

Guidelines for Non-Western Cultures Courses

To qualify as fulfilling the Non-Western Cultures requirement, a course must focus on the history or present culture of one or more countries from the following continents or regions: Asia, the Middle East, Africa, or South America. A course in Non-Western Cultures that fulfills the campus-wide general education requirement will have the following characteristics:

- 1) The course will acquaint students with the culture, society, and values of a non-Western people, or explore knowledge traditions grounded in non-Western cultural paradigms.
- 2) The course will provide a framework for understanding and appreciating ideas and values of cultures different from those that we commonly identify as “Western.”
- 3) The course, if it primarily explores a specific dimension of one culture or culture-area (e.g., social institutions, artistic productions, religious beliefs, historical experiences), must include assignments that place that dimension in the context of others that also significantly shape the culture.

In addition, the following limitations will apply to specific kinds of subject matter:

a) Comparative and cross-cultural courses may take as one of the subjects of comparison a Western culture, but such courses must include in-depth study of at least two non-Western cultures or culture-areas.

b) Courses that include an examination of the concept and practices of colonialism must focus extensively on its impact on contemporary cultures, including post-colonial and global economic dynamics. In courses on this topic, in other words, the experiences and perspectives of the colonized peoples must be a main focus of study and discussion.