

## Core Curriculum Diversity Requirement (2 courses)

Consistent with the University's Mission Statement and the new Core Curriculum in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, students will take at least two courses designated as "diversity." Learning to see through the eyes of other peoples and cultures is essential to becoming a citizen of the world. Beyond introducing students to the contextual study of diverse groups, diversity education must foster understanding of how individuals are affected within systems of power, oppression, deprivation, marginalization, and privilege. The objectives of completing core diversity courses ideally include all of the following:

- a) Expand student knowledge of unfamiliar cultures;
- b) Expose students to the complexity of power relations across and within varying cultures;
- c) Provide students the knowledge-base to develop skills for engaging across cultural contexts.

Students are required to select two courses, covering two out of the three areas below:

**Diversity 1:** Courses that focus on populations (often named as non-dominant, minority, or impoverished groups) in the U.S. or Western Europe, and the systems or mechanisms that give rise to the experiences of power, privilege, and marginalization.

**Diversity 2:** Courses that focus on women's experiences and/or highlight the relationship between gender, culture, and power.

**Diversity 3:** Courses focus on the culture, economics, politics or ecology of societies and nations other than those of Western Europe and the United States and that emphasize power, privilege, and marginalization or a critical analysis of how these cultures define and express themselves.

### NOTES:

1. Service learning courses, internships, and other experiential or community-based learning courses may be applied toward this requirement, provided they include a significant reflective component, just as traditional diversity courses do, and have been pre-approved for diversity course credit.
2. Study abroad courses may be applied toward this requirement; such courses will be assessed the same way as courses at Villanova.
3. A student may not use a single course to fulfill more than one category of the diversity requirement.
4. The diversity requirement cannot be fulfilled by independent study or a senior thesis.
5. Language courses cannot fulfill the requirement, although literature courses in a foreign language can fulfill the requirement provided they focus on appropriate material.
6. A student may take 1-credit workshops provided they meet the above stated requirements of a total of 3 credits in one of the Diversity categories.
7. The spirit of the diversity requirement calls for students to select courses that will broaden their education. The Core Diversity Committee believes it is ultimately the student's responsibility to select courses to achieve this goal.