Curricular Support Courses

Overview

Curricular support courses are courses designed to strengthen skills applicable to a student’s academic growth.

There is a 12-credit limit on curricular support and non-liberal arts courses that may be counted towards the 128 credits required for graduation.

CUSP-134 Effective Writing, Revising, And Communication
Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 1
This course is intended for students who are new to American academic writing or identify as non-native speakers of English. Students should also be enrolled in a writing-intensive course. Through discussion and analysis of their own writing and peer work, students evaluate the effectiveness of their written communication and writing process. A variety of strategies for strengthening written communication are applied to current writing projects. Planned topics include incorporating and citing sources, English structure and vocabulary, writing to an audience, constructing effective paragraphs, and drafting and revision.

 Applies to requirement(s): Meets No Distribution Requirement

M. Shea
Instructor permission required.

Notes: Repeatable for credit. Credit/no credit grading. Meets second half of the semester only. Remember, there is a 12-credit limit on curricular support and non-liberal arts courses that may be counted towards the 128 credits required for graduation.

CUSP-136 Language and Culture in Academia
Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 2
Language and culture are inextricably linked. Learning a language also means learning a new culture. Academia has a culture all its own, in addition to that of the country and language of a particular institution. This course will explore the values and practices of college education in the United States. Through readings and class discussion, students will develop a framework for understanding the implicit cultural expectations in writing assignments, class discussion, and other aspects of academic life.

 Applies to requirement(s): Meets No Distribution Requirement

J. Zhu
Advisory: This course is open to all students, but is particularly relevant to international students.

Notes: Credit/no credit grading. Remember, there is a 12-credit limit on curricular support and non-liberal arts courses that may be counted towards the 128 credits required for graduation.

CUSP-202 Community-Based Learning: Networks, Reflection, and Meaning
Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 2
Community-based learning that effectively develops civic leaders and engages purposefully in community development requires students to develop networking, reflection, and analytic practices. Readings on civic engagement, discussions and exercises will advance campus and community networks, writing and oral reflection on field experiences, and information-sharing so students will better understand themselves and communities. This course is designed to facilitate learning and impact for CBL Program student staff pursuing concurrent fellowships and mentorships. Students in C.A.U.S.E. leadership, off-campus work-study, and independent study positions may also enroll by permission.

 Applies to requirement(s): Meets No Distribution Requirement

Other Attribute(s): Community-Based Learning

The department
Instructor permission required.

Advisory: For current CBL Fellows only. Instructor permission required.
Notes: Meets Wednesday nights. There is a 12-credit limit on curricular support and non-liberal arts courses that may be counted towards the 128 credits required for graduation.

CUSP-203 Integrating Learning, Service, and Social Action
Spring. Credits: 2
Community-based learning (CBL) is a central aspect of the liberal arts curriculum – as it facilitates student learning outside the College gates with community partners in ways that can effect social change. Such learning requires self-reflective practices, project planning and assessment, and knowledge of local histories. Through course readings, discussion, and community visitors, this class is designed to facilitate community-based learning for CBL student staff, C.A.U.S.E. leadership, student interns or future interns, as well as any student with a general interest in CBL.

 Applies to requirement(s): Meets No Distribution Requirement

Other Attribute(s): Community-Based Learning

D. Hernández

Notes: Remember, there is a 12-credit limit on curricular support and non-liberal arts courses that may be counted towards the 128 credits required for graduation.

CUSP-208 Fundamentals of Maker Culture
Spring. Credits: 2
This course is an introduction to common shop practices in the MHC Makerspace. In this course, you will learn to safely operate equipment and to both develop and mentor projects, with a focus on inclusive pedagogy. Emphasis will be placed on class participation as well as hands-on project based assignments. Priority will be given to those seeking to work as Makerspace Consultants.

 Applies to requirement(s): Meets No Distribution Requirement

K. Aidala
Instructor permission required.

Notes: Note: There is a 12-credit limit on curricular support and non-liberal arts courses that may be counted towards the 128 credits required for graduation.
CUSP-209 Making Study Abroad a Transformative Experience
Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 1
This course prepares students for a profoundly transformative study abroad experience, personally and intellectually. We explore ways to engage cultural difference rather than shy away from it and be comfortable with being outside one's comfort zone. Students will learn critical reflection strategies and discuss how study abroad supports their individual learning goals and advances their personal growth and career prospects. Classes include case studies, role play, and conversations with faculty and alumnae with study abroad experience.

Applies to requirement(s): Meets No Distribution Requirement

M. Lauer, M. Svaldi
Instructor permission required.
Advisory: Course is limited to students who plan to study abroad in spring 2020.
Notes: Second half of semester. Note: There is a 12-credit limit on curricular support and non-liberal arts courses that may be counted towards the 128 credits required for graduation.

CUSP-212 Peer Mentoring: Theory and Practice
Spring. Credits: 2
This course is an introduction to theories and practices of collaborative learning for students preparing to work as mentors in the Speaking, Arguing, and Writing Program (SAW). We will draw on existing research, practice sessions, class discussion, and our own writing and speaking to craft our philosophies of peer mentoring and to develop effective practical strategies.

Applies to requirement(s): Meets No Distribution Requirement

Other Attribute(s): Speaking-Intensive, Writing-Intensive

M. Shea
Instructor permission required.
Notes: Meets second half of the semester on Monday evenings. Remember, there is a 12-credit limit on curricular support and non-liberal arts courses that may be counted towards the 128 credits required for graduation.

CUSP-215 Intergroup Dialogue
CUSP-215RR Intergroup Dialogue: 'Understanding Race and Racism in the United States and Mount Holyoke College'
Fall and Spring. Credits: 1
In a culturally and socially diverse society, discussion about issues of difference, conflict and community are needed to facilitate understanding between social/cultural groups. In this intergroup dialogue, students will actively participate in two days (16 hours) of semi-structured, face-to-face meetings with students from other social identity groups. Students will learn from each others' perspectives, read and discuss relevant reading material, and explore their own and other groups' experiences in various social and institutional contexts. Students will also explore ways of taking action to create change and bridge differences at the interpersonal and social/community levels.

Applies to requirement(s): Meets No Distribution Requirement

M. Keehn
Instructor permission required.
Advisory: Interested students must complete an online application. Fall 2021 application, Spring 2022 application.
Notes: Students may take this weekend dialogue experience for 1 academic credit or may participate without registration as a co-curricular opportunity. In addition to the weekend meetings, there are reflection papers to be completed before and after the dialogue. Note: There is a 12-credit limit on curricular support and non-liberal arts courses that may be counted towards the 128 credits required for graduation. If students are unable to make the orientation meeting, they can set up an alternative meeting time with the instructor.

CUSP-235 Intergroup Dialogue: Facilitating Conversations About Social Justice
Fall and Spring. Credits: 2
Intergroup Dialogue engages individuals and groups in facilitated small group processes to explore difficult issues to develop shared meaning across lines of difference, and generate opportunities for collaborative action. This course is designed to give students both a theoretical and practical foundation in the awareness, knowledge and skills needed to effectively plan, facilitate and evaluate Intergroup Dialogues. Students will develop skills in facilitating multicultural group interactions and work with conflict that may emerge engaging topics such as group dynamics, conflict intervention, intergroup communication and group building.

Applies to requirement(s): Meets No Distribution Requirement

M. Keehn
Instructor permission required.
Prereq: CUSP-215RR.
Advisory: Students must have completed CUSP-215RR or a comparable intergroup dialogue experience from another institution and must complete the required Fall 2021 application, Spring 2022 application.
Notes: Note: There is a 12-credit limit on curricular support and non-liberal arts courses that may be counted towards the 128 credits required for graduation.

CUSP-241 Engaging for Social Impact: Working With Local Communities Around the World
Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 2
This course prepares students for learning and engagement in community-based settings locally and abroad – through international internships, Community-Based Learning and/or the Global/Local Fellowship. Effective and ethical work with communities requires students to better understand the contexts of, and possible modes for, collaborative action. Students will engage crucial questions, including their motivations and positionality as change agents, histories of social inequality and attempts to address them (e.g., through development, social justice), how "community" is variously defined. This course will use a combination of course discussion, personal reflection and community-based trips.

Applies to requirement(s): Meets No Distribution Requirement

Other Attribute(s): Community-Based Learning

The department
Instructor permission required.
Notes: Note: There is a 12-credit limit on curricular support and non-liberal arts courses that may be counted towards the 128 credits required for graduation.