

## **Principles and Criteria for Integrative Studies Courses Social, Economic and Behavioral Sciences**

To assist students in becoming effective citizens of a diverse yet interdependent world, the Social Science Integrative Studies core curriculum provides an integrative introduction to the body of knowledge, theory, practice and methodology that the social sciences bring to an understanding of the human condition. These sciences form a vital and integral part of a liberal education.

The Social Science Integrative Studies core consists of course options designed to achieve the following goals:

- (a) to assist students in distinguishing their personal assumptions and opinions from conclusions based upon the critical and analytical exploration of human behavioral patterns and trends.
- (b) to expand students' awareness of the ways that enduring and universal social issues and resolutions can be distinguished from those that are the consequence of specific or transient contemporary conditions.
- (c) to include multicultural, international, and national perspectives on human behavior that address the particular challenges and opportunities for a multi-racial American society.

The Social Science core is organized as a sequence. Undergraduate students will complete two 4-credit core courses: one at the 200-level, and one at the 300-level. A 200-level course must be completed before enrolling in a 300-level course. The 200-level course will serve as a gateway to the study of social and behavioral phenomena and will acquaint students with the diversity of social relations. All 200-level course options will share a common introduction to such basic concepts and epistemological issues as: critical thought about society and behavior; scientific methodologies; interpersonal and intergroup relations; cultural values and beliefs; and the dynamics of social change. All 200-level course options will also relate the underlying foundation and theories used by social, behavioral and economic scientists to an understanding of the nature and development of contemporary societies.

Following completion of a 200-level course, undergraduates will select and complete a 4-credit, 300-level course. Building on an introduction to the basic concepts and epistemologies of the social sciences offered in the 200-level course options, the 300-level course options will focus on somewhat more complex conceptual frameworks, bodies of data, and issues of special importance in today's world.

All 200- and 300-level course options will include material relevant to national diversity and to international and multicultural diversity. Certain options, however, will make international and multicultural diversity a central concern and will be designated with an "I". Other options will make issues of national diversity a central concern and will be designated with an "N". Options which combine national diversity, and international and multicultural diversity, will be designated with a "D".