

The Connections Curriculum

The Connections Curriculum is designed to use self-reflection as a tool to facilitate connections among students' general education coursework, their major program of study, and the experiential learning opportunities they will participate in during their four years at Wittenberg.

FIRST YEAR SEMINAR (FYS)

During their first semester at Wittenberg, students will take a 4-credit first-year seminar course, which will introduce the Connections Curriculum and emphasize skills and habits critical for maximizing student growth and success throughout their four years at Wittenberg. Completion of the FYS is required for graduation.

The Connections Curriculum centers around 10 key learning outcomes. The outcomes are broken down into three categories, Connections, Core Competencies, and Critical and Creative Thinking. General education courses can support up to two learning outcomes (one core competency and one critical and creative thinking, or two core competencies). Up to three learning outcomes may be satisfied from one department.

CONNECTIONS

Wittenberg's experiential learning provides opportunities for students to apply classroom knowledge in practical situations, testing new skills in the wider world. Through the first-year seminar, students will build connections with faculty members, peer mentors, the Springfield community, and beyond. Students will connect concepts from their coursework, with experiential learning opportunities like civic engagement, internships, and research. These experiential learning opportunities connect students with future collaborators, potential employers, mentors, and community members. Finally, students will create a culminating reflection that connects these experiences together and highlights how they will pass their light on.

LEARNING OUTCOME 1 (LO1)

Students will articulate how their co-curricular experiences and their academic curriculum have shaped their personal, professional, and civic identities.

REQUIREMENTS:

- A. Students will complete two approved experiential learning opportunities from the categories of research experiences, internships, national or international study, or leadership experiences and complete all requirements of such experiences.
 - a. Students will work with their advisor to identify opportunities that will meet this requirement while providing experiences that connect with a student's interests
 - i. A career services approved internship can partially fulfill this requirement.
 - ii. Faculty directed or student led research experiences such as independent projects, capstone research projects, or approved research programs can partially fulfill this requirement.
 - iii. Study abroad or study away programs that meet the experiential learning expectations established by the office of international education or the international and field studies committee can partially fulfill this requirement.
 - iv. Additional experiences may be approved to support this learning outcome through consultation with the Director of General Education for review by the General Education Advisory Committee (GEAC).
- B. Students are required to complete one approved civic engagement experience.
 - a. Courses that satisfy this requirement are labeled as "civic engagement" courses in the course catalog. You can find a listing on Wittenberg's Self-Service.
- C. Students will select or develop their own Cross Campus Connection (CCC), which integrates the content of academic courses with their experiential learning requirements.
 - a. Each CCC will link three courses together under a broad theme or focus area.
 - b. Courses supporting the CCC must come from outside of the student's major program of study.

- c. Courses do not have to support a Connections learning outcome to be included in a CCC.
 - d. CCC forms will be completed in consultation with a student's faculty advisor and filed with the registrar prior to a student's junior year.
 - e. An interdisciplinary major or interdisciplinary minor can fulfill this requirement.
- D. Students will complete a culminating reflection experience as a graded component of a course within their major typically during their senior year.

CORE COMPETENCIES

Employers, communities, and graduate schools seek out individuals who clearly and effectively communicate, who are able to use analytical and quantitative reasoning skills to solve problems, and are able to work with others. By taking courses that focus on the following learning outcomes, Wittenberg will provide students the core competencies and strengths needed to succeed in and change the world.

LEARNING OUTCOME 2 (LO2)

Students will write effectively, considering audience and purpose.

REQUIREMENTS:

Students will complete 8 credits of course work focused on writing.

*An additional two courses of discipline-specific writing are required within the major.

LEARNING OUTCOME 3 (LO3)

Students will effectively communicate their ideas orally, considering audience and purpose.

REQUIREMENTS:

Students will complete 8 credits of course work focused on oral communication.

LEARNING OUTCOME 4 (LO4)

Students will solve quantitative problems and apply quantitative reasoning skills in a variety of contexts.

REQUIREMENTS:

a) Students will complete 4 credits of a quantitative reasoning course.

b) Students will complete an additional 4 credits of application-focused quantitative reasoning.

LEARNING OUTCOME 5 (LO5)

Students will analyze the distinctive viewpoints that are only available through the study of one or more languages and/or culture(s) outside of the United States and Canada.

REQUIREMENTS:

Students will complete 8 credits of coursework to meet this learning outcome with at least 4 credits of coursework with a focus on non-Western culture(s) and/or taught in a second language at the 112 level or above.

LEARNING OUTCOME 6 (LO6)

Students will analyze the ways social hierarchies (e.g., race, gender, ethnicity, class, etc.) structure human interaction in the United States and impact the equitable distribution of social and material resources.

REQUIREMENTS:

Students will complete 4 credits of coursework to meet this learning outcome.

CRITICAL AND CREATIVE THINKING

Successful professionals and critical thinkers attack challenges from a variety of angles. Wittenberg liberal arts courses develop creative problem solving by honing a student's ability to think, analyze, communicate, and engage from different perspectives. These classes may duplicate courses from the core competency category.

LEARNING OUTCOME 7 (LO7)

Students will develop hypotheses or models, evaluate them using scientific reasoning, and draw conclusions about results or observations related to the physical or natural world.

REQUIREMENTS:

Students will complete a 4- or 5-credit course to meet this learning outcome.

LEARNING OUTCOME 8 (LO8)

Students will produce artistic work and explain its cultural context and/or formal components.

REQUIREMENTS:

Students will complete 4 credits of course work to meet this learning outcome.

LEARNING OUTCOME 9 (LO9)

Students will analyze social systems or human behaviors using knowledge, theories, and/or methods appropriate to the social sciences.

REQUIREMENTS:

Students will complete a 4-credit course to meet this learning outcome.

LEARNING OUTCOME 10 (LO10)

Students will analyze problems, issues, or representations using knowledge, theories and/or methods appropriate to the humanities.

REQUIREMENTS:

Students will complete a 4-credit course to meet this learning outcome.

CONNECTIONS CURRICULUM COURSES, as of FALL 2021 (*not exhaustive, subject to change*):

FIRST YEAR SEMINARS:

BIOL FYS – Power of Addiction

BIOL FYS – Society and the Human Embryo

BUSN FYS – Advertising and Society

CMDM FYS – Technology and Negative Communication

ECON FYS – Economics and Society

EDUC FYS – Cultivating acceptance and advocacy through children's literature

EDUC FYS – Sociological Perspectives of Education

ENGL FYS – Saving the Future by Changing Ourselves: Climate Change and Pollution

ENGL FYS – Through the Language Glass

ESCI FYS – Nature of Rivers

GERM FYS – The Holocaust in Text, Image, and Memory

NUR FYS – Nursing

PHYS FYS – Biomedical technology and human potential

PSYC FYS – Problems of Pop Psychology

SOCI FYS – Introduction to Sociology

CONNECTIONS CURRICULUM COURSES, FALL 2021, cont. :

LEARNING OUTCOME 2 (LO2): WRITING

AFDS 270 Understanding Black Lives Matter Movement
CMDM 201 Intro to Communication Theory
EDUC 103 Sociological Perspectives in Education
EDUC 104 Philosophical Perspectives in Education
ENGL 101 College Research and Writing
ENGL 180 Screening the 19th Century
ENGL 180 Film Noir
ENGL 180 Making Romance
HIST 205TA-ST Latin American Revolutions
PHIL 208 Philosophy and Modern Drama
POLI 224 The American Presidency
RELI 340 Religion, Gender, and Sexuality
THDN 270 Contemporary American Drama

LEARNING OUTCOME 3 (LO3): ORAL COMMUNICATION

BIOL 202 Principles of Evolution
BUSN 206 Global Social Entrepreneurship
CHIN 111 Beginning Chinese I
CMDM 101 Intro to Communication
CMDM 190 Public Speaking
GERM 111 Beginning German I
GERM 264 Deutsche Geschichte und historische Quellen
GERM 265 Nationale Identität und kulturelle Vielfalt
NUR 240 Adult Health I: The Health & Wellness Continuum
SPAN 111 Beginning Spanish I
SPAN 112 Beginning Spanish II

LEARNING OUTCOME 4 (LO4): QUANTITATIVE REASONING

QUANTITATIVE COURSES:

COMP 121 Computing in the Arts & Sciences
COMP 150 Computer Programming I
DATA 100 Data Literacy
DATA 227 Data Analysis
MATH 112 Language of Mathematics
MATH 118 Mathematics for Elementary Teachers I
MATH 120 Elementary Functions
MATH 131 Essentials of Calculus
MATH 201 Calculus I
MATH 202 Calculus II
MATH 218 Mathematics for Elementary Teachers II

APPLICATION COURSES:

ACCT 225 Financial Accounting
BUSN 210 Business and Economic Statistics
CHEM 111 Introductory Chemistry for Health Sciences
CHEM 121 Models of Chemical Systems I
CHEM 162 Models of Chemical Systems II
ECON 200 Principles of Economics
GEOL 240 Process Geomorphology
PHYS 201 Physics I
PHYS 202 Algebra-Based Physics II
PHYS 203 Calculus-Based Physics II

LEARNING OUTCOME 5 (LO5): GLOBAL DIVERSITY

GLOBAL COURSES:

ART 110 History of Art
CHIN 111 Beginning Chinese I
GERM 111 Beginning German I
GERM 140 Themes in German Literature
HIST 205TA-ST Latin American Revolutions
HSS 221 International Sport Management
RELI 120 Demons, Angels & Ghosts
SPAN 111 Beginning Spanish I

LANGUAGE COURSES:

SPAN 112 Beginning Spanish II
SPAN 261 El mundo físico
SPAN 262 Entre dos mundos: el arte de la traducción
GERM 264 Deutsche Geschichte und historische Quellen
GERM 265 Nationale Identität und kulturelle Vielfalt

NON-WESTERN COURSES:

BUSN 206 Global Social Entrepreneurship
CHIN 151 Film & Fiction in Modern China
HIST 173 History of South Africa
HIST 176 Lesotho and the Shadow of Apartheid
MUSI 216 Music of the World
PSYC 271 Psychology and Culture
RELI 110 Judaism, Christianity, & Islam
RELI 112 Intro to Buddhism
SOCI 110 Cultural Anthropology

CONNECTIONS CURRICULUM COURSES, FALL 2021, cont.:

<p><u>LEARNING OUTCOME 6 (LO6): U.S. DIVERSITY & EQUITY</u></p> <p>AFDS 270 Understanding Black Lives Matter Movement EDUC 103 Sociological Perspectives in Education HIST 122 United States History II HIST 233 Negro Leagues RELI 340 Religion, Gender, & Sexuality SOCI 101 Intro to Sociology SOCI 201 Sociological Topics SOCI 280 Animals and Society SOCI 290 Global Change THDN 270 Contemporary American Drama</p>	<p><u>LEARNING OUTCOME 7 (LO7): SCIENTIFIC INQUIRY</u></p> <p>BIOL 104TD-ST Non-infectious diseases BIOL 125 Basic Human Physiology BIOL 170 Concepts of Biology BIOL 180 Concepts of Biology II CHEM 111 Introductory Chemistry for Health Sciences CHEM 121 Models of Chemical Systems I CHEM 162 Models of Chemical Systems II ESCI 100 Global Climate Change GEOL 240 Process Geomorphology HSS 250 Nutrition MRSC 141 Introduction to Marine Biology PHYS 100 Concepts in Physics PHYS 201 Physics I PHYS 202 Algebra-Based Physics II PHYS 203 Calculus-Based Physics II PSYC 101 Intro to Psychological Science</p>														
<p><u>LEARNING OUTCOME 8 (LO8): CREATIVE PROCESS</u></p> <p>ART 101 Studio Foundations: 2D Design ART 103 Studio Foundations: 3D Design ART 121 Basic Drawing ART 145 Intro to Computer Imaging ART 242 Intro to Digital Photography ART 285 Handbuilt Ceramics I ART 292 Ceramics I ENGL 240 Intro to Creative Writing MUSI 102 Basic Music Theory & Skills MUSI 134 Applied Saxophone MUSI 175 Jazz Ensemble MUSI 177 Chamber Orchestra MUSI 179 Symphonic Band MUSI 214 Electronic Music Production THDN 120 Art of the Theatre THDN 122 Acting THDN 230 Stagecraft THDN 231 Stage Design</p>	<p><u>LEARNING OUTCOME 9 (LO9): SOCIAL SCIENTIFIC METHODS</u></p> <p>BUSN 200 Entrepreneurship CMDM 202 Interpersonal Communication ECON 200 Principles of Economics HSS 230 Contemp. Issues in Sport Sociology & Psych. MATH 118 Mathematics for Elementary Teachers I POLI 101 American National Government POLI 103 International Relations POLI 209TA-ST Comparative Health Care Policy POLI 224 The American Presidency PSYC 271 Psychology and Culture SOCI 101 Intro to Sociology SOCI 280 Animals and Society SOCI 290 Social Change</p>														
<p><u>LEARNING OUTCOME 10 (LO10): HISTORICAL & CRITICAL ANALYSIS (Humanities & Arts)</u></p> <table border="0"> <tbody> <tr> <td>ART 110 History of Art I</td> <td>GERM 140 Themes in German Literature</td> </tr> <tr> <td>CHIN 151 Film & Fiction in Modern China</td> <td>HIST 122 United States History II</td> </tr> <tr> <td>CMDM 205 Media Literacy</td> <td>MUSI 110 Understanding Music</td> </tr> <tr> <td>EDUC 104 Philosophical Perspectives in Education</td> <td>PHIL 208 Philosophy and Modern Drama</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ENGL 180 Screening the 19th Century</td> <td>POLI 215 American Political Thought</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ENGL 180 Film Noir</td> <td>RELI 110 Judaism, Christianity, & Islam</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ENGL 180 Making Romance</td> <td>RELI 120 Demons, Angels & Ghosts</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		ART 110 History of Art I	GERM 140 Themes in German Literature	CHIN 151 Film & Fiction in Modern China	HIST 122 United States History II	CMDM 205 Media Literacy	MUSI 110 Understanding Music	EDUC 104 Philosophical Perspectives in Education	PHIL 208 Philosophy and Modern Drama	ENGL 180 Screening the 19th Century	POLI 215 American Political Thought	ENGL 180 Film Noir	RELI 110 Judaism, Christianity, & Islam	ENGL 180 Making Romance	RELI 120 Demons, Angels & Ghosts
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