

### 3. Cultural Literacy Infusion (optional designation)

As a result of taking a designated Cultural Literacy course, learners would be able to:	Course Outcome(s) related to the Outcome	Under what conditions and criteria will the course outcome be assessed? (i.e., a menu of suggested assessment options)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify and analyze complex practices, values, and beliefs and the culturally and historically defined meanings of difference.</li> </ul>	Understand differing beliefs and values underlying meditative cognitive processes and how they differ from prevalent Western rational thought processes. Understand how Eastern value judgments based on wordless cognition differ from Western judgments based predominantly on conceptual reasoning starting from rules and principles.	Essay tests, short writing assignments, regular journaling, class discussions, and small group work.

A course with the Cultural Literacy designation will:	How course meets criterion	Related Course Outline statements
1) Explore how culturally-based assumptions influence perceptions	Students examine how our largely European heritage influences the way we think about values today, especially regarding how disagreements are resolved. Students investigate how Eastern meditative processes and nonseparate view of self and personal identity produce ethical perceptions in regard to personal conduct, environmental issues, and dealing with antisocial behavior.	Explore the concept of “pace” or the speed with which life events are processed mentally and emotionally, and how the learned habit of pace impacts our experience of life. The cultural assumption that “speed is good” will be tested by students, both experientially and conceptually.
2) Examine the historical bases and evolution of diverse cultural ideas	Students examine how present day values and cognitive processes in Asian cultures have been influenced by teachings derived from the historical Buddha.	Understand the historical and cultural roots of current misunderstandings between Eastern and Western individuals and societies.

A course with the Cultural Literacy designation will also do at least one of the following:	How course meets criterion	Related Course Outline statements
---	----------------------------	-----------------------------------

A course with the Cultural Literacy designation will also do at least one of the following:	How course meets criterion	Related Course Outline statements
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Critically examine the impact of cultural filters on social interaction so as to encourage sensitivity and empathy toward people with different values or beliefs, or</li> </ul>	<p>Students are exposed to conceptual analyses regarding the ways in which our culturally determined ways of using language influence our perception of the reality in which we live day to day: Western cultures tend to use language only to describe, and Eastern cultures frequently use language to point to something to be directly and personally experienced.</p>	<p>Be able to understand and empathize with a variety of systems of belief and value.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigate how discrimination arises from culturally defined meanings attributed to difference, or</li> </ul>	<p>The course examines the social construction of self or personal identity and the kinds of prejudice that can result from different modes of creating personal identity.</p>	<p>Understand various forms of discrimination and prejudice associated with different forms of cognition and different ways of perceiving personal identity.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Analyze how social institutions perpetuate systems of privilege and discrimination, or</li> </ul>	<p>Students learn how culturally preferred modes of cognition drive political decision making and policy, sometimes creating huge blind spots, resulting in the discounting of significant segments of global population.</p>	<p>Understand how decision making and policy in religious institutions is influenced by cognition styles and conceptual frames that limit what it is possible for an individual or religious institution to see and respond to, often resulting in significant misperception and discrimination against certain groups of individuals.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explore social constructs in terms of power relationships.</li> </ul>	<p>Students examine how ability in one area of cognitive function—the ability to manipulate theoretical constructs—grants status and respect in Western cultures, while the ability to quiet the mind and perceive very clearly what is happening in the present moment is misunderstood and devalued in our culture.</p>	<p>Understand how the cultural habit of seeing oneself as separate and isolated and acting wholly independently grants status and respect in Western cultures but also constrains choices and freedom.</p>

---

**Instructor**

**Date**

---

**Academic Dean**

**Date**