

First Year Experience Toolkit

First Year Students & the Perspectives Seminar

Columbus State University

This set of freshman seminar courses will approach real-world problem-solving in relation to global civic literacy. Students will be prepared to present logical, informed, and evidenced-based solutions to real-world problems, identify and access resources for academic success, articulate one's identity in a global context, identify various perspectives and experiences that inform one's global identity, apply knowledge and skills to real-world situations and problems. Instructors choose the topic for their courses as well as which modules or resources from the curriculum to integrate into learning activities and assignments.

Columbus State University: World101 Description and Rationale: First-Year Students & the Perspectives Seminar

Overview

During the upcoming academic year (2021-2022), we plan to integrate the World 101 curriculum in courses offered to our first-year students. At Columbus State University, all first-year students are required to enroll in a 1- or 2-credit Perspectives course. In fall 2021 semester, we will pilot 4 sections of Perspectives courses using the World 101 curriculum. These courses will also be included in an innovative global learning program sponsored by CSU – the International Learning Community (ILC). More detailed information regarding Perspectives and the ILC are included in this rationale.

Perspectives Courses

This course introduces students to the academic experience by focusing on a topic or project. Topics vary, but every section engages students in the process of generating creative and evidence-based solutions to problems in the real world. Instructors choose the topic for their Perspectives courses and the following learning outcomes are used:

- Present logical, informed, and evidenced-based solutions to real-world problems.
- Identify and access resources for academic success.

The World 101 Perspectives courses will approach real-world problem-solving in relation to global civic literacy. Instructors choose the topic for their courses as well as which modules or resources from the curriculum to integrate into learning activities and assignments. In addition to the Perspectives learning outcomes, the following outcomes are also used:

- Articulate one's identity in a global context.
- Identify various perspectives and experiences that inform one's global identity.
- Apply knowledge and skills to real-world situations and problems.

These learning outcomes were adapted from the AAC&U Global Learning Value Rubric. More information regarding these outcomes is included in the accompanying PERS 1506i/World 101 Rubric.

International Learning Community (ILC)

The ILC is an innovative program CSU has offered for the past 14 years. In 2014, this program was recognized by NAFSA when it presented CSU with the Senator Paul Simon Award for Comprehensive Internationalization. The ILC provides global learning for our students through co-curricular programming across disciplines and campuses. Students are provided broad access to campus-based international learning that is holistic:

- experiential as well as theoretical;
- at multiple points during a student's development; and
- in conjunction with the various disciplinary approaches.

Students can take part in approximately 20 different ILC events each semester. These events include guest lectures, international film viewings with discussions, panel discussions, role-playing simulations, and global dialogues. Some events are held on campus, while others are streamed online, thus providing students with flexible ways to join these global learning activities. For many students these programs might be their only consistent exposure to international content and perspectives. For example, global dialogues with international students are often one of the rare opportunities for our students to learn firsthand from someone outside the United States about different cultural norms, expectations, and perspectives. All of our World 101 Perspectives courses will be included in the ILC, allowing students opportunities to see the "real world" significance of global topics through experiences outside of class.