

**a. United States (US)**

The college's educational goals are an expression of American political and cultural history, and one of the College's most important aims is the preparation of students to contribute to American society. Understanding the emergence and operation of the United States as a distinct nation and as self-consciously defined and proclaimed democracy provides part of the context for the students' own educational experience.

**A course that contributes to the goal of understanding the United States experience will examine its culture, history, or political and social institutions by studying such topics as the founding of US society and government; the role of migration in US society and its changing racial, ethnic, religious, and linguistic diversity; the development of democratic values and institutions and the contests over inclusion and exclusion; the history of US expansion and its accompanying intellectual and ideological developments, and the place and role of the United States in global contexts, in the past and in the present.**

**b. European Traditions (ET)**

The intellectual and artistic traditions of Western civilization permeate thought in our contemporary society and culture, in the West and wherever Western culture has been copied or asserted. Awareness of the roots of Western thought is important to understanding our society and culture, and in particular to comprehending academic discourse.

**A course that contributes to an awareness of the tradition of thought, inquiry, and expression that characterizes Western civilization will emphasize an aspect of the culture or history of ancient Greece and Rome, or of a later period of European culture or history in which the continuing influence of ancient culture or the traditions of Western civilization can be noted.**

**c. World Cultures (WC)**

The global interdependence of modern political, economic and cultural life requires an understanding of broad range of traditions, perspectives and concerns. The study of cultures and experience outside of the United States and the European tradition (World Cultures) is necessary to create that breadth.

**A course that contributes to an awareness of civilizations globally will focus on the study of one or more World Cultures or on a comparison between World Cultures or between a World Culture and a culture of the United States or of the European Tradition.**

**D. Extended Requirements**

Students are required to complete one course on the pre-industrial world and one course which includes abstract or quantitative reasoning, as described below. These Extended Requirements may be met by courses taken to fulfill other requirements, including PLAS and substitute courses, general elective courses, or courses in a student's major or minor. (Most College major programs are likely to include at least one of these).

**a. Pre-Industrial Society (PI)**

Awareness of the modern world is implicit in our daily lives and most college courses. However, "the past is another country," and the modern world is characterized by profound changes in concepts and in the modes of existence, or by reactions against these. Students should be aware of the character of the pre-industrial world as part of their full understanding of human experience. Study of the pre-industrial world also makes explicit, by contrast, the particular characteristics of modernity.

**A course that contributes to an awareness of the pre-industrial world will concentrate on the literature, art, history, thought, or social structure of a society before it is affected (internally or externally) by the development of industrialization, in order to understand it in its context.**