

Guidelines for Perspectives Syllabi

The Perspectives (PERS) courses at VSU are unique in that they are taught by a variety of faculty from many different VSU departments. This variety helps create diverse and intriguing classes, but it can also create challenges. As faculty, we need to make sure that our students understand the purpose behind these courses and to assure that these courses have a general consistency in their presentation and requirements.

With these aims in mind, the General Education Council (GEC) and the Perspectives Advisory Committee, which includes faculty representation from each college, have developed the following guidelines to assist faculty in the construction of PERS syllabi.

What Is a Perspectives Course?

Fundamentally, Perspectives courses have been designed with an **interdisciplinary focus** as well as a **regional and global perspective**. The syllabus should clearly note the disciplines covered in the course. The syllabus should also note the regional and global perspectives of the course. The following language can be incorporated into the syllabus to describe the nature of Perspectives classes:

As part of the core curriculum at VSU, Perspectives courses foster interdisciplinary learning and global awareness. Perspectives courses explore topics that cross disciplinary boundaries with an emphasis on the interaction of two or more disciplines and the development of an ability by the student to synthesize varying points of view. Perspectives courses attempt to connect issues that affect individuals within our region (a regional perspective) with those affecting individuals in other parts of the world (a global perspective).

Reading Load

Each Perspectives course should have at least one assigned textbook or a packet of course readings.

Assignments

There should be multiple assignments in a Perspectives course with at least one major graded assignment before the midterm. The review of syllabi by the GEC noted that most Perspectives courses had 4-6 graded assignments. At least one of the course assignments should involve written work by the students.

Student Learning Outcomes and General Education Outcomes

Student learning outcomes should be articulated in each Perspectives syllabus. Those learning outcomes should be linked to the VSU Area B General Education Outcome. VSU's Area B General Education Outcome states:

Students will demonstrate knowledge of global and regional perspectives in areas such as the arts, humanities, sciences, and social sciences.

VSU's General Education Outcomes for each area of the core can be found at:

<http://www.valdosta.edu/gec/ProposedNewLearningOutcomes.shtml>