

SOPHOMORE/JUNIOR LEARNING COMMUNITIES – SPRING 2014

Sophomores and juniors have the opportunity to enroll in a pair of thematically related courses forming a “learning community” designed to help them engage more fully with the college experience. Learning communities consist of a set of courses that students complete as a group. They are designed to explore how knowledge relates across disciplines and involve activities both inside and outside the classroom. Enrollment is limited to twenty students who enroll in the same two courses together. Each learning community will be led by two faculty members, each offering a course that can be applied towards Core curriculum requirements. Among the many advantages of learning communities are increased interaction with faculty, intensive mentoring, a focus upon integrating learning across disciplines, increased opportunities to develop relationships with one’s peers and an emphasis upon transformative learning.



Transforming Broken Promises into a Sustainable World

With each new generation, the modern industrial world has enticed us with new technologies and opportunities, but then the inevitable problems set in related to unemployment, finance, food and housing, social conflict and newer technologies. In this linked set of courses, students will examine these challenges from the perspectives of world literature and human geography. Through representative works of literature, we examine how the uneven development of the world has been represented and understood by Western and non-Western writers. In geography, students will analyze the current

world system of cities and agricultural regions that structures contemporary patterns of wealth and poverty, technological innovation and ecological degradation. What theories best explain these realities? What opportunities exist for creating a more just and sustainable world in future years?

ENG 8 01LC (6034)
GGR 1 01LC (1468)

MW 2:00 PM-3:20 PM
MW 9:30 AM-10:50 AM

PROFESSOR LUTZ
PROFESSOR CARLIN

Textual Transgressions

This learning community is comprised of two linked courses that explore how literature helps us understand ourselves and each other. EDI 14 looks at how literature can be incorporated into curriculum in ways that show us how language shapes our perceptions and can move us towards critical and self-reflective practices as we consider texts as the works of real human beings, beings with both a past and a culture of their own. ENG 10 examines selected texts from literature in order to pose such questions as: when is it advantageous to follow the rules? Why? Who benefits and what is the nature of the reward? Who breaks the rules and why? And how do the consequences of transgression hurt and benefit according to the position of the transgressor, particularly with regard to women and other marginalized groups? By posing such questions, we can use literature to complicate the humanistic theme of individual choice and self-actualization with contemporary political questions of power and justice that are of global significance. Members of this learning community will have the chance to develop close relationships with instructors and other students as we meet both in and outside of class for various activities and field trips.



EDI 14 01LC (1513)
ENG 10 01LC (3438)

MW 8:00 AM-9:20 AM
TuTh 3:30 PM-4:50 PM

PROFESSOR RASHEED
PROFESSOR RYDEN



**For more information go to: liu.edu/post/learningcommunities
or ask your academic counselor.**