

## PROPOSAL FOR PERSPECTIVES I COURSE

Instructor:

Date:

Phone:

E-mail:

Course Title and Number:

Semester and year in which the course will be offered:

There are two kinds of Perspectives courses. According to the Liberal Studies Core Curriculum document (May 1988), Perspectives I courses promote diversity, while Perspectives II courses promote development:

- ♦ Perspectives I courses (as a group) “introduce students to a discipline’s distinctive contents and modes of inquiry by emphasizing quality exposure to ways of thinking rather than the breadth of material alone.”
- ♦ Perspectives II courses “provide a further opportunity at a depth beyond the introductory level to examine a significant problem from multiple perspectives.” In addition, Perspectives II courses “enable students to deepen their knowledge in specific disciplinary areas outside the major.”

Please see the attached document, “Guidelines for PI Courses.”

**New or Adapted Course?** \_\_\_\_\_

If adapted, please indicate how teaching the course as Perspectives I will change the course.

**Course Description:** Please describe the content area and skills developed in the course according to the following outline. Please indicate if a particular question does not apply to your course. [See the attached document, “Guidelines for Perspectives I Courses.”]

**A. Course content:**

1. Describe the distinctive subject matter and mode(s) of inquiry contained in the course.
2. Describe the variety of perspectives within the discipline which will be covered.
3. Will primary materials be utilized? \_\_\_\_\_ If so, how?
4. Will the historical context of the subject matter be explored? \_\_\_\_\_ If so, how?

5. Will the course explore values and ethical issues? \_\_\_\_\_ If so, how?
  
6. Will the course explore the relationship of the subject matter to the physical world?  
\_\_\_\_\_ If so, how?
  
7. Will the course explore the relationship of the subject matter to the arts? \_\_\_\_\_ If  
so, how?
  
8. Will the course enhance the students' awareness of cultural diversity and of non-  
Western cultures? \_\_\_\_\_ If so, how?

**B. Skills: Will the following skills be developed? If so, how? Will they be assessed? If so, how?**

1. **Critical thinking** (e.g., ability to ask questions, analytic ability, problem-solving ability, ability to formulate rational arguments)
  
2. **Speaking**
  
3. **Interactive reading** (e.g., “enabling the student to engage in a dialogue with the text, glean its meaning to the writer and its relevance to the reader”)
  
4. **Listening**
  
5. **Writing**
  
6. **Familiarity with research methods**
  
7. **Quantitative Reasoning**
  
8. **Other** (e.g., computer applications)

**C. Format of course: Please describe the format of the course and the teaching methods to be used.**

**D. Syllabus: Please attach a tentative syllabus.**

**E. Are you planning to offer this course as a Global Perspectives course? \_\_\_\_\_**

If so, you must submit a Global Perspectives proposal to this committee to have the course designated as a "G" course.

[Form revised Fall 2002]

## Guidelines for Perspectives I Courses

### A. The Nature of the Course:

The Core Curriculum document states:

- (As a group, the eight) Perspectives I courses promote diversity.
- First courses strive to foster in students an appreciation for multiple perspectives within a discipline; subsequent courses (that is, PII courses) strive to enhance students' depth of inquiry in a discipline as well as their understanding of the interrelatedness of various liberal studies disciplines.
- Liberal Studies courses directly address the student's development of intellectual skills that support life-long learning, skills such as critical thinking (analysis, synthesis, evaluation), problem-solving, interactive reading, and effective oral and written communication.
- Perspectives courses introduce students to the disciplines' distinctive contents and modes of inquiry by emphasizing quality exposure to the ways of thinking rather than the breadth of material alone.

### B. Subject Areas:

Perspectives I courses are designed according to Liberal Studies criteria in each of eight designated subject areas:

Fine Arts	Philosophy
History	Religious Studies
Literature	Natural Sciences
Mathematics	Social Sciences

### C. Each Perspectives I course should (a) introduce a specific discipline that (b) provides a context for the explicit development of lifelong learning skills. Specifically, a Perspectives I course should address the following:

#### 1. Focus

- Primary focus is on representing the perspectives and ways of knowing that characterize the particular discipline.
- Secondary emphasis is to use content to teach and develop skills and appreciation for lifelong learning, such as critical thinking, problem-solving, and effective communication.

#### 2. Teaching Method

- (It is assumed) that a variety of teaching methods (not only lecture but also discussions, oral reports, writing, role-playing, simulations, guest speakers, etc.) are used.

- Students should be provided (in a small group setting) with opportunities for
  - a. Listening & reading carefully & perceptively
  - b. Speaking & writing w/clarity & precision
  - c. Using writing as a mode of learning
  - d. Analyzing & synthesizing information & knowledge
  - e. Formulating rational arguments
- 3. Diversity: Perspective I courses should address most of the following:
  - a. Use at least some primary texts/documents/empirical sources;
  - b. Foster in students an appreciation for the past through knowledge of historical context, as well as an awareness and understanding of cultural diversity in today's world.
  - c. Spill over naturally into the unique cultural, both intellectual & artistic, opportunities at Nazareth College (film series, Arts Center Programs, recitals, Distinguished Lecture Series etc.)
  - d. Enable students to compare how the arts and the sciences understand the world.
  - e. Provide opportunities for students to explore the moral/ethical/aesthetic implications of human choice for themselves as individuals and for the larger community.