

Motion presented to Faculty Senate 4/21/15

Proposal for Revision of the Pluralism in the U.S. (P) Requirement

Rationale

The University Undergraduate Curriculum Committee recently undertook a review of the guidelines for the Pluralism in the U.S. (P) requirement. The P requirement has been part of Binghamton's General Education requirements since 1996. At that time, the requirement focused on "three or more cultural groups," the same groups that are part of the current Pluralism requirement. There were several factors that led to this review. Nearly two decades after the original guidelines were developed, American society is changing, and our understanding of diversity extends beyond race and ethnicity. In addition, one of the strategic priorities in the University's Roadmap, "Inclusive Campus," focuses on diversity and inclusion.

To recognize the changes of the 21st century and to support of the University's focus on diversity and inclusion, the UUCC proposes the following updates to the Pluralism requirement. The committee shared drafts of this proposal with Harpur College undergraduate directors and with the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, and incorporated their comments into the proposal. The UUCC proposes that the changes to the guidelines go into effect for the 2015-16 academic year.

Current Pluralism requirement:

P courses must consider United States society from the perspective of three or more groups that constitute that society, including at least three of the following groups: African Americans, Asian Americans, European Americans, Latino Americans, and Native Americans. In addition, the course must show how these groups have affected and been affected by basic institutions of American society, such as commerce, family, legal and political structures, or religion.

Students who have not scored above an 84 on the Regents exam in American History (or the equivalent) must take a Pluralism course that meets both the above criteria and the following additional criteria. (Internally, we refer to these as "Ph" courses, although this is not an official Gen Ed designation.)

- The course must present an historical narrative of the United States and its institutions. This narrative must include several themes that have shaped the development of American society, such as the struggle for democracy, citizenship, racial and gender equality, religious freedom, civil rights, etc.; the conflicts that have erupted over these issues; and the consensus, if any, that has been reached on each of them.
- The narrative must cover at least a century of American history and connect that period to periods before and after it.
- The course must situate the history of the US within the context of world history or of two or more regions of the world, as a means of understanding America's evolving relationship with the rest of the world.

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Page 2

Proposed revision to Pluralism requirement:

P courses must consider United States society by paying substantive attention to three or more of the following groups and to how these groups have affected and been affected by basic institutions of American society, such as commerce, family, legal and political structures, or religion.

Required groups/identities (at least 2):	Additional groups/identities:
African Americans	Gender and gender identity
Asian Americans	Socioeconomic status/class
Latin@ Americans	Sexual orientations
Native Americans	Religious/spiritual identities
European Americans	Disability status
Pacific Islander Americans	Immigrant status/issues
Arab Americans	Language and language identity
Jewish Americans	

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