

## **Difference, Power and Responsibility Course Purpose and Criteria**

### **Purpose**

A Difference, Power and Responsibility course provides a framework within which students develop a critical consciousness of issues of difference and power in the United States in order to participate responsibly within a democratic society.

### **Criteria**

Difference, Power and Responsibility courses:

1. are regularly-numbered departmental offerings (not 199-299 courses) of at least three credit hours;
2. emphasize critical thinking skills;
3. incorporate active and/or experiential learning activities;
4. have, as an important focus, the study of the unequal distribution of power within the subject matter of the course and the discipline;
5. focus on the United States, with global contexts encouraged;
6. examine ways in which discrimination arises from socially-defined meanings attributed to difference;
7. examine historical and contemporary examples of difference and the unequal distribution of power across cultures an/or social institutions in the United States; and
8. examine ways in which individuals may participate thoughtfully and responsibly within cultural and/or social systems in the United States.