*Messiah College General Education and Common Learning*

**QuEST**

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

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| Area 1: Abilities of the Liberal Arts |

**First Year Seminar**

a. Read critically: recall, analyze, synthesize and integrate.

b. Discuss ideas critically: express thoughtful insight, based on close reading and active listening.

c. Write essays critically, using effective prose for particular audiences.

d. Apply basic methods and skills of information literacy: accessing, evaluating, and using information effectively and ethically.

**Created and Called for Community**

a. Describe biblical and theological implications of the Old Testament emphasis on being created in the image of God and the New Testament emphasis on becoming a new creation.

b. Articulate defining characteristics of different kinds of communities, including those that are faith-based, academic, national, international, ethnic, inter-ethnic, and professional.

c. Develop a working definition of Christian Vocation as it relates to reconciliation, service, and leadership.

d. Write critically, using effective prose for particular audiences.

**Oral Communication**

a. Identify key elements of communication within a variety of contexts.

b. Analyze their own communication and recognize its effects on others.

c. Articulate ethical responsibilities of oral communicators and, in their own communication, demonstrate adherence to those responsibilities.

d. Convey information and reasoned argument in spoken and visual presentation.

Area 2: Liberal Arts

**Mathematical Sciences**

a. Solve quantitative problems using mathematical techniques, statistical methods, or information technology.

b. Use systematic reasoning appropriate to the respective discipline.

c. Apply course content to diverse fields of study.

**Laboratory Sciences**

a. Demonstrate substantive knowledge of the content and investigative methodologies of a scientific topic.

b. Demonstrate an understanding of the scientific method and how the scientific community validates new knowledge.

c. Demonstrate the ability to conduct and analyze simple investigations in the natural sciences.

d. Demonstrate the ability to present scientific arguments orally and in writing using tables, graphs and charts.

**Science, Technology, and the World**

a. Examine relevant scientific or technological concepts.

b. Characterize ethical, social, historical, philosophical, aesthetic, or political aspects of science or technology.

c. Analyze relationships between Christian Faith and science or technology within the context of a particular issue/topic.

**Social Sciences**

a. Identify social scientific research methodologies and how they may be utilized to study various aspects of human experience.

b. Identify socio-cultural contexts that shape human experience.

c. Analyze important variables contributing to one or more social problems/issues.

d. Evaluate the portrayal and use of social scientific research in popular media and social discourse.

e. Critically reflect on interactions between self and others, using social science frameworks.

**European History**

a. Explain traditions and methods of historical scholarship.

b. Comprehend selected ideas, peoples, institutions, and events central to the formation of Western traditions.

c. Comprehend the patterns and institutions of Western history and culture.

d. Recognize ways in which the past has shaped the contemporary world.

e. Conduct basic historical analysis of primary and secondary sources pertaining to European society.

f. Communicate basic historical analysis in effective prose.

**United States History**

a. Explain traditions and methods of historical scholarship.

b. Comprehend selected ideas, peoples, institutions, and events central to American history.

c. Comprehend the patterns and institutions of American history and culture.

d. Recognize ways in which the past has shaped contemporary American society.

e. Conduct basic historical analysis of primary and secondary sources pertaining to American society.

f. Communicate basic historical analysis in effective prose.

**Literature**

a. Identify terminology, traditions, and methods of literary study.

b. Recognize literature’s capacity to provoke thought, grow the imagination and deepen their understanding of what it means to be human.

c. Analyze significant works of literature.

d. Articulate the relationship of literary texts to their personal world.

**Philosophy**

a. Evidence a basic understanding of some of the traditions and methods of philosophical inquiry.

b. Analyze historical philosophical problems and their relation to contemporary thought.

c. Engage the work of significant thinkers.

d. Think logically and critically.

**Religion**

1. Articulate the traditions and methods of the study of religion as a humanities discipline.
2. Discuss the role religions play in shaping individual identity and self- understanding of adherents.
3. Identify relationships between religion and culture at the local, national, and transnational levels.
4. Describe ways that religions can be explored historically and sociologically.
5. Discuss ways that Christianity relates to other faiths.

**Arts**

a. Reflect on the nature and principles of art.

b. Describe artistic processes and their history.

c. Make or perform art, usually at an introductory level.

d. "See" and "hear" through personal interaction with art media.

**Language and Culture**

*Modern Language:*

a. Communicate orally and read fluently.

b. Communicate in written form.

c. Articulate knowledge of culture in that language.

d. Articulate cultural and linguistic differences between American English and the language being studied.

*Literary Languages:*

a. Read fluently, carefully and critically.

b. Explain patterns and institutions of history and culture of the Near East, the Mediterranean and/or Europe

c. Analyze significant works of literature.

*Cross Cultural Studies:*(General Education Committee)

a. Identify relevant information about the host culture's history, traditions, politics, geography, including regional differences, if applicable.

b. Discuss facets in which the host culture differs from their own.

c. Discuss facets in which the host culture is similar to their own.

d. Explain insights that they learned about themselves and their own relationships by directly interacting with individuals and groups from the host culture.

Area 3: Christian Faith

**Knowledge of the Bible** (Department of Biblical and Religious Studies)

a. Reflect on how the Bible functions as an ancient text with authority for Christian belief and practice.

b. Describe important aspects of the Bible’s complex formation.

c. Recognize the Bible’s variety of literary genres and discuss principles necessary for their interpretation.

**Christian Beliefs** (Department of Biblical and Religious Studies)

a. Practice theological ways of thinking and writing.

b. Articulate central beliefs of historic Christian faith about God, Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, salvation, and the church.

c. Recognize Anabaptist, Pietist, and Wesleyan theological emphases, such as compassion, peace, justice, reconciliation, and the importance of personal piety.

d. Recognize that the Christian faith can be articulated in many ways.

e. Examine their theological convictions and spiritual practices.

Area 4: Social Responsibility

**Wellness**

a. Describe the relationship between habitual exercise and disease risk.

b. Practice exercise and physical activity that improves health.

c. Identify the importance of behavior choices in overall health.

**Ethics in the Modern World**

a. Describe various approaches to philosophical ethics (e.g. virtue, natural law, utilitarianism, duty, ethical relativism) and methodological issues associated with each.

b. Articulate implications of selected ethical issues of significance in the contemporary world.

c. Apply Christian ethical approaches to selected ethical problems or issues.

d. Develop and defend a perspective on contemporary ethical issues.

**World Views**

a. Describe the basic issues surrounding the concept of world view.

b. Compare and contrast a Christian world view with other world views.

c. Articulate different approaches to justifying one’s world view.

d. Outline a variety of contemporary issues relevant to the development of a personal world view from a Christian perspective.

**Pluralism in Contemporary Society**

a. Outline contemporary issues arising out of the pluralism of race, ethnicity, social class, gender, disability, and religion.

b. Examine contemporary society from diverse viewpoints and through these increase self-knowledge.

c. Explain some effects of inequality, prejudice, and discrimination.

d. Articulate and practice an informed and faithful Christian response to diversity.

**Non-Western Studies** (General Education Committee)

a. Articulate a basic understanding of a culture or people whose heritage and/or present life has been significantly shaped by customs, practices, and systems of thought outside the Western tradition.

b. Engage with multiple aspects of the culture under study; these may include social customs and practices, systems of thought, and artistic expression.

c. Understand the effects of contact between Western and non-Western people.