Learning Communities Course Supplement

Please review this instruction sheet before reading the Learning Community (LC) course descriptions.

This Learning Community Course Supplement includes three sections:

- Learning Communities for first-year students
- Learning Communities for Pforzheimer Honors College students only
- Learning Communities for Challenge to Achievement at Pace (CAP) Program students only

As mentioned in the accompanying guide, a Learning Community links courses and disciplines so that students and professors share a coherent and enriched learning experience.

Pace University offers two types of Learning Communities:

- Two paired, integrated, and coordinated courses, each taught by a different professor in a different discipline. For example, an English course might be paired with an introductory computer course, or an astronomy course might be linked to a math course.

OR

- An interdisciplinary (INT) course taught by a team of two professors from different disciplines and focused on a particular theme.

In either case, Learning Communities provide an ideal setting for college students to develop a sense of responsibility and community; experience increased interaction with faculty; engage in a rich, active, and collaborative learning environment; explore diverse perspectives; and gain a deeper understanding of course materials.

NOTE: The 200-level numbers of some courses is not important—these classes are without pre-requisites and designed for freshmen without backgrounds in the subjects.

Instructions for all sections

Please read all the following first-year student Learning Community options carefully. Some Learning Communities are major- or program-restricted. In the section that applies to you (i.e., first-year, Honors, or CAP), choose and rank your top four preferences, indicating them on your Course Selection Questionnaire.
1. **Performing New York City** (6 credits)*

*Combines ENG 110: Composition and WS 266: Gender, Race, and Class*

**Description:** Students will examine texts and performances that focus on an exploration and articulation of gender, class, race, and identity within the context of New York City. This course will pay special attention to art, writing, and performance spaces that have been historically important in the development of experimental theater, drama, film, dance, poetry, music, and performance art. In this city-as-laboratory course, students will visit major museums and galleries and attend live performances in historically significant venues. Students will also consider public protest, graffiti art, and subcultural movements. This course will situate the work of New York City contemporary artists and traditional writers within a theoretical framework that critically engages questions of identity politics as they relate to writing and performance.

2. **Work and Wealth: History and Literature of the Rise of Big Business in America** (7 credits)

*Combines ENG 120: Critical Writing and HIS 113K: The American Experience: The City and the Workplace*

**Description:** Money, power, greed, ambition, schemes: examine how work in America produced the rise of big business and great wealth. This course will begin with Alexander Hamilton’s plans to link the new nation to the interests of the affluent and then trace the development of America’s major businesses through the 20th century. Students will use literary readings in ENG 120 to gain insight into how American society valued achieving wealth through work and the moral and ethical choices that acquiring wealth can present to individuals.

3. **Environment in Flux, 1492-Present** (6 credits)

*Combines ENG 110: Composition and ENV 110: Nature and Culture: A Study in Connections*

**Description:** Students will examine the profound impact of and interaction between humans and our natural environment. The English portion will start students in the past—The Columbian Exchange of animals, plants, diseases, and people from “Old” world to “New.” This sets the stage for the environmental portion, which will take students on a whirlwind tour of contemporary environmental issues. Students will explore the connections between environmental degradation, disease, the population bomb, climate change, and energy extraction from scientific, economic, political, and activist perspectives.

4. **Gender and Television** (6 credits)*

*Combines ENG 110: Composition and WS 269: Girls on Film*

**Description:** Fact/fiction, reality/fantasy of girls/women on TV. Second-wave feminist Betty Friedan famously claimed that American television presented the American woman as a “stupid, unattractive, insecure little household drudge who spends her martyred, mindless, boring days dreaming of love—and plotting nasty revenge against her husband.” Gender and Television will test this claim and explore how gender was constructed and performed in primetime television from the 1950s to the 1980s. It will examine the presentation of marital roles, child-raising, the subaltern, sexuality, and the construction and subversion of household normativity. We will explore the construction and performance of femininity, masculinity, race, class, and sexuality in primetime television.

5. **The Sacred and the Secular in East Asia** (6 credits)*

*Combines HIS 131: The Asian World and RES 202: Great Ideas in Eastern Religious Thought*

**Description:** This Learning Community explores the historical development of society and culture in China and Japan, with emphasis on the influence of religious traditions including Confucianism, Taoism, Mahayana Buddhism, and Shinto. Two major components of the Learning Community will be field trips to local museums and film screenings.

*Note: The 200-level numbers of some courses is not important—these classes are without pre-requisites and designed for freshmen without backgrounds in the subjects.*
6. Computers and Culture (6 credits)
   
   **Combines ENG 110: Composition and CIS 101: Introduction to Computing**

   **Description:** E-mail, instant messages, blogs, hypertext, and Google's design to render all books digital and searchable. This course explores the relationship between technology and the written word. ENG 110 will focus on technology's implications for the processes of reading and writing, while CIS 101 will link the learning of programming languages to English. The course will focus on some of the social and cultural implications of society's increasing reliance on technology for communication.

7. Computing and Business in the Digital Age (6 credits)
   
   **Combines CIS 101: Introduction to Computing and BUS 150: Contemporary Business Practice**

   **Description:** Computer skills have become a fundamental necessity for anyone in business. This course integrates the teaching of computer skills with the learning of business basics. Students learn the principles of business through a series of computer simulations and learn computer basics by designing spreadsheets and programs to assist in making business decisions for the simulations. Students learn to apply Excel, HTML, and JavaScript applications to simulations about pricing, production, marketing, investments, distribution, human resources management, global trading, labor relations, and other business topics.

8. Sex, Power, and Religion (6 credits)*
   
   **Combines RES 106: Religion of the Globe and WS 266: Gender, Race, and Class**

   **Description:** This Learning Community brings together the disciplines of Religious Studies and Gender Studies to examine the intersection between sex, power, and religion. The course on religion will provide students with knowledge of the sacred texts, religious practices, and traditions necessary to understand the world views of the major world religions generally, and to decode the discourse on gender in these religions in particular. The course on gender will examine some of the key contemporary issues and debates related to gender in general, and gender in the Middle East in particular, such as gender in societies in conflict, women's movements and revolutions, and women's rights. Together, these two courses will provide students with the resources necessary to better understand how religion has shaped and continues to shape gender relations.

9. New York City: The History and Architecture of a Modern Metropolis (6 credits)*
   
   **Combines HIS 113K: The American Experience: The City and the Workplace and ART 207: Topics in Art: Architectural History of New York City**

   **Description:** City Hall and the Empire State Building, factories and museums, Greenwich Village and Times Square. This course traces the historical development of New York City through its workplaces and architecture. Issues such as civic culture and higher learning, recreation, commerce and the urban landscape, urban planning, and decline and revival in the 20th century will intertwine with an analysis of the great achievements of modern architecture of the 19th and 20th centuries. Field trips are an essential element of this course and will include visits to Times Square, individual buildings, and neighborhoods of interest.

10. Art and Interactivity: Introduction to Digital Design and Computing (6 credits)
    
   **Combines ART 186: Digital Design and CIS 101: Introduction to Computing**

   **Description:** This Learning Community brings together the disciplines of fine arts and computer science as they intersect in the blog. The fine arts portion studies fundamentals of digital design including imaging, collage, typography, composition, form, perspective, and color theory. Students explore artwork and graphics on the Macintosh Platform with Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Illustrator, and the blog format. The computer science portion provides an understanding of the role of computers and the skill sets required. Each student’s creative abilities are identified and cultivated through the use of technology in the digital media context. Key concepts in computing technology are studied, including software and hardware needs for digital media, digital rights management, privacy, and security, as well as web page design (HTML), programming (JavaScript), and building one's own digital media presence. Students produce a functional and well-designed blog centered on their interests.

   **Note:** The 200-level numbers of some courses is not important—these classes are without pre-requisites and designed for freshmen without backgrounds in the subjects.
11. Shooting the Word: The Photographer's Eye, the Novelist's Vision (6 credits)*

*Combines ENG 110: Composition and CRJ 297B: Not Just Black and White: Possibilities and Limits of Image Making

Description: Explore various themes related to image-making from two very different disciplines: the photograph and the novel. Study personal, commercial, literary, and government image-making through the use of photographs, digital images, cell phone pictures, and videos. Students also examine the ways in which personal forms of image-making—especially through the use of the Internet—represent a democratization of the media and offer the possibility of "speaking truth."

12. Power and the Fate of the American Republic (6 credits)

*Combines HIS 297L: The American Civil War and POL 111: Introduction to American Government

Description: Political power in the process of American self-government is the focus of this Learning Community. Particular focus will be placed upon divisions in the allocation (or even usurpation) of power—between the national and state governments, as well as the theoretical and philosophical background of the Constitution in the separation of powers among the three branches of national government: executive, judicial, and legislative. The American Civil War is a case study of a republic dedicated to certain propositions about power, equality and liberty, and “whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure.” Between an examination of the “fundamental and astounding” impact of that Civil War and an analysis of the current political system and institutions in the United States, students come to understand how the American republic works or doesn’t.

13. Domination and Resistance: Gender, Race, and Class (6 credits)*

*Combines POL 102: Public Myth and Ideologies and WS 266: Gender, Race, and Class

Description: Domination and Resistance looks at the physical, political, legal, and cultural means that have been used by dominant groups to exert power and shape the consciousness of the less powerful. Students will examine the cultural, social, and political strategies subordinate groups have employed to oppose their unequal circumstances and liberate themselves. WS 266 will focus on issues of domestic violence, rape, pornography, and global violence against women, particularly in recent American immigrant or non-white communities. POL 102 will investigate the legal, political, and cultural subordination of women in American politics, also paying attention to three other groups—workers, African-Americans, and homosexuals. The focus is on the lived experience of domination and resistance as seen through film, biographical and autobiographical accounts, and theater.

14. The Economics of Sex (6 credits)*

*Combines WS 266: Gender, Race, and Class and ECO 106: Principles of Microeconomics

Description: This Learning Community examines how our consumption impacts the commonly held core values of our society. It will focus on issues of sex and sexuality and look at them through a lens of women’s and gender theory and basic principles of economics. The course will focus on changes in supply and demand, income distribution, consumer behavior, and other economic factors and address how our consumption impacts what we believe about sexuality, pornography, gender, our bodies, and our health.

15. Introduction to American Studies (6 credits)

*Combines Literature, Sociology, Political Science, and History

Description: Film, music, literature, culture, and life of America. This team-taught course will serve as an overview of American Studies, a discipline that focuses on core values and ideas that define American culture, history, and identity, while at the same time emphasizing the diversity of its expressions in past and contemporary times. In this course, students will read and write about a variety of texts, focusing on the intersections between disciplines that serve to illuminate ideas about American narratives, dreams, and realities.

*Note: The 200-level numbers of some courses is not important—these classes are without pre-requisites and designed for freshmen without backgrounds in the subjects.*
16. Ethics in the Public Domain (7 credits)

Combines ENG 120: Critical Writing and POL 102: Public Myth and Ideologies

Description: Right/wrong, good/evil, winning/losing, ends/means. Publicly debated controversies about values and standards of conduct are analyzed and discussed with attention to ideologies, collective behavior, and common practices. The issues confronted, from a political science and from a literature perspective, will include human estrangement versus unity, equality, power, and we will track these issues as they change from place-to-place and time-to-time.

17. Making Change Happen: Social and Political Activism in Global Context (6 credits)*

Combines SOC 113: Dynamics of Change, What's Next? and WS 266: Gender, Race, and Class

Description: This Learning Community will examine the efforts of different groups to bring about social and political change in the attempt to identify practices and mechanisms that promote an effective activism. The course will target topics such as collective identity and the motivation for organization, the power that traditional and social media plays in facilitating or limiting change, and feminist and anti-feminist forms of activism. We will study the U.S. cases of the Suffrage Movement, the Civil Rights Movement, the Tea Party, and the struggle for reproductive rights, as well as international cases such as activism in times of conflict and feminist activism in Latin America and the Middle East.

18. Rebel Rousers: Revolutionary Women Writers (6 credits)*

Combines ENG 110: Composition and WS 215: Introduction to Women's Studies

Description: This learning community focuses on exploring the historical, cultural, and political texts that shaped the development of women's movements in Europe and the United States, focusing on women's rights issues such as suffrage, marriage, abortion, property, and autonomy. Students will have an opportunity to explore these issues from contemporary and historical perspectives and to develop critical stances of their own.

19. Art in the City (6 credits)*

Combines ART 215: New York and the Visual Arts, and WS 266: Gender, Race, and Class

Description: Students study firsthand the visual arts in the city. Course includes visits to museums, galleries, and artists' studios. Focus is on current exhibitions examining issues of identity and gender. Readings complement the group experiences, providing a background in the history and theory that informs the art, and contextualizes the broader cultural issues addressed.

* Note: The 200-level numbers of some courses is not important—these classes are without pre-requisites and designed for freshmen without backgrounds in the subjects.
1. **Bridging the Divide: Traditional Media Meets Digital Technology** (6 credits)
   *Combines ART 145: Beginning Painting and ART 186: Basic Digital Design*
   
   **Description:** Paint and pixels—creativity in old and new media. This Learning Community examines the traditional medium of painting along with new technologies of digital design. Students' work will reflect a hybridization of techniques in image making. Imagery will be generated digitally (e.g., using Photoshop or Flash) and then serve as a source for painting; similarly, paintings may be scanned digitally and then manipulated. **No talent or experience required.**

2. **Reacting to the Past: Conflict and Revolution in Early America** (7 credits)
   *Combines HIS 113M: The American Experience: The Early American Legacy and ENG 120: Critical Writing*
   
   **Description:** Students are assigned texts that prepare them for roles in “role playing games.” These include reenactments of famous intellectual and political confrontations in Early America. First, students will engage in the debates that surrounded women, power, community, and theology in Puritan Massachusetts during the Trial of Anne Hutchinson (1637). Second, they will become residents of New York City in 1775-76, debating the causes of revolt, enduring the chaos of revolution, and justifying or repudiating violence in the pursuit of political power. Using a series of political texts of the period and related literary works, students will analyze, argue, and ultimately become subsumed in these conflicts.

3. **Aesthetics: Theory and Practice** (6 credits)
   *Combines PHI 170: Introduction to Aesthetics and ART 165: Mixed Media*
   
   **Description:** The linked philosophical and studio components of this learning community move back and forth between philosophical aesthetics and actual art-making as if the student were taking a course in ornithology while training to become a bird. The readings for this course range from ancient to contemporary philosophy, while the art assignments will be executed in a variety of media. **No Artistic talent or experience required.**

4. **Understanding Business in the Digital Age** (6 credits)
   *Combines CIS 101: Introduction to Computing and BUS 150: Contemporary Business Practice*
   
   **Description:** In today’s business environment, business and information technology are so inextricably linked that it is not possible for a business to succeed without the support of information technology. Accordingly, this Honors-level Learning Community integrates professional computer applications and software with the fundamentals of business. Students will learn about the functioning of a business through a computer simulation that mimics real-world decisions faced by managers. Students will also learn how to apply their mastery of spreadsheets, presentation software, and web design software to the business functions of accounting, finance, management, and marketing.

5. **Changing Conceptions of Sexuality, Reproduction, and the Family** (6 credits)*
   *Combines SOC 297B: Sexuality, Reproduction, and the Family with BIO 196: The Biology of Sexual Reproduction*
   
   **Description:** In this learning community, we will expose students to both the biological and sociological basis of sexuality and reproduction, allowing students to discuss the evolution and importance of human sexuality from multiple perspectives. In the sociology course, we will shatter myths about the ideal American family and provide a more realistic picture that includes not just intact nuclear families, but a wide range of other arrangements including gay and lesbian families, single-parents, couples who remain childfree by choice, and ‘never-marrieds.’ In the biology half, we will discuss reproductive issues including normal birth control, stem cells, and infertility, as well as environmental impacts on reproduction.

*Note: The 200-level numbers of some courses is not important—they are without pre-requisites and designed for freshmen without backgrounds in the subjects.*
Challenge to Achievement at Pace (CAP) Program
Learning Communities

Sections Open to CAP Students Only

1. Culture and Identity (8 credits)
   *Combines ENG 110: Composition, ENG 105: Composition and Rhetoric, and ANT 101: Introduction to Anthropology*

   **Description:** The theme of this Learning Community is the relationship between culture and identity. The anthropology component begins with a brief survey of human evolution, followed by a closer look at subsequent cultural developments. The English component explores attempts made through fiction, poetry, creative nonfiction, and film to voice the conflicts in consciousness that arise from this cultural history. Both courses will examine socio-cultural changes shaped by significant events such as war, globalization, and economic decline. Students will look closely at how such major changes are reflected in books, music, television, film, drama, and fashion.

2. Technology and Writing (8 credits)
   *Combines ENG 110: Composition, ENG 105: Composition and Rhetoric, and CIS 101: Introduction to Computing*

   **Description:** This Learning Community examines where computing and writing intersect. As students explore this idea, they will experience how computing can reinforce writing. Students will apply what they learn in CIS 101 when they compose essays and present their work in ENG 110. They will learn to collaborate as a community of learners, develop essays over multiple drafts, design a website, and present their writing to peers.

3. Future Visions: Computers, Technology, and Society (8 credits)
   *Combines ENG 110: Composition, ENG 105: Composition and Rhetoric, and CIS 101: Introduction to Computing*

   **Description:** The merger of human and machine in the cyborgs of science-fiction echoes a similar merger in our everyday lives. As we've grown increasingly intertwined with technology, many writers, social scientists, and philosophers have begun to examine how this may be changing us. Through film and readings in non-fiction and fiction, this Learning Community will explore the impact of 21st-century technology on the way we relate to each other, on the way we imagine ourselves and society, and on what we envision for the future.

4. Nature and Culture: A Study in Connections (8 credits)
   *Combines ENG 110: Composition, ENG 105: Composition and Rhetoric, and ENV 110: Nature and Culture: A Study in Connections*

   **Description:** This Learning Community examines prominent world views that have guided human action toward the natural world. From a global and interdisciplinary perspective led by the influential writings of philosophers, economists, environmentalists, theologians, historians, political scientists, biologists, and naturalists, students will analyze the interaction between human and natural phenomena, the impact human actions have on the natural world, and the ways nature affects change in civilization.

5. The American Experience: The U.S. and the World (8 credits)
   *Combines ENG 110: Composition, ENG 105: Composition and Rhetoric, and HIS 113: The American Experience: The U.S. and the World*

   **Description:** This Learning Community focuses on the international crises that America faced during the 20th century. Special emphasis will be placed on World War I, World War II, and the Cold War. Students will read a variety of historical, literary, and nonfiction works in these courses. These readings will be enriched by watching films and taking at least one out-of-classroom field trip.
6. Latin America: The Modern Era (8 credits)
*Combines ENG 110: Composition, ENG 105: Composition and Rhetoric, and HIS 134: Modern Latin America*

**Description:** This Learning Community links the historical, political, and economic survey of Latin American countries such as Mexico, Argentina, and Chile with an examination of the local literature. Students will focus on the role of the region's economic and political dependence upon Europe and the United States after 1900 and will consider the role of the United States as a key regional influence. Students will also attend a play dealing with Latin American culture, and in conjunction with a reading of Laura Esquivel's *Like Water for Chocolate*, students will eat at a traditional Mexican restaurant and visit the art collection of El Museo del Barrio.

7. Normative Ethics: Contemporary Moral Problems (8 credits)
*Combines ENG 110: Composition, ENG 105: Composition and Rhetoric, and PHI 115: Normative Ethics: Contemporary Moral Problems*

**Description:** This course is a philosophical examination of such issues as abortion, homosexuality, prostitution, criminal punishment, euthanasia, medical ethics, business ethics, civil disobedience, and just and unjust wars. Discussion of these issues will be framed by an examination of major ethical theories.

8. Politics and Communities (8 credits)
*Combines ENG 110: Composition, ENG 105: Composition and Rhetoric, and POL 101: Politics: Comparative Introduction*

**Description:** This Learning Community focuses on political activism at the community level through the lives and writings of activists themselves while also considering how the structures of local, national, and international institutions affect their attempts to challenge and change the world in which they live.

9. The Worlds of Psychology (9 credits)
*Combines ENG 110: Composition, ENG 105: Composition and Rhetoric, and PSY 112: Introduction to Psychology*

**Description:** This Learning Community will integrate the study of psychology with critical reading and writing. Analysis of texts representing current issues in the field will serve as a stimulus for discussion, research, and enhancement of academic writing skills. This course will serve as an introduction to psychology, including coverage of research, human development, personality, testing and assessment, abnormal psychology, treatment of psychopathology, health and wellness, social cognition, and social influence.

10. Gender, Race, and Class (8 credits)
*Combines ENG 110: Composition, ENG 105: Composition and Rhetoric, and WS 266: Gender, Race, and Class*

**Description:** This Learning Community examines the interdependence of the categories gender, race, and class in a variety of literary genres, media, and in contemporary lives. Through written assignments and class discussion, students will examine how gender, race, and class roles are constructed, negotiated, and manipulated through literature and other media.

11. Religions of the Globe (9 credits)
*Combines ENG 120: Critical Writing, ENG 105: Composition and Rhetoric, and RES 106: Religions of the Globe*

**Description:** This Learning Community focuses on a study of the major religious systems of the globe and the formative influences they have on human culture. Consideration will be given to Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Taoism, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.

All New York City CAP Learning Community offerings are subject to change.