DRAFT 1-20-09 *United States* **Cultures and Communities**

United States Cultures and Communities courses critically explore the interaction of different groups of Americans in the foundation of the American experience. These courses *discourage discriminatory attitudes towards others by providing a factual understanding of and appreciation for the marginalized* groups that have been important in the development of *United States* history and culture, and the *value of diverse cultural groups to American society.*

Courses meeting the GE requirement in *United States* Cultures and Communities <u>must include</u> all of the following student learning outcomes:

1. demonstrate detailed knowledge of and sensitivity to at least one *U.S.* group *categorized by race/ethnicity, gender, class, disability, sexual identity or religious belief* that has suffered a history of systematic oppression and discrimination

2. critically compare the intersection and interaction of at least one *marginalized* culture or community with the dominant culture, or at least two *marginalized* communities or cultures with each other

3. develop and articulate an awareness of one's own culturally-determined perspective and how it might be viewed from the perspective of others

In addition, courses meeting the GE requirement for *United States* Cultures and Communities must include at least <u>three</u> of the following student learning outcomes:

1. critically examine the contributions of many groups to a particular area *of United States culture.*

2. evaluate and analyze the interaction of at least one *marginalized* culture *with* the dominant culture

3. evaluate and analyze the interaction of at least two *marginalized* cultures or communities within the framework of *United States* society

4. explain culture as a concept and how it can unite or divide people into various groups

5. apply information about groups presented in the class to contemporary social and cultural relations

6. analyze and interpret *how culture shapes* human *development and* behavior