

## FVCC Criteria for General Education Courses

### Writing

Writing courses focus on the writing process, rhetorical knowledge, conventions, critical thinking, reading, and research. Writing courses are foundational to success in college-level writing assignments. These courses will provide instruction and practice in the following:

- multiple, flexible strategies for the writing process;
- writing as a means to engage in critical inquiry;
- conventions of language and forms of discourse;
- research as a process;
- formulating and supporting assertions with appropriate evidence
- how to use appropriate documentation; and
- use of a variety of technologies to facilitate academic research.

### Communications

Communication courses will help students with the diverse applied writing and listening, speaking, and presenting opportunities they will encounter in their lives. These courses will provide instruction and practice in four or more of the following:

- speaking with clarity, accuracy, and fluency in a variety of contexts;
- use of the conventions of language and forms of discourse;
- research as a process;
- listening actively in a variety of situations;
- adapting content and mode of presentation to fit a given audience and medium;
- conventions for the discipline including format and media presentation; and
- practical writing skills in the workplace.

### Mathematics

Mathematics courses focus on comprehension of elementary quantitative concepts, development of quantitative reasoning skills, and the ability to reasonably ascertain the implications of quantitative information. These courses will provide instruction and practice in the following:

- methods employed in the mathematical sciences;
- application of mathematical or statistical models to complex problems;
- quantitatively-based problems of importance to contemporary society; and
- practical applications for consumers of quantitative information.

### Humanities

The humanities reveal what it means to be human. Humanities courses explore societies, cultures, ideas, and art as well as examine the forces that shape and connect them. These courses will provide instruction and practice in the following:

- critical analysis of how others perceive and express the human condition;
- the human search for meaning and value in one or more time period(s) and cultures;
- understanding how others make and express meaning in their lives;
- respectful inquiry to understand global concepts, values, and beliefs; and
- personal reflection and values identification.

## **Social Sciences**

Social Sciences courses explore people, movements, institutions, and forces which play a major role in human history and development. These courses will provide instruction and practice in two or more of the following:

### **Social Sciences A course criteria**

- diversity of purpose, focus, and methodology among social sciences;
- the role and impact of major social institutions on the daily existence of individuals, and on social and cultural groups;
- analysis of human behavior, ideas, and social institutions for historical and cultural meaning and significance; and
- historical construction of differences and similarities among peoples within and across groups, regions, and nations.

### **Social Sciences B course criteria**

- nature, structure, and historical development of human organization and the extent to which individuals (in contrast to physical or social forces) are able to influence events;
- historical, economic, and/or political analysis of interrelations among humans;
- analysis of interactions between humans and their environments, on local, national, and international scales;
- uses and limitations of historical, economic, and/or political comparison as an analytical tool; and
- distinctions between primary and secondary sources.

## **Natural Science**

Natural Science courses explore the principles that rule the physical universe by asking and answering questions about processes that can be observed and measured. These courses will provide instruction and/or practice in the following:

- the experimental basis of science and how scientists accumulate new knowledge;
- methods scientists use to gather, validate, and interpret data within the broad area of the specific discipline being studied;
- scientific facts and how those facts help us understand our observations and the laws that govern the natural world;
- goals and limitations of science; and
- the role of science in the development of modern technological civilization.

## **Global Issues**

Global Issues courses explore differences in race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, class, disability status, language, national origin, and/or religion within and across peoples and nations. These courses will provide instruction and practice in the following:

- impact of historical events, geography, institutionalized differences in power, and long-standing customs on cultural diversity;
- discrimination within and across specific institutions and groups and the attitudes that create barriers for some and opportunities for others; and
- effect of cultural diversity on the ways in which individuals and peoples perceive, understand, and live in the world.

## **Fine Arts**

Fine Arts courses explore how people reveal and express feelings, emotions and beliefs, as well as how different cultures value the arts. Through the Fine Arts, students explore the creative process as they study and construct expressions of their own creativity, talent, and passion. These courses will provide instruction and practice in three or more the following:

- examination of aesthetic expressions from a historical/cultural perspective;
- personal responses to various aesthetic expressions;
- expressions of creativity and talent;
- influence of the arts on individuals and society; and
- the place of arts in cultural and intellectual history.