

Literature in Context Distribution List

Description

The Literature in Context Distribution List will allow students to study literature in its historical or social context to gain insight into the connections between literature and society, enabling rich interdisciplinary conversations. Students will apply the learned skills to a specific body of literature to contemplate how language and culture enact discussions of issues such as the natural and supernatural world; power and knowledge; and groupings of race, religion, ethnicity, class, and gender.

Justification from the College of Arts & Sciences Core Curriculum Vision

The College of Arts and Sciences Core Curriculum Vision states, “Students require knowledge of the various ways the values of society—whether historical or contemporary, local or international, personal or parochial—are reflected in the arts. Students will develop critical language for discussing art and literature, as well as skills for articulating their informed response to such works. The core curriculum will provide meaningful experiences with art and literature, such as the opportunity to appreciate, perform, or create works of art, theatre, music, and literature. In doing so, students will be encouraged to exercise imagination and creativity across all disciplines in the pursuit of beauty.”

Requirements and Criteria

1. Students will take one 3-hour course from this distribution list.
2. Courses in this distribution list may be offered at the 2000 level.
3. The following criteria must be met for each course in the distribution list:
 - The emphasis of the course should be on the study of imaginative literature in its historical and social context.
 - Students will be required to do extensive reading and write essays.
 - The course should give students a deeper understanding of the human condition and of complex moral, ethical, social and epistemological questions.
 - The course must allow students to closely examine critical thought as they examine the ways writers wrestle with a society’s central questions.
 - The course must support the core curriculum by providing an interdisciplinary lens through which students can engage both critically and emotionally with an historical period and examine the impact of human concerns such as religious beliefs, philosophical and scientific thought, political movements, social reform, etc.
4. Courses in this distribution list are well suited for interdisciplinary collaborations and Study Abroad programs.