

Faculty Newsletter
9/15/2018

WOU General Education Update

*A liberal education is
at the heart of a civil
society, and at the
heart of a liberal
education is the act of
teaching.*

-A. Bartlett Giamatti

The 2018-19 Academic Year is an exciting one for the General Education Program at WOU. During this year, our campus community will be turning much of its energy to the most significant shift in General Education to take place in this campus in over two decades. The General Education Program team has been working hard over the summer to prepare for this effort and we will be providing regular updates and opportunities for discussion in a variety of ways to help make the process as transparent and inclusive as possible. This newsletter is just one of those communications. We are also planning regular updates via Faculty Senate and all Divisions are represented on the General Education Committee. Not sure who your Division rep is? Check with your Division chair or visit the General Education website.

WOU General Education website launched

Are you looking for information and updates about the General Education program and don't want to wait for a newsletter or Faculty Senate meeting? You can find it at www.wou.edu/gened. Currently, the website primarily contains information for faculty who are working on preparing course proposals but as the program takes shape through those proposals, we will be adding information for students as well. Have you got something you'd like to see included on the site? Contact us at gened@wou.edu or stop by the General Education office in ITC 205C.

General Education course proposal deadlines:

Detailed information about proposal requirements is available at the General Education website. All proposals need to be in the curriculum portal and have cleared Division-level review by the following deadlines:

*Foundational Courses **October 9, 2018***

*Exploring Knowledge **November 13, 2018***

*First Year Seminars **January 8, 2019***

*Integrating Knowledge **February 12, 2019***

FYS Workshop Schedule:

Faculty Week: W 9/21 at 1:30 WUC
 Week 1: F 9/28 at 1:00 * ITC 211
 Week 2: W 10/3 at 11:00 * ITC 211
 Week 3: R 10/11 at noon * ITC 211
 Week 4: M 10/15 at 4:30 * ITC 205
 Week 5: F 10/26 at 3:00 * ITC 205
 Week 6: M 10/29 at 9:00 * ITC 205
 Week 7: T 11/6 at 5:30 * ITC 205
 Week 8: R 11/15 at 10:00 * ITC 205
 Week 9: T 11/20 at 2:00 * ITC 205
 Week 10: W 11/28 at 8:00 * ITC 205

First Year Seminar proposal workshops

First Year Seminars are a new feature of the General Education Program. These courses are topical/integrative seminars designed to incorporate the development of a subset of foundational skills (reading, information literacy, creative and critical thinking, technological literacy, and either writing or quantitative literacy) into topical coursework. FYS sections are capped at 25, and with over 850 incoming freshmen each needing to take two seminars, we are planning to offer 72 sections in 2019-20. All faculty and staff interested in participating in First Year Seminars are invited to submit a proposal.

There will be many opportunities to participate in a short workshop to gain assistance with preparing FYS proposals throughout Fall term. During these workshops, you can expect to learn a bit more about the expectations for FYS courses and gain some strategies for topic selection and planning to help engage students in the foundational skills to be featured in all FYS sections. Can't make a workshop? Contact the General Education office at gened@wou.edu for assistance. Faculty will also have access to an online Moodle course to support FYS development. This online course is intended as a supplement to the workshop and includes a variety of resources for successful proposal and course development.

General Education Program Contacts:

We are all available to answer your questions and assist you with your course proposals and other questions about the General Education Program. You can reach all of us via gened@wou.edu or directly via our personal contact information:

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