range of texts, with attention to the arts. Attendance at museums and performance events in a half dozen English cities.

Prerequisite: CCCA 100 and junior status/instructor approval

HUMAN HERITAGE - The overall goal of the Human Heritage Domain is to help students appreciate the complex interplay of forces in every historical moment, and to recognize that intellectual traditions are defined by diversity as such as by commonality, by both resistance to and enrichment by, influences from the rest of the work, and that challenging authority has been a distinctive characteristic of these traditions. More specifically, courses in this domain will use case studies to:

- promote understanding of the historical and philosophical traditions of the modern worlds
- familiarize students with historical, philosophical, and literary approaches to the use of text for understanding humanity, and
- illustrate the interplay between tradition and innovation in any moment in history

CCHH 100 Human Heritage

3 cr

Seeks to develop a greater understanding of pervasive themes that have characterized the human experience. Such themes as change and continuity, conflict and cooperation, and domination and self-determination are explored through such resources as common readings and commentaries, guest speakers, and class discussions. Examples from different times and places are used to compare and contrast universal themes in the human experience.

Prerequisite: None

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CCHH 210 American Women Regionalist Writers

3 cr

Studies the texts of mid-to-late 19th century women regional writers in their historical, political, and social contexts. Students will read extensively in both primary and secondary texts of the period to heighten their understanding of how it is that literary history is both shaped and understood, as well as how these particular women writers resisted the then mainstream prescription for an American literary project.

Prerequisite: CCHH 100

CCHH 215 English—Our Uncommon Heritage

3 cr

Traces the history and development of English as a “mother tongue” and a world language. It surveys the diverse cultures and languages that have influenced modern English, both in Europe and in the New World where American English drew from both native and immigrant cultures.

Prerequisite: CCHH 100

CCHH 221 Divine Witness

3 cr

Explores the history of revelations as a fundamental way of knowing. Reviews important moments in history when divine witness played a part in shaping civilizations or altering the prevailing sense of reality. Features readings from a variety of texts drawn from many spiritual and esoteric traditions.

Prerequisite: CCHH100

CCHH 223 The Great Depression

3 cr

Examines the historical, sociological, philosophical, literary, and other aspects of the American Great Depression of the 1930's. Examines the cause and effect of change in persistence during a time of national crisis. Readings are first-hand accounts, documentaries, narratives, and explanatory fiction.

Prerequisite: CCHH 100

CCHH 224 The Nuclear Age

3 cr

Describes the history of nuclear weapons and nuclear-generated electricity. Considers these technologies from the perspective of national power and security, ethics, diplomacy, technical practicality, safety, and environmental consequences.

Prerequisite: CCHH 100

CCHH 225 Critical Thinking

3 cr

Critical thinking is the appropriate use of reason; this course thus examines reason itself, as an important and historically influential way of organizing human experience and viewing the world, language, and human emotion. Students will examine and apply basic principles of cogent, sound, or critical reasoning and writing, leading to a deeper understanding of language and the uses of arguments.

Prerequisite: CCHH 100

CCHH 240 The Holocaust and the Nature of Prejudice

3 cr

Emphasizes helping students to personalize this material, to view the phenomenon of prejudice in their own lives and time and to glean the lessons of the Holocaust for the future. Finally, diverse materials will help students to view the Holocaust as a microcosm of history, of human nature and other timeless and universal issues.

Prerequisite: CCHH 100

CCHH 245 Philosophical Heritage

3 cr

Explores philosophical ideas central to the eastern and western traditions through the study of works of theory, fiction, and history. Will cover work on such fundamental philosophical questions as freedom and moral responsibility, the nature of being and knowledge, the existence of God, and social justice.

Prerequisite: CCHH 100

CCHH 250 Investigative Reporting and Watergate

3 cr

Considers relationship between the public, press and presidency during time of unprecedented Constitutional crises. Uses primary documents drawn from National Archives and presidential libraries to study root causes and consequences of the scandal. Studies philosophy of American democratic processes; literary comparisons to Watergate ranging from Shakespeare to present; and history of investigative reporting in the United States.

Prerequisite: CCHH 100

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CCHH 260 Studies in Intellectual History

3 cr

Studies the root concepts and methods in intellectual history by exploring political, philosophical, and literary texts where that idea has received treatment and elaboration. The course will draw its format from one or more of the following important ideas: liberty, constitutional government, usury, the social contract, the individual, or democracy.

Prerequisite: CCHH 100

CCHH 305 Post Renaissance Cultural Crises

3 cr

Examines selected texts of writers and thinkers from the post-Renaissance period. Special attention will be given to the vigorous debate over criteria for a moral society that shaped the rise of early modern thought and influenced modern social formation. Readings will be drawn from such figures as Luther, Calvin, Descartes, Milton, Newton, and Spinoza.

Prerequisite: CCHH 100

CCHH 328 China Travel Course

3 cr

Acquaints students with China's history, culture, and society through visiting historical sites, museums, art performances, universities, and meeting the friendly people of China. The trip will include four Chinese cities: Beijing, Xian, Shanghai, and Boading.

Prerequisite: CCHH 100 and junior status or instructor approval

SELF AND SOCIETY - The overall goal of the Self and Society domain is to help students develop informed perspectives of the complex interplay of self and society individual values, beliefs, and sociocultural activities. Courses will develop:

- an awareness of the diversity of perspectives of socially created ways of thinking and doing;
- a deeper understanding of both individuals and societies along with their cultural contexts;
- the ability to facilitate transformations in both the self and society

CCSS 100 Self and Society

3 cr

Explores the interplay between an individual's identity and one's larger social context. We discover a deeper sense of self only as we come to better understand the formative values of a society that shapes us. Our better knowledge of self allows us to react to society: to accept or challenge the institutions and values around us. The ultimate benefit may be the ability to influence both self and society.

Prerequisite: None

CCSS 201 Management

3 cr

Explores the historic development and concepts of modern management theory. Blends behavioral theories of management and social responsibility and presents applications in a variety of organizational settings. Examines the role of managers in today's organizations and in society and studies the complex multicultural, global organizations of today.

Prerequisite: CCSS 100

CCSS 202 World Regions and the New Global Order

3 cr

Studies the economic, political, cultural, and physical characteristics of the major regions of the world and the countries within them; discusses how these regions and countries relate and interact at the international level.

Prerequisite: CCSS 100

CCSS 203 Information and Society

3 cr

Examines the economic, political, social, legal, and ethical aspects of new information technologies (e.g., the internet, databases, software). Drawing on current reports on emerging information technologies and work by social scientists, legal professionals, and philosophers, the course aims to understand the key issues concerning information access, information privacy, and intellectual property.

Prerequisite: CCSS 100

CCSS 205 Understanding the Self

3 cr

Explores the processes by which the sense of self, arguably unique to human beings, develops as a consequence of complex cognitive abilities exercised in social and cultural contexts. A detailed study of elements of self concept and processes of self-esteem and self-efficacy are examined from an interdisciplinary perspective.

Prerequisite: CCSS 100

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CCSS 210 Landscapes of Human Activities

3 cr

Provides an understanding of the fundamental identifying traits of a culture; the economic, social, and political systems and institutions societies erect; the cultural landscapes they create; and the impacts societies have on natural systems.

Prerequisite: CCSS 100

CCSS 260 Schools, The Law and Society

3 cr

Enables students to explore legislation and judicial decisions affecting school policies. Covers separation of church and state, controversial curricula, and rights and responsibilities of students and teachers. Compares America with other cultures regarding equal access to education.

Prerequisite: CCSS 100

CCSS 261 Citizenship in Theory and Practice

3 cr

Examines the mythologies, origins and operations of the concepts of citizenship, with particular emphasis on student explorations of their roles as political participants.

Prerequisite: CCSS 100

CCSS 262 Families

3 cr

Explores contemporary American families (the forms they take, the functions they serve, the problems they face) within the context of families of other historical time periods and other cultures. Presents an interdisciplinary examination of topics such as: gender roles, marriage, divorce, and blended families, nonmarital lifestyles, parenting, family policy, and technology's impact on family life.

Prerequisite: CCSS 100

CCSS 263 Economics & Society

3 cr

Evaluates the contrary facts and conflicting values inherent in business and economic policy decisions, and the ethical problems thus faced by individuals, organizations, and societies. Provides a background in the principles of and concepts of ethics, economics, law and other social sciences needed in order to effectively manage business and ethical problems. Investigates numerous social and economic issues that face individuals, organizations, and societies and requires students to critically analyze and evaluate the decisions that are made regarding those issues.

Prerequisite: One Gen Ed Code 32 Course or CCSS 100

CCSS 264 Mathematics of Fairness and Equity

3 cr

Introduces Mathematics of Social Choice Axiomatically formulates objective measures of social fairness and equity. Analyses mathematical methods of solutions of social problems to satisfy these axioms. All the problems as well as laboratory projects will be real life social problems.

Prerequisite: CCSS 100

CCSS 267 Real Men

3 cr

Provides the opportunity to examine and determine the validity of stereo-types as they apply to the image of the American male. Through the use of feature films and selected readings from various disciplines, most from the social sciences, the student will explore, describe, analyze and evaluate the concept, behavior, attitudes and characteristics of "Real Man". The following film genre have been selected: The Wild West; War; Cops & Robbers; Sports. Among the feature films selected are: High Noon; The Magnificent Seven; Casablanca; Dirty Harry; Die Hard; Bull Durham; Slapshot.

Prerequisite: CCSS 100

CCSS 268 Culture and the Body

3 cr

Examines the body as a universal experience, a historical and cultural creation, and an ethical issue with policy implications. Explores the religious, medical, socioeconomic, and political foundations of our understanding and treatment of the body, the relationship between socialization and body image, how bodily difference has been used as a basis for inequality, and the impact of globalization of the circulation of body images and the exploitation of bodies. Considers ways in which individuals and groups have challenged body images and modify practices that have harmed or marginalized them.

Prerequisite: CCSS 100

CCSS 269 Education and Society

3 cr

Studies the role of education as an institution in our society, in our world and in our lives. Through the use of a wide variety of primary sources, documents and fiction, students will become aware of the fascinating people and events that played a role in the development of educational practices and issues. In addition, they will explore the personal, social, economic, political and

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philosophical aspects of education from the local to the international levels and the many educational controversies that continue to challenge society.

Prerequisite: CCSS 100 or Education Department approval

CCSS 270 Globalization: Myths and Realities

3 cr

Examines our growing economic, political, social and cultural interconnectedness. Reviews the history of the “globalization” concept. Analyzes corporate dominant model of globalization and “grassroots,” democratic model. Investigates key issues including the power of the World Bank, the role of the media in globalization, and the development of indigenous movements.

Prerequisite: CCSS 100

CCSS 275 Aging and Society

3 cr

Examines societal aging from historical, psychological, and sociological perspectives. Analyzes changes in norms, roles, values, and attitudes concerning old people due to compositional changes in population. Economic and ideological factors that influence the development of social policies will be discussed.

Prerequisite: CCSS 100

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY - The overall goal is to educate students to the possibilities and limitations of science so that they will become informed members of society and will be able to make educated decisions in their personal, professional and civic lives. Course work in the domain will:

- include formal study of scientific concepts to provide a framework for understanding current scientific issues and relevant technological developments
- demonstrate how science differs from other disciplines through emphasis of the scientific methods
- illustrate the importance of mathematics and computer applications in science

CCST 100 Science and Technology

3 cr

Develops student familiarity with major concepts in physical, biological, chemical, and computer sciences as a foundation for understanding the natural world. Basic concepts will be applied to contemporary issues.

Prerequisite: None

CCST 230 Energy and the Environment

4 cr

Looks at the impact of current energy usage on our environment from technical, social, and political viewpoints. Investigates the present and projected usage of nonrenewable fuel sources and how modifications due to alternate energy techniques will affect current energy policy. Discusses possible large-scale alternate energy methods. Investigates the scientific aspects of such topics as global warming and ozone depletion. Required laboratory.

Prerequisite: CCST 100

CCST 235 Biodiversity

4 cr

Focuses on global, regional, and local patterns of biological diversity and the processes that influence these patterns. Central to discussions of biodiversity pattern and process will be the relevant scientific principles of ecology, evolution, and conservation biology. The impact of humans on natural systems and biodiversity will also be discussed. Specific case studies will be used to illustrate biodiversity loss and proposals to protect and restore biodiversity.

Prerequisite: CCST 100

CCST 241 Discovering Biology

4 cr

Explores the world through the examination of topical issues. The student is presented with hands-on laboratory experiences. Scientific inquiry is encouraged and supported. The student understands the workings of biology from molecule to cell to organism. Approaches to active learning include looking at items and issues from historical, social, and popular press sources. Required laboratory.

Prerequisite: CCST 100

CCST 242 Chemistry and Its Relation to the World

4 cr

Examines fundamental principles of chemistry, the historical development of chemical theories and how chemistry relates to other scientific disciplines. Laboratory experiments illustrate chemical concepts and relationships to the world.

Prerequisite: CCST 100

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CCST 243 Issues in Human Biology

4 cr

Provides knowledge about the human body, its structure and function. With this as background information, students will assess the significance of social issues presented in the news media. This information will also be a foundation for making knowledgeable decisions regarding quality of life. Bioethical issues will be discussed in connection with each section studied. Students will be able to critically evaluate a large number of issues in this field as presented in scientific publications and the news media. Students will be encouraged to share experiences based on their own culture and gender. The course will increase the student's awareness of the multiple roles humans play in the society and their environment. Required laboratory.

Prerequisite: CCST 100

CCST 244 Neuroscience: Sleep and Dreams

4 cr

Applies the multidisciplinary field of neuroscience to explore basic processes involved in sleep and dreaming. Critical analysis of current scientific research in psychology, biology, and chemistry require that the student be familiar with the scientific method. A required laboratory provides students with opportunities to collect and analyze psychophysiological data.

Prerequisite: CCST 100

CCST 245 Natural Hazards

4 cr

Studies natural processes which are hazardous in the context of human activities, including relevant geologic, geomorphic, climatic, and meteorologic phenomena; examines the origin and significance of selected hazards from natural and human perspectives and explores how people underestimate or misjudge risk. Required laboratory.

Prerequisite: CCST 100

CCST 246 From Galileo to Einstein

4 cr

This is an historical survey of physics using basic quantitative analysis. Builds on understanding gained from Science and Technology Tier I while including additional topics. Emphasizes practical applications in daily life. Laboratories provide hands-on experience.

Prerequisite: CCST 100

CCST 247 Astronomy: Ancient and Modern

4 cr

Explores astronomy from ancient times to the modern era, emphasizing the important discoveries of the past and examining the unanswered questions facing today's astronomers and astrophysicists. The approach is such that those with a background founded in the Tier I Science and Technology domain can apprehend. The course will involve laboratory work and night time viewing sessions.

Prerequisite: CCST 100

CCST 249 The Science of Behavior

4 cr

Provides a comprehensive overview of the scientific investigation of behavior and its relation to genetic, physiological, environmental, and social variables. Required laboratory.

Prerequisite: CCST 100

CCST 250 New England's Physical Landscape

4 cr

Examines the description, origin, classification, and interpretation of landforms in New England; analyzes geologic, climatic, and biologic factors as landform controls in the region; and shows that certain geomorphic processes are natural hazards. Required lab.

Prerequisite: CCST 100

CCST 251 Mathematics Modeling and the Environment

4 cr

Introduces students to the mathematical modeling process. We shall both study and develop discrete and/or continuous models for phenomena such as population growth, ecology and evolution, surface and ground water flows, air pollution, and hazardous waste management. In addition, we shall investigate the mathematical and scientific topics necessary to develop these models, and discuss related technical and social issues such as regulatory issues, risk analysis, and public health. The mathematics included in this course will be at a pre-calculus level. The course includes a laboratory component and extensive use of computer software.

Prerequisite: CCST 100

CCST 325 Quarks to Quasars

4 cr

Looks at the overall structure of the universe, from the basic building blocks of atoms (quarks) to the most distant and energetic objects known (quasars). Shows how basic physical principles can be used to explain complex systems - e.g. how simple conservation laws govern the motions of the planets and galaxies, and how the same laws apply to billiard balls, frisbees and atoms. A laboratory component is a required part of this course.

Prerequisite: CCST 100