

CSU GE BREADTH AREA C and IGETC AREA 3

Arts and Humanities

CSU General Education Breadth Requirements

Across the disciplines in Area C coursework, students will cultivate intellect, imagination, sensibility and sensitivity. Students will respond subjectively as well as objectively to aesthetic experiences and will develop an understanding of the integrity of both emotional and intellectual responses. Students will cultivate and refine their affective, cognitive, and physical faculties through studying works of the human imagination. Activities may include participation in individual aesthetic, creative experiences; however, Area C excludes courses that exclusively emphasize skills development.

In their intellectual and subjective considerations, students will develop a better understanding of the interrelationship between the self and the creative arts and of the humanities in a variety of cultures.

Students may take courses in languages other than English in partial fulfillment of this requirement if the courses do not focus solely on skills acquisition but also contain a substantial cultural component. This may include literature, among other content.

Arts and Humanities

IGETC Standards 2.3

Arts

Courses that have as their major emphasis the integration of history, theory, aesthetics, and criticism. Performance and studio classes may be credited toward satisfaction of this subject area if their major emphasis is the integration of history, theory, and criticism (e.g., Dance History in Cultural Context, Film Art, History of Architecture, History of Modern Art, Multi-Cultural Theatre, Music History and Literature, The Jazz Experience).

Humanities

Acceptable Humanities courses are those that encourage students to analyze and appreciate works of philosophical, historical, literary, aesthetic and cultural importance. Advanced foreign language and ESL courses (which do not have a principal focus on skills acquisition) may be approved if they include substantial literary or cultural aspects. Theater and film courses may be approved if taught with emphasis on substantial historical, literary, or cultural aspects. Advanced English Composition and English Composition for ESL courses may be approved if they include significant literary and humanities content and/or a methodological, epistemological, or theoretical focus.

Guiding Notes for General Education Course Review

CSU GE Breadth Area C	IGETC Area 3
<p>C1 Arts: (e.g., Arts, Cinema, Dance, Music, Theatre)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arts include the visual arts, architecture, design, music, dance, theatre, and film • courses should help students make connections between the arts and cultural and social issues, and serving as an introduction to the arts as an aesthetic and creative endeavor • skills development permitted, but only when it contributes to a broader contextual understanding of the arts • courses that exclusively emphasize skills development are not appropriate for general education • acceptable courses must have a predominant focus on lecture vs. skills development and practical activities 	<p>3A Arts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • have as their major emphasis the integration of history, theory, aesthetics, and criticism • develop and advance historical understanding of major civilizations and cultures, both Western and non-Western • recognize contributions to knowledge, civilization, and society by men and women, and members of various ethnic or cultural groups • performance and studio classes may satisfy this area if their major emphasis is the integration of history, theory, and criticism

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<p>C2 Humanities: (e.g., Literature, Philosophy, Languages Other than English)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • students learn to analyze and appreciate works of philosophical and cultural importance • course serves as a pathway to a broader understanding of the human condition • course will help students confidently understand and articulate their own subjective intellectual experiences • creative writing courses if they include significant attention to reading and analysis of works of literature • geography, history, and art courses (e.g., art history) if outline indicates a strong cultural content and exploration of subjective human experience • language courses should evoke a sympathetic response to the acquired culture 	<p>3B Humanities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • encourage students to analyze and appreciate works of philosophical, historical, literary, aesthetic and cultural importance • advanced foreign language courses may be approved if they include substantial literary or cultural aspects • theater and film courses may be approved if taught with emphasis on substantial historical, literary, or cultural aspects • Advanced English Composition and English Composition for ESL courses may be approved if they include significant literary and humanities content and/or a methodological, epistemological, or theoretical focus.

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>English as a Second Language</i> courses may be advanced enough to meet the objectives of Humanities, encouraging students to analyze and appreciate works of philosophical and cultural importance• courses in <i>languages other than English</i> that contain a substantial cultural component; not focused solely on skills acquisition	
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Arts for General Education

Studio and performance courses that develop technique or skills alone do not meet the standards established for this area. Skills development is permitted, but only when it contributes to a broader contextual understanding of the arts, such as helping students make connections between the arts and cultural and social issues and serving as an introduction to the arts as an aesthetic and creative endeavor. Reviewers look for more time spent in lecture than in lab skills and activities. (*Audition-based courses will not be approved for GE.*)

A note to faculty who create courses in this area: beware of emulating arts courses with existing approvals in ASSIST. Approval for arts courses in particular is often “grandfathered in” from years before 1993, when the current review process was put in place. Skills-heavy courses are unlikely candidates for GE under the current procedure and criteria. Skills courses are not appropriate GE approval and are frequently denied.

In 2011, CSU faculty addressed the problem of these grandfathered courses in Subarea C1 by removing those offered below two units. In the other areas of GE Breadth, courses of any unit value may still appear grandfathered in.

To determine the degree of emphasis on skills acquisition in course submissions, reviewers look at the time spent in lecture vs. activity (1.5 lecture hours vs. 4.5 lab hours per week more than tips the scale to activity-based). For example, community college courses in design and color often carry a heavy lab component to prepare students for immediate employment; this is sound professional preparation but tips the course away from the goals of GE.

On the other hand, a noteworthy course in ceramics did qualify. The course outline took a historic approach to the study of ceramics, much as an art appreciation course would. The students created ceramic works only as a reinforcement of the historic/cultural style (e.g., the students produced a ceramic piece in the Japanese raku style after studying the historic and cultural influence of raku).

Special cases in Arts and Humanities:

Art for Teachers courses are frequently denied for GE, because they emphasize pre-professional training for educators rather than great works of the human imagination.

Film studies courses (as opposed to film production) may qualify for either Arts or Humanities, depending on the focus of the course. Sometimes film is used as a means to study a particular time or culture, warranting a Humanities designation appropriate. When the focus is instead on film as a medium of artistic expression, the more appropriate placement is Arts.

Music Theory courses are primarily skills development courses (notation and ear training) and are ordinarily excluded, even if they include some classical compositions.

Photography courses may qualify for either Arts or Humanities, depending on the focus of the course. Sometimes the same distinction applies (as in film studies) to courses in still photography rather than motion pictures. If the medium is merely the means to examine the human condition, the approval will be in the Humanities area; if the medium itself is the main subject of study, then the approval will be in Arts.

Humanities for General Education

These criteria are key to determining the suitability of courses in a range of disciplines:

Language courses should do more than impart vocabulary and rules of grammar; they should use the second language to evoke a sympathetic response to the acquired culture, to help students understand the “other” in the first person. Courses must include more attention to the studied culture and less on topics identifying holidays, foods, and lifestyle.

For most language courses in IGETC, the course should be equivalent to at least the third year of high school to meet the criteria for Area 3B Humanities. Another useful indicator of whether the course exceeds that threshold is in its prerequisite: courses approved for Area 6A LOTE under the IGETC pattern are intended to achieve that minimum proficiency level, and so if they're listed as prerequisite to a course submitted for Area C2 Humanities in CSU GE Breadth or Area 3B Humanities in IGETC, then the more advanced course probably has a strong enough cultural component to qualify. The course outline should include this cultural component content.

The prerequisite for language courses that satisfy Humanities may be:

- a community college course that satisfies Area 6A of IGETC
- two years of high school study of the language
- some other measure of proficiency

English as a Second Language courses must be advanced enough to meet the objectives of CSU GE Area C2 Humanities. Advanced ESL courses will have a substantial cultural component to qualify since humanities courses encourage students to analyze and appreciate works of philosophical and cultural importance. ESL courses may also include advanced-level proficiency development. However, courses that focus primarily on language proficiency development are not appropriate for Area C2 Humanities.

Advanced English Composition and English Composition for ESL courses proposed for IGETC Area 3B Humanities may be approved if they include significant literary and humanities content and/or a methodological, epistemological, or theoretical focus.

Art History courses are typically reviewed in Arts and Humanities, not in Social Sciences or Social and Behavioral Sciences Areas D or 4.

Courses in geography, history, and art may satisfy Area 3B Humanities if the outline indicates a strong cultural content and an exploration of subjective human experience.

Courses in linguistics may also be a close call between Humanities and Social Sciences. In addition to reviewing the content of the course outline, reviewers may refer to the department prefix (typically Anthropology or English) to suggest which mode of inquiry is dominant.

Creative writing courses are acceptable for CSU GE Breadth Area C2 Humanities only if they include significant focus on reading and analysis of works of literature. Students should be learning to “read as writers” (focusing on how creative writing is developed, not just how readers interpret what is written), which is a different process than literary criticism.

History courses, depending on their dominant mode of inquiry, may be categorized in CSU GE Breadth Area C2 Humanities or IGETC Area 3B Humanities, Areas D or 4 Social Sciences, or both.

Literature courses may be disallowed because they are too narrow. A course in a single novel or literary movement (e.g., postmodern American fiction) is probably more suitable for upper-division work, since it may not incorporate literary analysis from a variety of critical perspectives.

Guiding Notes for General Education Course Review

Logic courses are generally excluded from Area C2 and Area 3B Humanities. Such courses are designed primarily to develop students' reasoning technique and skills, not their appreciation of "great works of the human imagination." Logic courses may be accepted, however, if the focus is not solely on technique but includes the role of logic in humanities disciplines.

Mass communication or mass media courses are seldom accepted in Area 3B or Area C2 Humanities. (However, courses that study the interaction of mass communication and society are often appropriate for social science.)