

PROPOSAL

TO: UCASC

FROM: Raymond Patton, Director of General Education and the
UCASC General Education / Courses Subcommittee

RE: Proposal to revise Learning Outcomes for the 300 Level Justice Core

DATE: February 20, 2018

RATIONALE

In Spring 2017, a group of faculty received a Program Improvement Grant to review the 300-level Justice Core general education requirement. This group was convened in response to the 2015-16 General Education Assessment report, which recommended that faculty review the 300-level Justice Core in order to improve student learning of critical thinking, information literacy, and writing in the general education curriculum. Members of the group included Crystal Endsley (Africana Studies), Melinda Powers (English), Amy Green (ISP), James DeLorenzi, (History), and Raymond Patton (Director of General Education). After discussing the course, student performance, and its role in the curriculum, the faculty participants concluded that the learning outcomes ought to be revised to include the development of critical skills (as indicated below). The proposed outcomes were refined in conversation with other faculty who teach courses in the 300-level Justice Core and with the General Education subcommittee of UCASC.

While maintaining the justice-based theme of the 300-level Justice Core, the proposed outcomes below build on skills developed in 100- and 200-level general education courses in the Flexible Core. Courses that were approved using the original outcomes will not need to be re-approved. Rather, making these skills explicit in the 300-level Justice Core learning outcomes will provide guidance for new courses and new instructors in the 300-level Justice Core, as well as for faculty interested in incorporating skills learning into existing 300-level Justice Core courses. The proposed outcomes will also serve as a starting point for future faculty development work, such as workshops and course materials for incorporating teaching and learning of these skills into 300-level Justice Core courses.

PROPOSED LEARNING OUTCOMES FOR 300 LEVEL JUSTICE CORE COURSES

A student will:

- 1. Contextualize and analyze struggles for justice.**
- 2. Discover, gather, interpret, and assess information from a variety of sources, intellectual perspectives, and approaches.**
- 3. Analyze and explain a text or work using methods appropriate for the genre, medium, and/or discipline**
- 4. Organize and synthesize information and ideas into a coherently structured, thesis-driven, evidence-based argument in oral and written form.**

Current 300 Level Justice Core Outcomes:

~~A student will:~~

- ~~1. Develop an understanding of the social, political, economic, and cultural contexts of the struggles for justice.~~
- ~~2. Analyze how struggles for justice have shaped society and culture.~~
- ~~3. Differentiate multiple perspectives on the same subject.~~