

Designation of Courses to be Considered as Including a US Cultures Experience (EUSC)

Component Content/Methodology

The United States Cultures Experience fulfills the Illinois state-mandated Intergroup Relations requirement, addressing issues of cultural pluralism within the United States. Approved courses, activities, or projects to receive the USC designation must introduce students to diversity inherent in the United States as well as the issues of inequality among various groups. This diversity can be explored in different manifestations—from the symbolic and literary, through the historical, to the social, economic, legal and political—from a variety of disciplinary angles. A substantial portion of every approved course, activity, or project needs to explore the inequalities among groups and intergroup conflicts, with a focus on racial, ethnic, or gender groups. In addition, the experience needs to include a component that focuses on the contemporary aspects of group interactions, inequalities, and conflicts.

Experience Goals

- an understanding of the cultural diversity and pluralism within the United States;
- an understanding of the contributions of underrepresented groups within the United States, historically or contemporarily;
- an understanding of inequalities and conflicts among groups, including racial, ethnic, or gender groups within the United States historically or contemporarily;
- capacities to appreciate, respect, and learn from diverse groups within the United States.