

Dimensions of Culture 1, 2, and 3:

Course Objectives and Goals

Program Overview

The Dimensions of Culture program (DOC) is an introductory three-quarter social science sequence that is required of all first year students at Thurgood Marshall College, UCSD. Successful completion of the DOC sequence satisfies the University of California writing requirement. The course is a study in the social construction of individual identity and it surveys a range of social differences and stratifications that shape the nature of human attachment to self, work, community, and a sense of nation. Central to the course objective is the question of how scholars move from knowledge to action.

From Thurgood Marshall College Website, UCSD. <http://marshall.ucsd.edu/current/doc/index.php#>. Accessed 25 Aug 2008.

	<i>Content Focus</i>	<i>Writing Skill Goals</i>
<i>DOC 1: Diversity</i>	DOC 1 looks at social differences and commonalities among individuals and groups in the US. Students review contemporary theories of diversity and identity, reading an array of texts drawn from sociology, philosophy, ethnic studies, political science, journalism, mass media, etc.	Understand the Fundamentals of Argument <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identify key points in an argument. - Identify main supporting evidence and reasons that strengthen an argument. - Learn to summarize briefly and accurately. - Integrate quotations and paraphrases into writing. - Connect ideas between theorists in own writing. - Cite all sources clearly and accurately using MLA format. - Use a reference book to identify and correct sentence-level errors.
<i>DOC 2: Justice</i>	DOC 2 builds on DOC 1 by presenting the political and constitutional implications of publicly significant social differences such as race, class, gender and ethnicity. Course readings include the founding documents, texts on political philosophy, and Supreme Court opinions.	Take a Position and Form a Supporting Argument <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Use the Fundamentals of Argument (DOC 1) - Produce an original, polished argument by... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * writing a clear thesis and forecast; * recognizing and effectively refuting key counterarguments; * briefly summarizing other supporting arguments or counterarguments; * gracefully using and integrating sources; * incorporating long quotations (when appropriate); * documenting all sources using MLA format; * giving useful written feedback to other writers; * learning to revise own essay using reference work; * and producing clear, error-free Standard Written English, using reference work, correcting own sentence-level errors.
<i>DOC 3: Imagination</i>	DOC 3 builds on the concepts of diversity and identity presented in DOC 1 & 2 by examining how Americans imagine and re-imagine social difference and change and how these issues have been represented in American culture. Students analyze a wide variety of texts, including films, novels, photographs, paintings and music, drawn from popular culture and avant-garde expressions.	Create an Interpretation and Argument Based on a Close Reading of Texts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Annotate and analyze primary texts. - Do close textual analysis and construct a thematic claim about text that is insightful versus obvious. - Argue in support of an interpretation, drawing on strategies from DOC 1 and 2, but shaping those skills to meet the interpretive goals of DOC 3. - Write a clear interpretive thesis and forecast statement. - Use textual evidence to support the thesis. - Explain clearly and convincingly how/why evidence selected supports thesis and subclaim. - Give useful written feedback to other student writers. - Effectively revise own essay based on others' feedback - Producing clear, error-free Standard Written English, using reference work, correcting own sentence-level errors.