

## General Education Diversity Requirement

Shippensburg University expects its students to understand the diverse nature of the United States-its current diverse society as well as its diverse historical and cultural roots. Students should also gain awareness of how the country continues to emerge and be shaped by the interaction of people with different views. Finally, students should understand how cultural, ethnic and racial heritage, as well as gender, age social class, sexual orientation and abilities have shaped their attitudes, perspectives, beliefs and values. The following information is adapted from the Shippensburg University Curriculum Committee Manual, Appendix 6.

### Commonalities among the Courses

Courses that meet the Diversity Requirement will seek to promote a more reasoned understanding of racial-ethnic groups and minority or marginalized populations in the United States. They will use material related to at least two of the following racial-ethnic groups in the United States – African Americans, Asian Americans, Latinos, and American Indians – and discuss their role in the formation and continued existence of American society. They will use material related to one or more minority or marginalized populations within the American society: people of differing abilities, sexual orientations, social classes, religions, ages, and gender. The course must work against the stereotyping of these people.

Courses that meet the Diversity Requirement will make sure that course material will be explored in part through group activities in order for students to gain some experience in dealing with perspectives other than their own. Instructors in these courses should be prepared to assist students in dealing constructively with issues of diversity and conflict as they arise in the course. In a course that focuses on diversity, some emotion and conflict are inevitable as students learn. Workshops will be available to help instructors to develop their skills in handling emotion and conflict in the classroom and in teaching these skills.

### Learning Objectives

Upon successful completion of an approved Diversity Course, students will be able to demonstrate

1. An understanding of the United States as a pluralistic society (understanding the United States today in terms of its diverse historical and cultural roots and that the United States continues to emerge and be shaped by the interaction of people with different views, i.e. multiple origins, experiences, and world views);
2. An understanding that one's own attitudes, perspectives, and beliefs are shaped by cultural, ethnic, and racial heritage, by gender, by age, by social class, by sexual orientation, and by abilities;
3. The ability to respond in a constructive manner to information, ideas, emotions, and situations associated with issues of diversity, including culture, ethnicity, race, gender, religion, age, social class, sexual orientation, and abilities;

4. The ability to interact with other students in a manner that shows respect for the diversity among them; and
5. An understanding of the nature of community and how a community should strive to achieve social justice for all its members .