Learning Communities Course Supplement

Please review this instruction sheet before reading the learning community 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. For example, an English course might be paired with an introductory computer course, or an astronomy course might be linked to a math course.

Pace University offers two types of learning communities:

• Two or more paired, integrated, and coordinated courses, each taught by a different professor in a different discipline.

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 designation 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 carefully read through all the following first-year student learning community options. Some learning communities are major- or program-restricted. In the section that applies to you (e.g., first-year, Honors, or CAP), choose and rank your top four preferences, indicating them on your Course Selection Questionnaire.
Fall 2016 Learning Communities for First-Year Students

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 learning community 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: how has 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:** This learning community 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 296: 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. Students will explore the construction and performance of femininity, masculinity, race, class, and sexuality in primetime television.

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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.

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 learning community will explore 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. Both classes 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 learning community 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. **Arts of Change** (6 credits)*

*Combines ART 231: Environmental and Ecological Art in a Contemporary Context and ART 188: Art as Social Commentary and Political Protest*

**Description:** Do you want to directly experience the art and culture of New York City, and visit galleries and museums? Do you care about your role in society and in making a contribution to the future? Do you want a forum to freely discuss ideas, opinions, and solutions to problems? This learning community will make contemporary art, political art, and social practice art directly accessible through a semester of vibrant weekly field trips to museums, galleries, artists' studios, and cultural institutions. This course will examine art and its context by understanding the underlying values it reflects. Students will become familiar with how political and socially-aware art has entered into the mainstream discourse as an integral part of a new historical practice. The class includes studio projects, lectures, films, and field trips.

9. **Theory and Motion: Aesthetics Meets Animation** (6 credits)*

*Combines ART 165: Mixed Media and PHI 170: Introduction to Aesthetics*

**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.

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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 weblog or 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 webpage design (HTML), programming (JavaScript), and building one's own digital media presence. Students produce a functional and well-designed blog centered on their interests.

11. **Shooting the Word: The Photographer's Eye, the Novelist's Vision** (6 credits)*

*Combines ENG 110: Composition and ART 254: Not Just Black and White: Possibilities and Limits of Image Making*

**Description:** This paired learning community explores various themes related to image-making from two very different disciplines—the photograph and the novel. This learning community explores personal, commercial, literary, and governmental image-making. This class will explore the use of photographs, digital images, cell phone pictures, and videos in shooting the word. Finally, the course will also explore 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 254: 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.

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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. The course 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.

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 the course 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. Students will study the American 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. Man Trouble (6 credits)*
   Combines ENG 110: Composition and WS 268: Men and Masculinities

   **Description:** The social and biological sciences as well as literary, cultural, and historical criticism reveal few, if any, stable definitions of “masculinity.” Masculinity is a social construction—a cultural fiction—yet American culture still looks nostalgically to “manly” culture heroes like John Wayne, Clint Eastwood, or action heroes turned politicians like Ronald Reagan and Arnold Schwarzenegger. This learning community will explore the ways in which “masculinity” is tied to notions of class, race, nationhood, and sexuality. Students will discuss, in class and in writing, personal and extrinsic concerns of gender identity and gender performance.

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19. Paris 101—French Language and Culture (6 credits)

Combines FRE 155C: Paris: A Tale of Two Cities and FRE 101: Elementary College French I

**Description:** Students will have a unique opportunity to master the fundamentals of spoken and written French while simultaneously pursuing a course of study in the culture, literature, and arts of Paris, the City of Light. FRE 155C will investigate French literature, language, and the arts through the most significant trends and periods of French culture. The pairing of the two classes encourages students to derive maximum benefit from a learning experience that will be more than the sum of its parts. “An artist has no home in Europe except in Paris.”—Friedrich Nietzsche

20. The History, Literature, and Culture of the Spanish Borderlands of North America (6 credits)

Combines History, Literature, Sociology, and Political Science

**Description:** This course explores the roles played by people of Hispanic background in the historical, literary, and cultural evolution of North America between the 16th and 21st centuries, including: 1) the exploration of a vast portion of the continent; 2) the conquest and colonization of parts of it, including areas of Florida, California, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, and the neighboring regions of northern Mexico, as well as the region once known as the Louisiana Territory; 3) the development of a number of distinct Hispanic communities in those regions; and 4) the impact of those processes on the indigenous peoples of North America. The course will address themes including inter-American power relations, immigration, citizenship, human rights, intercultural and racial mixture conflicts, the construction of identity, bilingualism, code-switching, the marketing of the Latina/o identity, the relationship of the artist to her or his community, and transnationalism.

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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 in art 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:** This course will assign texts that will prepare students for roles in “role playing game” re-enactments of famous intellectual and political confrontations in early America. First, the course will engage in the debates that surrounded women, power, community, and theology in Puritan Massachusetts during the trial of Anne Hutchinson (1637). Second, students will become residents of New York City in 1775–1776, 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. 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. The course 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.

4. Classical Civilization Living Learning Community (at 182 Broadway) (6 credits)*

*Combines PHI 113: Ancient Philosophy and LIT 211S: Masterpieces of World Literature: Classics*

**Description:** In this learning community, students will examine Ancient Greek and Roman philosophy and literature, beginning with the work of the poets Homer, Hesiod, and Sappho, continuing with representative samples of Greek tragedy and comedy, of the philosophy of Plato and Aristotle, and concluding with examples of Roman literature and philosophy. In addition to the curriculum materials discussed in classes, there will be field trips and additional extracurricular activities chosen to enrich the learning experiences of students and professors. All members of this learning community will live together on a floor in 182 Broadway; this is a living learning community with a residential component.

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5. 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.

6. 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 its 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.

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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 will begin with a brief survey of human evolution, followed by a closer look at subsequent cultural developments. The English component will explore 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 have grown increasingly intertwined with our technology, many writers, social scientists, and philosophers have begun to examine how this may be changing us. Through film and readings in nonfiction 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.

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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 will link 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.

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 III: American Government and Political Institutions

Description: This learning community focuses on American government, exploring the practical and theoretical background of the Constitution, examining the nature of government under the Constitution (focusing on the three branches: executive, judicial, and legislative), exploring how government actually operates, and seeking to explain the workings of the American political process.

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.

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For more information, please contact us:

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