

A Guide to World Awareness and Computer and Information Literacy

The SUNY-GER categories remain in play. Therefore, be sure that any new courses you propose speak to the learning outcome(s) for the particular requirement you see the course enabling students to meet. Those learning outcomes can be found on the General Education web page or by clicking the link below: http://www.oswego.edu/Documents/general_education/General%20Education%20Categories%20and%20Learning%20Outcomes.pdf

World Awareness

Courses in the **World Awareness** category need to fulfill the learning outcomes for two different categories.

1) World Awareness courses must enable students to meet one of the learning outcomes for what SUNY calls *Other World Civilizations* and Oswego calls *Non-Western Civilizations*:

--knowledge of either a broad outline of world history, or
--the distinctive features of the history, institutions, economy, society, culture, etc., of one non-Western civilization.

Please be sure that the course also meets SUNY's stipulation that, no matter which learning outcome is being addressed, the course needs to "be entirely or preponderantly non-European and non-U.S. in focus."

The Council recognizes that a course devoted to a broad outline of world history need not cover world history from the beginning to the present, can be organized thematically as well as chronologically, and will be preponderantly non-Western by virtue of its global focus. Such a course could find examples from societies and cultures beyond the West of issues and concerns germane to what it means to be in the world, of how a non-Western perspective brought to bear on the matter helps to broaden the student's awareness and understanding, or both. Given that System's caveat is meant to help provide students with a "counterpoint" to an European and/or American focus, moreover, the Council understands that a World Awareness course can place in dialogue Western and Non-Western views. Indeed, in the words of one Council member, "there cannot be a 'counterpoint' without a 'point'."

2) World Awareness courses also need to meet the learning outcomes in one of the following broad areas: Fine and Performing Arts, Humanities, Natural Sciences, and Social and Behavioral Sciences.

You can find those learning outcomes at the following URL:

http://www.oswego.edu/Documents/general_education/General%20Education%20Categories%20and%20Learning%20Outcomes.pdf

Computer and Information Literacy

As you think through the possibility of infusing Computer and Information Literacy in your major, please bear in mind that SUNY/Oswego has long imagined foundational computer literacy to mean that students will have the ability "to use computer hardware and software for standard tasks (e.g., word processing, spreadsheets, databases, the Internet, multi-media, and text/graphics management). Students will also understand the capabilities of computer technology, as well as current and evolving developments within their own areas of interest."

Foundational information literacy asks that students be able to, in the language of the SUNY-GER learning outcomes,

- understand and use basic research techniques; and
- locate, evaluate, and synthesize information from a variety of sources.

Remember to bear in mind that departments and programs may choose to identify as a major cognate an already approved computer and information literacy course.