

The Exploring Diversity Initiative

THE EXPLORING DIVERSITY INITIATIVE Williams College is committed to creating and maintaining a curriculum, faculty, and student body that reflects and explores a diverse, globalized world and the multi-cultural character of the United States. Courses designated “(D)” in the College Bulletin are a part of the College’s Exploring Diversity Initiative (EDI); they represent our dedication to study groups, cultures, and societies as they interact with, and challenge, each other. Through such courses, students and faculty also consider the multiple approaches that engage these issues. Rather than simply focus on the study of specific peoples, cultures, or regions of the world, in the past or present, however, courses fulfilling the requirement actively promote a self-conscious and critical engagement with diversity. They urge students to consider the operations of difference in the world and provide them with the tools to do so. The ultimate aim of the requirement is to lay the groundwork for a life-long engagement with the diverse cultures, societies, and histories of the United States and the rest of the world.

Courses that comprise the Exploring Diversity Initiative may fall under a variety of categories, including (but not limited to) the following:

- 1. Comparative Study of Cultures and Societies.** These courses focus on the differences and similarities between cultures and societies, and/or on the ways in which cultures, peoples, and societies have interacted and responded to one another in the past.
- 2. Empathetic Understanding.** These courses explore diverse human feelings, thoughts, and actions by recreating the social, political, cultural, and historical context of a group in order to imagine why within that context, those beliefs, experiences, and actions of the group emerged.
- 3. Power and Privilege.** These courses link issues of diversity to economic and political power relations, investigating how cultural interaction is influenced by various structures, institutions, or practices that enable, maintain, or mitigate inequality among different groups.
- 4. Critical Theorization.** These courses focus on ways scholars theorize the possibilities of cross-cultural understanding and interaction; they investigate the ways that disciplines and paradigms of knowledge both constitute “difference” and are reconfigured by the study of diversity-related questions.

All students are required to complete ONE course that is part of the Exploring Diversity Initiative. Although this course, which may be counted toward the divisional distribution requirement, may be completed any semester before graduation, students are urged to complete the course by the end of the sophomore year.

New for students planning to study away during 2015-2016 academic year:

Students wishing to fulfill the EDI requirement via the completion of study away must submit the completed EDI form and their essay after their return proposing EDI credit for a course or independent study project/research they pursued while away. The essay will require students to intellectually describe how they believe their study away course or independent study project/research met one or more of the goals of the Exploring Diversity Initiative; the essay will be considered by the Director of the Exploring Diversity Initiative working in concert with the Committee on Academic Standing. The essay will either be accepted or rejected for EDI credit. There is no appeal process, and all decisions are final.

AFR 105(F) Materials, Meanings, and Messages in the Arts of Africa and the Diaspora (D)
AFR 132(F) Contemporary Africana Social and Political Philosophy (D)
AFR 156(F) Thirteen Ways of Looking at Jazz (D)(W)
AFR 166(F) Politics and Prose: Invisible Man in Historical Context (D)(W)
AFR 203(F) Modern African History (D)
AFR 211(F) Race and the Environment (D)
AFR 219(F) African Art Against the State (D)
AFR 223(F) Politics of Performance/Performing Politics in Contemporary Africa (D)(W)
AFR 237(F) Religion, Politics, Culture: Islam in the United States (D)
AFR 272(F) Africa + the Internet: Producing Global Citizenship (D)
AFR 281(F) African-American History, 1619-1865 (D)
AFR 282(F) African-American History From Reconstruction to the Present (D)
AFR 304(F) South Africa and Apartheid (D)
AFR 310(F) Womanist/Black Feminist Thought (D)
AFR 328(F) Revolt and Revelation in 20th-Century Americas (D)
AFR 350(F) Organizing Resistance: Black Activism, Then and Now (D)
AFR 369T(F) African Art and the Western Museum (D)(W)
AFR 379(F) Black Women in the United States (D)
AFR 390(F) Transforming the New World and the Old: The Haitian and French Revolutions (D)
AFR 419(F) Going to Ground: Considering Earth in the Arts of Africa (D)(W)
AFR 443(F) Race and Ethnicity in Latin America (D)
AFR 476(F) Black Radicalism (D)
AMST 101(F) Introduction to American Studies (D)
AMST 102(F) Artists Respond to Dangerous Times (D)
AMST 106T(F) Coming of Age in the City: Growing up and Growing Older in Communities of Color (D)(W)
AMST 132(F) Contemporary Africana Social and Political Philosophy (D)
AMST 156(F) Thirteen Ways of Looking at Jazz (D)(W)
AMST 166(F) Politics and Prose: Invisible Man in Historical Context (D)(W)
AMST 202(F) History Behind the Headlines (D)
AMST 207(F) Introduction to Latina/o Literatures (D)
AMST 211(F) Race and the Environment (D)
AMST 216(F) Environmental Humanities: Theory and Practice (D)
AMST 224(F) U.S. Latina @ Religions (D)
AMST 237(F) Religion, Politics, Culture: Islam in the United States (D)
AMST 242(F) Americans Abroad (D)(W)
AMST 257(F) Beyond Tonto: American Indians in Film (D)
AMST 280(F) Introduction to Native American History (D)
AMST 284(F) Introduction to Asian American History (D)
AMST 304(F) Asian American Writing and the Visual Arts (D)
AMST 309(F) Womanist/Black Feminist Thought (D)
AMST 313(F) Gender, Race, and the Power of Personal Aesthetics (D)
AMST 327(F) Racial and Religious Mixture (D)(W)

AMST 329(F) Revolt and Revelation in 20th-Century Americas (D)
 AMST 332(F) Race, Gender, and Performance from Literature to Social Media (D)
 AMST 339(F) Latina/o Musical Cultures: Sounding out Gender, Race, and Sexuality (D)(W)
 AMST 383(F) Whiteness and Race in the History of the United States (D)
 AMST 400(F) Real Indians: Indigeneity and the Authenticity Problem (D)
 AMST 408(F) Envisioning Urban Life: Objects, Subjects, and Everyday People (D)(W)
 AMST 462(F) Art of California: Pacific Standard Time (D)(W)
 AMST 469(F) Notions of Race and Ethnicity in American Culture (D)
 ANTH 101(F) The Scope of Anthropology (D)
 ANTH 216T(F) Urbanism in the Ancient World (D)(W)
 ANTH 240(F) Roman Cities in the Near East (D)
 ANTH 246T(F) India's Identities: Religion, Caste, and Gender (D)(W)
 ANTH 274(F) Africa + the Internet: Producing Global Citizenship (D)
 ANTH 321(F) Real Indians: Indigeneity and the Authenticity Problem (D)
 ANTH 328T(F) Emotions and the Self (D)(W)
 ANTH 332(F) Environmental Justice (D)(W)
 SOC 211(F) Race and the Environment (D)
 SOC 230(F) Memory and Forgetting (D)
 SOC 248T(F) Altering States: Postsoviet Paradoxes of Identity and Difference (D)(W)
 ARAB 207(F) The Modern Middle East (D)
 ARAB 215T(F) The Veil: History and Interpretations (D)(W)
 ARAB 222(F) Photography in/of the Middle East (D)
 ARAB 228(F) Modern Arabic Literature in Translation (D)(W)
 ARAB 305(F) Nationalism and Nation Building in the Middle East (D)
 ARAB 346(F) Questioning the Cultural Self in Literature (D)(W)
 ARAB 480T(F) Interpretations of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict (D)(W)
 ARTH 104(F) Materials, Meanings, and Messages in the Arts of Africa and the Diaspora (D)
 ARTH 205(F) Cinematography in the Digital Age (D)
 ARTH 217(F) African Art Against the State (D)
 ARTH 222(F) Photography in/of the Middle East (D)
 ARTH 260(F) Beyond Tonto: American Indians in Film (D)
 ARTH 270(F) Japanese Art and Culture (D)
 ARTH 308T(F) African Art and the Western Museum (D)(W)
 ARTH 417(F) Gender Construction in Chinese Art (D)(W)
 ARTH 419(F) Going to Ground: Considering Earth in the Arts of Africa (D)(W)
 ARTH 462(F) Art of California: Pacific Standard Time (D)(W)
 ARTH 470(F) Image-making, Orientalism and Visual Culture (D)
 ARTH 562(F) Art of California: Pacific Standard Time (D)(W)
 ARTS 101(F) Artists Respond to Dangerous Times (D)
 ASST 126(F) Musics of Asia (D)
 ASST 213(F) Modern China, 1600-Present (D)
 ASST 246T(F) India's Identities: Religion, Caste, and Gender (D)(W)
 ASST 284(F) Introduction to Asian American History (D)
 ASST 319(F) Gender and the Family in Chinese History (D)
 ASST 417(F) Gender Construction in Chinese Art (D)(W)
 CHIN 101(F) Basic Chinese (D)
 CHIN 102(F) Basic Chinese (D)
 CHIN 201(F) Intermediate Chinese (D)
 CHIN 202(F) Intermediate Chinese (D)
 CHIN 253(F) "Disease" in Modern Chinese Literature and Culture (D)
 CHIN 301(F) Upper-Intermediate Chinese (D)
 CHIN 302(F) Upper-Intermediate Chinese (D)
 CHIN 401(F) Advanced Chinese (D)
 CHIN 402(F) Advanced Chinese (D)
 JAPN 101(F) Elementary Japanese (D)
 JAPN 102(F) Elementary Japanese (D)
 JAPN 201(F) Intermediate Japanese (D)
 JAPN 202(F) Intermediate Japanese (D)
 JAPN 270(F) Japanese Art and Culture (D)
 JAPN 301(F) Upper-Intermediate Japanese (D)
 JAPN 302(F) Upper-Intermediate Japanese (D)
 JAPN 401(F) Advanced Japanese (D)
 JAPN 402(F) Advanced Japanese (D)
 JAPN 403(F) Advanced Seminar in Japanese I (D)
 JAPN 404(F) Advanced Seminar in Japanese II (D)
 BIOL 134(F) The Tropics: Biology and Social Issues (D)
 CLAS 340(F) Roman Cities in the Near East (D)
 COMP 115(F) Rumble in the Jungle: Major Postcolonial Writers and Movements (D)(W)
 COMP 156(F) Thirteen Ways of Looking at Jazz (D)(W)
 COMP 211(F) Introduction to Latina/o Literatures (D)
 COMP 228(F) Modern Arabic Literature in Translation (D)(W)
 COMP 234(F) Sexuality and Imperialism (D)
 COMP 242(F) Americans Abroad (D)(W)
 COMP 254(F) "Disease" in Modern Chinese Literature and Culture (D)
 COMP 257(F) From Putin to Pussy Riot: Discourses of Post-Soviet Gender (D)
 COMP 273(F) Beyond Tonto: American Indians in Film (D)
 COMP 307(F) Asian American Writing and the Visual Arts (D)

COMP 339(F) Race, Gender, and Performance from Literature to Social Media (D)
 COMP 346(F) Questioning the Cultural Self in Literature (D)(W)
 COMP 347T(F) Silence, Loss and (Non)Memory in Twentieth-Century Austria (D)(W)
 COMP 351(F) The Global Avant Garde in Literature and Film (D)
 COMP 401(F) Senior Seminar: Histories of Reading (D)
 COMP 407(F) Literature, Justice, and Community (D)
 CSCI 205(F) Cinematography in the Digital Age (D)
 ECON 240T(F) Colonialism and Underdevelopment in South Asia (D)(W)
 ENGL 105(F) American Girls (D)(W)
 ENGL 115(F) Rumble in the Jungle: Major Postcolonial Writers and Movements (D)(W)
 ENGL 203(F) Cinematography in the Digital Age (D)
 ENGL 206(F) We Aren't the World: Global Anglophone Literature in the 20th Century (D)(W)
 ENGL 223(F) Thirteen Ways of Looking at Jazz (D)(W)
 ENGL 239(F) Imagining Immigrants (D)(W)
 ENGL 250(F) Americans Abroad (D)(W)
 ENGL 251(F) Introduction to Latina/o Literatures (D)
 ENGL 260(F) Beyond Tonto: American Indians in Film (D)
 ENGL 352(F) The Global Avant Garde in Literature and Film (D)
 ENGL 388(F) Asian American Writing and the Visual Arts (D)
 ENGL 394(F) Modern Pleasure (D)
 ENGL 407(F) Literature, Justice, and Community (D)
 ENGL 452(F) Senior Seminar: Histories of Reading (D)
 ENVI 134(F) The Tropics: Biology and Social Issues (D)
 ENVI 211(F) Race and the Environment (D)
 ENVI 217(F) Environmental Humanities: Theory and Practice (D)
 ENVI 332(F) Environmental Justice (D)(W)
 ENVI 419(F) Going to Ground: Considering Earth in the Arts of Africa (D)(W)
 GERM 331T(F) Silence, Loss and (Non)Memory in Twentieth-Century Austria (D)(W)
 GBST 101(F) The Modern Middle East (D)
 GBST 213(F) From Putin to Pussy Riot: Discourses of Post-Soviet Gender (D)
 GBST 216T(F) Urbanism in the Ancient World (D)(W)
 GBST 247T(F) Altering States: Postsoviet Paradoxes of Identity and Difference (D)(W)
 GBST 272(F) Africa + the Internet: Producing Global Citizenship (D)
 HIST 110T(F) The Veil: History and Interpretations (D)(W)
 HIST 143(F) Soccer and History in Latin America: Making the Beautiful Game (D)(W)
 HIST 152(F) The Fourteenth Amendment and the Meanings of Equality (D)(W)
 HIST 166(F) Politics and Prose: Invisible Man in Historical Context (D)(W)
 HIST 201(F) History Behind the Headlines (D)
 HIST 203(F) Modern African History (D)
 HIST 207(F) The Modern Middle East (D)
 HIST 213(F) Modern China, 1600-Present (D)
 HIST 281(F) African-American History, 1619-1865 (D)
 HIST 282(F) African-American History From Reconstruction to the Present (D)
 HIST 283(F) Introduction to Native American History (D)
 HIST 284(F) Introduction to Asian American History (D)
 HIST 286(F) Latina/o History, 1848 to the Present (D)
 HIST 304(F) South Africa and Apartheid (D)
 HIST 305(F) Nationalism and Nation Building in the Middle East (D)
 HIST 319(F) Gender and the Family in Chinese History (D)
 HIST 336(F) National-Socialist Germany (D)
 HIST 340(F) Roman Cities in the Near East (D)
 HIST 357(F) Beyond Tonto: American Indians in Film (D)
 HIST 376(F) Sex, Gender, and the Law in U.S. History (D)
 HIST 379(F) Black Women in the United States (D)
 HIST 380(F) Comparative American Immigration History (D)
 HIST 383(F) Whiteness and Race in the History of the United States (D)
 HIST 390(F) Transforming the New World and the Old: The Haitian and French Revolutions (D)
 HIST 443(F) Race and Ethnicity in Latin America (D)
 HIST 469(F) Notions of Race and Ethnicity in American Culture (D)
 HIST 471(F) Comparative Latina/o Migrations (D)(W)
 HIST 476(F) Black Radicalism (D)
 HIST 480T(F) Interpretations of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict (D)(W)
 JWST 101(F) Judaism: Before The Law (D)
 JWST 217(F) The Modern Middle East (D)
 JLST 332(F) Environmental Justice (D)(W)
 JLST 376(F) Sex, Gender, and the Law in U.S. History (D)
 LATS 106T(F) Coming of Age in the City: Growing up and Growing Older in Communities of Color (D)(W)
 LATS 208(F) Introduction to Latina/o Literatures (D)
 LATS 224(F) U.S. Latina @ Religions (D)
 LATS 286(F) Latina/o History, 1848 to the Present (D)
 LATS 313(F) Gender, Race, and the Power of Personal Aesthetics (D)
 LATS 328(F) Revolt and Revelation in 20th-Century Americas (D)
 LATS 335(F) Race, Gender, and Performance from Literature to Social Media (D)
 LATS 338(F) Latina/o Musical Cultures: Sounding out Gender, Race, and Sexuality (D)(W)
 LATS 408(F) Envisioning Urban Life: Objects, Subjects, and Everyday People (D)(W)
 LATS 427(F) Racial and Religious Mixture (D)(W)
 LATS 462(F) Art of California: Pacific Standard Time (D)(W)

LATS 471(F) Comparative Latina/o Migrations (D)(W)
 LEAD 207(F) The Modern Middle East (D)
 MUS 111(F) Music Cultures of the World (D)
 MUS 112(F) Musics of Asia (D)
 MUS 151(F) History of Jazz (D)
 MUS 177(F) Gender and Sexuality in Music (D)
 MUS 222(F) Politics of Performance/Performing Politics in Contemporary Africa (D)(W)
 MUS 230(F) Musical Ethnography (D)
 MUS 278T(F) Carmen, 1845 to Now (D)(W)
 PHIL 228(F) Feminist Bioethics (D)(W)
 PSCI 132(F) Contemporary Africana Social and Political Philosophy (D)
 REL 203(F) Judaism: Before The Law (D)
 REL 223(F) Revolt and Revelation in 20th-Century Americas (D)
 REL 224(F) U.S. Latina @ Religions (D)
 REL 237(F) Religion, Politics, Culture: Islam in the United States (D)
 REL 239(F) The Modern Middle East (D)
 REL 246T(F) India's Identities: Religion, Caste, and Gender (D)(W)
 REL 310(F) Womanist/Black Feminist Thought (D)
 REL 314(F) Racial and Religious Mixture (D)(W)
 RLFR 206(F) Outsiders in French and Francophone Film: Cinematic Adaptations of Literary Texts (D)
 RLSP 308(F) The Subject of Empire: Race, Gender and Power in the Colonial Era (D)
 RUSS 101(F) Elementary Russian (D)
 RUSS 102(F) Elementary Russian (D)
 RUSS 151(F) Continuing Russian (D)
 RUSS 152(F) Continuing Russian (D)
 RUSS 213(F) From Putin to Pussy Riot: Discourses of Post-Soviet Gender (D)
 RUSS 248T(F) Altering States: Postsoviet Paradoxes of Identity and Difference (D)(W)
 RUSS 251(F) Continuing Russian (D)
 RUSS 252(F) Continuing Russian (D)
 THEA 322(F) Race, Gender, and Performance from Literature to Social Media (D)
 WGSS 101(F) Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies (D)(W)
 WGSS 105(F) American Girls (D)(W)
 WGSS 152(F) The Fourteenth Amendment and the Meanings of Equality (D)(W)
 WGSS 177(F) Gender and Sexuality in Music (D)
 WGSS 202(F) Introduction to Sexuality Studies (D)
 WGSS 214(F) From Putin to Pussy Riot: Discourses of Post-Soviet Gender (D)
 WGSS 228(F) Feminist Bioethics (D)(W)
 WGSS 231(F) Sexuality and Imperialism (D)
 WGSS 244T(F) Actually Existing Alternative Economies (D)(W)
 WGSS 246T(F) India's Identities: Religion, Caste, and Gender (D)(W)
 WGSS 248T(F) Carmen, 1845 to Now (D)(W)
 WGSS 255(F) "Disease" in Modern Chinese Literature and Culture (D)
 WGSS 310(F) Womanist/Black Feminist Thought (D)
 WGSS 313(F) Gender, Race, and the Power of Personal Aesthetics (D)
 WGSS 319(F) Gender and the Family in Chinese History (D)
 WGSS 330(F) Race, Gender, and Performance from Literature to Social Media (D)
 WGSS 338(F) Latina/o Musical Cultures: Sounding out Gender, Race, and Sexuality (D)(W)
 WGSS 376(F) Sex, Gender, and the Law in U.S. History (D)
 WGSS 379(F) Black Women in the United States (D)
 WGSS 383(F) Whiteness and Race in the History of the United States (D)
 WGSS 396(F) Modern Pleasure (D)