

EXPLORING DIVERSITY INITIATIVE

THE EXPLORING DIVERSITY INITIATIVE REQUIREMENT—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.
5. Cultural Immersion: In various ways these courses immerse students in another culture and give them the tools with which to understand that culture from the inside. They include those foreign language courses that explicitly engage in the self-conscious awareness of cultural and societal differences, traditions, and customs as an integral aspect of language study.

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.

By immersing students in foreign cultures, and often by furthering language acquisition, study abroad programs can offer a robust way to study cultural diversity. Students wishing to fulfill the EDI requirement via the completion of a study abroad program must submit a petition before departure proposing EDI credit for a particular course on their program, for particular experiences (such as independent research or a homestay), or for a specific language training program they will undertake while abroad. The petition will require students to describe how they believe their proposed study abroad experience will meet one or more of the goals of the Exploring Diversity Initiative; it will be considered by the Director of the Exploring Diversity Initiative working in concert with the Committee on Academic Standing.

The one-course EDI requirement must be met by all members of the classes of 2012 and 2013.

- AFR 132(S) Contemporary Africana Social and Political Philosophy (D)
AFR 155(F) John Coltrane and the Revolutionary Tradition in African American Music (D)
AFR 156(S) Thirteen Ways of Looking at Jazz (D) (W)
AFR 203(S) A Survey of Modern African History (D)
AFR 211(F) Race and the Environment (D)
AFR 216(S) Black Politics in the United States (D)
AFR 217(S) Race(ing) Sports: Issues, Themes and Representations of Black Athletes (D)
AFR 253(F) Comparative Race and Ethnic Politics (D)
AFR 267(F) Race in the Americas (D)
AFR 321(S) Gender, Genre, and Sexuality in Afrodiasporic Literature (D)
AFR 323(F) Comic Lives: Graphic Novels & Dangerous Histories of the African Diaspora (D)
AFR 381(S) From Civil Rights to Black Power (D)
AFR 403(S) New Asian American, African American, Native American, and Latina/o Writing (D)
AFR 450(S) Melville, Mark Twain, and Ellison (D)
AMST 101(S) Artists Respond to Dangerous Times (D)
AMST 132(S) Contemporary Africana Social and Political Philosophy (D)
AMST 155(F) John Coltrane and the Revolutionary Tradition in African American Music (D)
AMST 156(S) Thirteen Ways of Looking at Jazz (D) (W)
AMST 201(F) Introduction to American Studies (D)
AMST 211(F) Race and the Environment (D)
AMST 213(S) Black Politics in the United States (D)
AMST 217(S) Race(ing) Sports: Issues, Themes and Representations of Black Athletes (D)
AMST 240(S) Latina/o Language and Literature: Hybrid Voices (D)
AMST 267(F) Race in the Americas (D)
AMST 313(F) Gender, Race, Beauty, and Power in the Age of Transnational Media (D)
AMST 323(F) Comic Lives: Graphic Novels & Dangerous Histories of the African Diaspora (D)
AMST 339(S) Latina/o Musical Cultures and the Dynamics of the Everyday (D) (W)
AMST 377T(F) From Third Worldism to Transnationalism: The First Five Decades of Asian American Studies (D) (W)
AMST 403(S) New Asian American, African American, Native American, and Latina/o Writing (D)
AMST 408(F) Envisioning Urban Life: Objects, Subjects, and Everyday People (D) (W)
AMST 469(F) Notions of Race and Ethnicity in American Culture (D)
ANTH 101(F) The Scope of Anthropology (D)
ANTH 244(S) Globalizing India (D)
ANTH 248(F) Body Politics, Gender and Religion in South Asia (D)
ANTH 290T(F) Urban Space, Culture, and Power (D)
SOC 211(F) Race and the Environment (D)
SOC 217(S) Race(ing) Sports: Issues, Themes and Representations of Black Athletes (D)
SOC 267(F) Race in the Americas (D)
ARAB 111(S) Movers and Shakers in the Middle East (D) (W)
ARAB 207(F) The Modern Middle East (D)
ARAB 228(F) Modern Arabic Literature in Translation (D) (W)
ARAB 480T(F) Dangerous Narratives: Interpretations of the Israeli–Palestinian Conflict (D) (W)
ARTH 223(F) Comic Lives: Graphic Novels & Dangerous Histories of the African Diaspora (D)
ARTH 229(F) From Analog to Digital: Historical Photography in Africa (D)
ARTS 101(S) Artists Respond to Dangerous Times (D)
ASST 212(S) Transforming the Middle Kingdom: China, 2000 BCE–1600 (D)
ASST 213(F) Modern China, 1600–Present (D)
ASST 219(S) Japanese Culture and History from Courtiers to Samurai and Beyond (D)
ASST 248(F) Body Politics, Gender and Religion in South Asia (D)
ASST 321(F) History of U.S.–Japan Relations (D)
CHIN 101(F) Basic Chinese (D)
CHIN 102(S) Basic Chinese (D)
CHIN 201(F) Intermediate Chinese (D)
CHIN 202(S) Intermediate Chinese (D)
CHIN 228(F) Traditional Chinese Poetry (D) (W)
CHIN 301(F) Upper–Intermediate Chinese (D)
CHIN 302(S) Upper–Intermediate Chinese (D)
CHIN 401(F) Advanced Chinese (D)
CHIN 402(S) Advanced Chinese (D)
JAPN 101(F) Elementary Japanese (D)
JAPN 102(S) Elementary Japanese (D)
JAPN 201(F) Intermediate Japanese (D)
JAPN 202(S) Intermediate Japanese (D)
JAPN 219(S) Japanese Culture and History from Courtiers to Samurai and Beyond (D)
JAPN 301(F) Upper–Intermediate Japanese (D)
JAPN 302(S) Upper–Intermediate Japanese (D)
JAPN 321(F) History of U.S.–Japan Relations (D)

JAPN 401(F) Advanced Japanese (D)
 JAPN 402(S) Advanced Japanese (D)
 JAPN 405(F) Thematic Reading and Writing in Japanese I (D)
 JAPN 406(S) Thematic Reading and Writing in Japanese II (D)
 BIOL 134(F) The Tropics: Biology and Social Issues (D)
 BIOL 136(S) Studying Human Genetic Diversity: Individuals, Populations, and 'Races'—Dangerous Biology (D)
 COMP 104(S) Critical Approaches to Theatre and Performance (D)
 COMP 156(S) Thirteen Ways of Looking at Jazz (D) (W)
 COMP 208(S) The Culture of Carnival (D)
 COMP 210(S) Latina/o Language and Literature: Hybrid Voices (D)
 COMP 225(F) Traditional Chinese Poetry (D) (W)
 COMP 228(F) Modern Arabic Literature in Translation (D) (W)
 COMP 229(S) Japanese Culture and History from Courtiers to Samurai and Beyond (D)
 COMP 231T(F) Postmodernism (D) (W)
 COMP 237(S) Gender and Desire 1200–1600 (D) (W)
 COMP 304(S) Gender, Genre, and Sexuality in Afrodiasporic Literature (D)
 COMP 309T(S) Exile, Homecoming and the Promised Land (D) (W)
 COMP 313(F) Gender, Race, Beauty, and Power in the Age of Transnational Media (D)
 COMP 322(F) Comic Lives: Graphic Novels & Dangerous Histories of the African Diaspora (D)
 COMP 338(S) Latina/o Musical Cultures and the Dynamics of the Everyday (D) (W)
 COMP 375(S) New Asian American, African American, Native American, and Latina/o Writing (D)
 ECON 240T(F) Colonialism and Underdevelopment in South Asia (D) (W)
 ECON 470(S) The Indian Economy: Development and Social Justice (D)
 ECON 473(S) Microfinance (D) (Q)
 ECON 520(S) Microfinance (D) (Q)
 ENGL 215(S) Race(ing) Sports: Issues, Themes and Representations of Black Athletes (D)
 ENGL 223(S) Thirteen Ways of Looking at Jazz (D) (W)
 ENGL 237(S) Gender and Desire 1200–1600 (D) (W)
 ENGL 265(S) Topics in American Literature: Freedom and Captivity (D) (W)
 ENGL 266T(F) Postmodernism (D) (W)
 ENGL 313(S) Gender, Genre, and Sexuality in Afrodiasporic Literature (D)
 ENGL 320(F) Shakespeare's Othello (D)
 ENGL 356(F) Comic Lives: Graphic Novels & Dangerous Histories of the African Diaspora (D)
 ENGL 375(S) New Asian American, African American, Native American, and Latina/o Writing (D)
 ENGL 377T(F) From Third Worldism to Transnationalism: The First Five Decades of Asian American Studies (D) (W)
 ENGL 450(S) Melville, Mark Twain, and Ellison (D)
 ENVI 134(F) The Tropics: Biology and Social Issues (D)
 ENVI 211(F) Race and the Environment (D)
 ENVI 217(S) Environmental isms: Theory and Method in the Environmental Humanities (D)
 GERM 316T(F) Wer ist wir?: Recent Debates over Multiculture in Germany (D) (W)
 HIST 111(S) Movers and Shakers in the Middle East (D) (W)
 HIST 143(F) Soccer and History in Latin America: Making the Beautiful Game (D) (W)
 HIST 203(S) A Survey of Modern African History (D)
 HIST 207(F) The Modern Middle East (D)
 HIST 212(S) Transforming the Middle Kingdom: China, 2000 BCE–1600 (D)
 HIST 213(F) Modern China, 1600–Present (D)
 HIST 219(S) Japanese Culture and History from Courtiers to Samurai and Beyond (D)
 HIST 286(S) Latina/o History From 1846 to the Present (D)
 HIST 303(F) From Analog to Digital: Historical Photography in Africa (D)
 HIST 321(F) History of U.S.–Japan Relations (D)
 HIST 380(S) Comparative American Immigration History (D)
 HIST 381(S) From Civil Rights to Black Power (D)
 HIST 383(F) Whiteness and Race in the History of the United States (D)
 HIST 469(F) Notions of Race and Ethnicity in American Culture (D)
 HIST 480T(F) Dangerous Narratives: Interpretations of the Israeli–Palestinian Conflict (D) (W)
 INST 101(F) The Modern Middle East (D)
 INST 211(S) Epidemiology and Global Health (D)
 JWST 101(F) Judaism: Innovation and Tradition (D)
 JWST 217(F) The Modern Middle East (D)
 JWST 491T(S) Exile, Homecoming and the Promised Land (D) (W)
 LATS 240(S) Latina/o Language and Literature: Hybrid Voices (D)
 LATS 286(S) Latina/o History From 1846 to the Present (D)
 LATS 313(F) Gender, Race, Beauty, and Power in the Age of Transnational Media (D)
 LATS 338(S) Latina/o Musical Cultures and the Dynamics of the Everyday (D) (W)
 LATS 403(S) New Asian American, African American, Native American, and Latina/o Writing (D)
 LATS 408(F) Envisioning Urban Life: Objects, Subjects, and Everyday People (D) (W)
 LEAD 150(S) Movers and Shakers in the Middle East (D) (W)
 MUS 155(F) John Coltrane and the Revolutionary Tradition in African American Music (D)
 MUS 156(S) Thirteen Ways of Looking at Jazz (D) (W)
 MUS 278T(F) Carmen, 1845 to Now (D) (W)
 PHIL 320(S) Recent Continental Feminist Theory (D)
 PHIL 327T(S) Foucault (D) (W)
 PSCI 132(S) Contemporary Africana Social and Political Philosophy (D)
 PSCI 213(S) Black Politics in the United States (D)
 PSCI 253(F) Comparative Race and Ethnic Politics (D)
 PSYC 349(S) Progress and Problems in Intergroup Interaction (D)
 REL 203(F) Judaism: Innovation and Tradition (D)
 REL 239(F) The Modern Middle East (D)
 REL 248(F) Body Politics, Gender and Religion in South Asia (D)
 REL 289T(S) Exile, Homecoming and the Promised Land (D) (W)
 RLSP 204(S) Icons and Imaginaries: Culture and Politics in Latin America (D)
 RLSP 308(F) The Subject of Empire: Race, Gender and Power in the Colonial Era (D)
 RLSP 318(S) Three Spanish Medieval Masterpieces and the Myth of Co-existence (D)
 THEA 104(S) Critical Approaches to Theatre and Performance (D)
 THEA 205(S) The Culture of Carnival (D)
 THEA 320(F) Shakespeare's Othello (D)
 WGSS 101(F) Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies (D) (W)
 WGSS 202(S) Introduction to Sexuality Studies (D)
 WGSS 230(F) Gender, Sexuality, and Global HIV/AIDS (D)
 WGSS 237(S) Gender and Desire 1200–1600 (D) (W)
 WGSS 248T(F) Carmen, 1845 to Now (D) (W)
 WGSS 249(F) Body Politics, Gender and Religion in South Asia (D)
 WGSS 301(F) Sexual Economies (D)
 WGSS 302(S) Global Sexualities (D)
 WGSS 304(S) Gender, Genre, and Sexuality in Afrodiasporic Literature (D)
 WGSS 313(F) Gender, Race, Beauty, and Power in the Age of Transnational Media (D)
 WGSS 321(S) Recent Continental Feminist Theory (D)
 WGSS 327T(S) Foucault (D) (W)
 WGSS 383(F) Whiteness and Race in the History of the United States (D)