

Category B – Linguistic, Literary, Artistic, and Cultural Traditions

Catalog description

Culture is the human-made part of the environment, and the spoken and written work, together with the visual and performing arts are its foundation. The courses required in this category are designed to acquaint the student with the richness and diversity of these aspects of culture, especially with the recognized standards of literary and artistic excellence. The emphasis in this category is also on the breadth and extent of the many cultural experiences and heritages that make up our world. Knowing only the traditions of our own immediate surroundings or even simply those of our country is no longer enough to function effectively in a world where contact between varied cultures and knowledge of their interaction had become normal and expected.

Commonalities among the courses

Category B courses provide students with tools for comprehending cultural phenomena in the humanities, which may include the following:

1. examples of literature (in English and other languages), together with criteria by which they are evaluated,
2. studies of foreign languages,
3. works from the visual and performing arts;
4. examples of traditions and histories from different parts of the world, representing diverse cultures.

Learning objectives

Upon completion of any Category B course in Literature or the Humanities, students will be able to

1. identify styles, genres, and techniques in literature (English or foreign languages) or in the visual or performing arts,
2. recognize literary movements or other cultural contexts in which literature or works from the visual or performing arts were produced
or
3. research artistic models and create responses to them.

(Note: Some of the language courses in Category B are included as part of the language requirement for a Bachelor of Arts degree,)