

**SAN JOSE STATE UNIVERSITY  
ONE WASHINGTON SQUARE  
SAN JOSE, CA 95192**

**Amendment D to University Policy S14-5, Guidelines for General Education (GE), American Institutions (AI), and the Graduation Writing Assessment Requirement (GWAR)**

**Amends University Policy S14-5 and 2014 GE Guidelines**

**Effective Fall 2021**

**Legislative History:**

At its meeting of April 19, 2021, Senator White presented Amendment D to University Policy S14-5 for the Curriculum and Research Committee. Amendment D to University Policy S14-5, Guidelines for General Education (GE), American Institutions (AI), and the Graduation Writing Assessment Requirement (GWAR) amends University Policy S14-5 and Area D of the 2014 GE Guidelines, and adds a new Area F to the 2014 GE Guidelines.

**Signed and Approved by  
Mary A. Papazian, President  
San José State University  
on April 26, 2021.**

**Whereas:** Amendment C to University Policy S14-5 was signed by the President to create a 3-unit GE Area F and reduce the GE Area D lower-division unit requirement from 9 units to 6 units to bring SJSU in alignment with California Education Code 89032; and

**Whereas:** [Presidential Directive 2019-01 on General Education Area D](#) is not compliant with the current CSU General Education Breadth Requirements; and

**Whereas:** The SJSU GRP Area F Group proposed area learning outcomes and curriculum content that was reviewed and recommended by the General Education Advisory Committee and then submitted to the Curriculum and Research Committee; and

- Whereas:** Area D and Area F criteria must be implemented by Fall 2021, but more time is needed to gather feedback and review the other areas of the GE Guidelines, therefore be it
- Resolved:** The Academic Senate recommends that Presidential Directive 2019-01 be rescinded; and be it further
- Resolved:** That the attached Area D language, replacing the Area D language in the 2014 GE Guidelines, shall be adopted effective Fall 2021; and be it further
- Resolved:** That the attached Area F language shall be inserted into the 2014 GE Guidelines and shall be adopted effective Fall 2021; and be it further
- Resolved:** That Curriculum and Research Committee will continue the full review of the 2014 Guidelines considering all feedback that has been given; and be it further
- Resolved:** That during summer 2021, the Undergraduate Education Office will collaborate with the Chancellor's Office, college associate deans, department chairs, and Executive Committee to determine and implement a curricular solution for programs that would exceed the 120-unit limit because of changes to Areas D and F.
- Rationale:** These changes to the GE Guidelines incorporate the inclusion of the new GE Area F (Ethnic Studies) and reduction of lower-division Area D to 6 units based upon consideration of the feedback that has been received by the Curriculum and Research Committee.

**Timeline and Implementation:** First Time Freshman entering SJSU Fall 2021 and after will be subject to the updated 2014 GE Guidelines including the new Area F. According to CSU policy, continuing SJSU students and continuously enrolled California Community College transfer students can opt to adhere to the GE Guidelines aligned with their catalog rights.

- Approved:** April 12, 2021
- Vote:** 9-0-1
- Present:** Anagnos, Backer, d'Alarcao, Hart, Izenstark, Kaur, Kitajima, Masegian, Schultz-Krohn, White (chair)
- Absent:** Abousalem, Khavul
- Workload impact:** There will be a temporary increase in workload for (1) faculty to update syllabi and curriculum to bring into compliance with the updated GE Guidelines for Area D and F, (2) the General Education Advisory Committee (GEAC) and General Education Review Panels created to help GEAC certify courses for the new Area F, (3) changes to Area D courses to reflect the new learning outcomes, (4) staff to make changes to the online catalog, degree roadmaps, various websites, publications and PeopleSoft, and (5) articulation staff to work with community colleges. The SJSU Catalog must contain the updates to Area D and at least one course

in the new Area F in order to meet all catalog requirements and student rights. In order to accomplish this at least one course for the new Area F must be reviewed and approved by GEAC.

## **Appendix**

### **Area D: Social Sciences**

#### **6 semester units**

*NOTE: The CSU requires students to complete General Education courses in the Social Sciences in at least two different disciplines. Students may meet this requirement by either 1) taking two lower-division Area D courses in different disciplines, or 2) taking two lower-division Area D courses in the same discipline and an Area S upper-division GE course in a different discipline.*

Area D courses increase students' understanding of human behavior and social interaction in the context of value systems, economic structures, political institutions, social groups, and natural environments. Through fulfillment of the Area D requirement, students develop an understanding of problems and issues from different disciplinary perspectives and examine issues in their contemporary as well as historical settings and in a variety of cultural contexts. Courses that emphasize skills development and professional preparation are excluded from Area D.

#### **A. Goals**

Students learn from Area D courses that human behavior is inextricably interwoven with social, political, and economic institutions. By exploring the principles, methodologies, values systems, and ethics employed in social scientific inquiry, students come to appreciate processes of social change and social continuity, the role of human agency in those social processes, and the forces that engender social cohesion and fragmentation.

#### **B. GE Area D Learning Outcomes**

Upon successful completion of an Area D course, students should be able to:

1. demonstrate understanding of the ways in which social institutions, culture, and environment shape and are shaped by the behavior of individuals, both past and present;
2. compare and contrast the dynamics of two or more social groups or social systems in a variety of historical and/or cultural contexts;
3. place contemporary social developments in cultural, environmental, geographical, or historical contexts;
4. draw on social/behavioral science information from various perspectives to formulate applications appropriate to contemporary social issues.

### **C. Content**

1. Courses shall include fundamental skills necessary to the practice of social science.
2. Courses shall teach students how to practice social science, not just understand what social scientists have concluded.
3. Course content shall develop students' analytical skills and understanding of social science in ways that develop the capacity for informed civic engagement.

### **Diversity Requirement**

Issues of diversity shall be incorporated in an appropriate manner.

### **Writing Requirement**

The minimum writing requirement is 1500 words in a language and style appropriate to the discipline.

### **American Institutions Requirement**

Area D courses may meet American Institutions requirements if they:

1. focus on cultural pluralism; and
2. meet the criteria for American Institutions and Area D.

### **Instructor qualifications**

1. an understanding and appreciation of general education;
2. a doctorate (preferred but not required);
3. college-level teaching experience or graduate training in the subject matter of the course; and
4. sections designed for foreign students require substantial formal training and experience in teaching speakers of other languages, in addition to above requirements; and
5. a professional commitment to the learning needs of a diverse student body;
6. teaching associates shall be allowed to teach a GE class only after training and under close supervision of an expert in the field.

## **F: Ethnic Studies Requirement**

**The Area F requirement is based on the premise that all students graduating from the CSU have an understanding of race, racism, and social justice history in the United States. As stated in AB1460/California Education Code 89032 Section 2 Subsection (d): “Commencing with students graduating in the 2024-25 academic year, the California State University shall require, as an undergraduate graduation requirement, the completion of, at minimum, one three-unit course in ethnic studies.”**

To fulfill this requirement, eligible courses shall have the following prefixes: Native American Studies (NAS/AIS), African American Studies (AFAM), Asian American Studies (AAS), and Chicanx/Latinx Studies (CCS). Courses without ethnic studies prefixes may meet this requirement if cross-listed with a course with an ethnic studies prefix. Currently, San José State has three ethnic studies programs/departments whose classes meet the Area F requirements, as stated under the AB1460 guidelines: AFAM, AAS, and CCS. To ensure that the AB1460 guidelines are met, any additional programs that are created with ethnic studies prefixes, must undergo a thorough evaluation process and be approved by the ethnic studies experts in the GRP.

### **A. Goals**

- Students will acquire the knowledge and skills necessary for comprehending continued sovereignty movements, the racial and ethnic dynamics, and colonial settler and social justice histories of the United States, and the socio-historical origins, processes, and consequences of racial construction, racialization, and racial oppression in the society in which they live.
- Students will learn core interdisciplinary and comparative concepts and frameworks in ethnic studies with a focus on understanding race and ethnicity as they apply to the historically defined racialized core groups: Native Americans, African Americans, Asian Americans, and Chicanx/Latinx Americans.
- Students will gain the skills to better operate as responsible, informed, and constructive citizens in an evolving multiracial and multicultural democracy.

### **B. Student Learning Outcomes**

Upon successful completion of an Area F course, students should be able to: discover and critically evaluate significant topics, then compose and deliver oral and/or media-driven presentations on these topics as related to the group(s) studied in *this* class. Area F emphasizes comparative concepts and frameworks in ethnic studies with a focus on historically defined racialized core groups: Native Americans, African Americans, Asian Americans, and Chicanx/Latinx Americans. Approved courses shall meet at least three of the five following student learning outcomes:

1. Analyze and articulate concepts such as race and racism, racialization, ethnicity, equity, ethno-centrism, eurocentrism, white supremacy, self-determination, liberation, decolonization, sovereignty, imperialism, settler colonialism, and anti-racism.
2. Apply ethnic studies theory and knowledge to describe and actively engage with anti-racist and anti-colonial issues and the practices and movements that have and continue to facilitate the building of a more just and equitable society.
3. Critically analyze the intersection of race and racism as they relate to class, gender, sexuality, religion, spirituality, national origin, immigration status, ability, tribal citizenship, sovereignty, language, and/or age.
4. Critically review how struggle, resistance, racial and social justice, solidarity, and liberation are relevant to current and structural issues such as communal, national, international, and transnational politics as, for example, in immigration, reparations, settler-colonialism, multiculturalism, language policies.
5. Describe and actively engage with anti-racist and anti-colonial issues and the practices and movements that have contributed to the building of a more just and equitable society.

### **C. Content:**

1. Courses shall establish foundational knowledge appropriate to the area of study and focus on critically analyzing the socio-historical origins, processes, and consequences of dominance and subordination in regards to race, ethnicity, patriarchy, power, and social stratification.
2. Courses shall be inclusive of interdisciplinary and intersectional theories & methods by incorporating social science and humanistic scholarly approaches in its course materials.
3. Courses shall include readings, lectures, relevant media, creative works, and facilitate discussions which introduce students to core and new interdisciplinary and comparative concepts and frameworks in ethnic studies.
4. Each course shall include written and oral assignments and in-class exercises that develop the skills necessary for critiquing a range of literature including: a critique of dominant narratives, interpreting historical documents, and drawing logical conclusions related to ethnic studies content.
5. Courses shall incorporate materials and assignments that include cultural and creative expression that will allow students to develop research, analytical, and critical thinking skills.
6. Courses shall incorporate applied knowledge and practical application through creative and/or media-driven assignments that illustrate value to the community at large.

**Diversity requirement**

Issues of diversity shall be incorporated in an appropriate manner.

**Writing requirement**

The minimum writing requirement is 1500 words in a language and style appropriate to the discipline. All writing shall be assessed for grammar, clarity, conciseness, and coherence.

**Class size**

Lower division courses shall be limited to 40 students.

**Supplementary assistance**

Some students may require special or more assistance than the regular class can provide. In such cases, faculty shall refer the student to the appropriate program for special or supplementary assistance.

**Instructor qualifications**

1. A thorough understanding of the Area F general education requirements and its implementation;
2. a doctorate (preferred but not required) in ethnic studies or related fields such as: Native American Studies (NAS/AIS), African American Studies (AFAM), Asian American Studies (AAS), and Chicax/Latinx Studies (CCS) ;
3. college-level teaching experience or graduate training that demonstrates qualifications to teach in one of the ethnic studies areas (NAS/AIS, AFAM, AAS, CCS);
4. sections designed for foreign students require substantial formal training and experience in teaching speakers of other languages, in addition to above requirements; and
5. a professional commitment to the learning needs of a diverse student body;
6. teaching associates shall be allowed to teach a GE class only after training and under close supervision of an expert in the field.