

Learning Objectives for UCOR Courses

Faculty: This document contains the learning objectives for each of the courses in the new Core. Please include the relevant set of learning objectives in the syllabus of your UCOR course. The university, and our accreditation body, requires that the learning objectives be listed in the syllabus.

UCOR 1100: Academic Writing Seminar

Core Learning Objectives: This course helps students:

1. Develop broad critical thinking and argumentation skills.
2. Become effective writers of academic prose.
3. Learn basic rhetorical principles of communication.
4. Learn to become rhetorically flexible, and be able to thoughtfully adapt their writing to different contexts and contents.

UCOR 1200: Quantitative Reasoning

Core Learning Objectives: This course helps students:

1. Learn mathematical principles and skills.
2. Learn to use mathematical reasoning and understand how mathematicians construct arguments and solve problems.
3. Improve their academic writing skills.

UCOR 1300: Creative Expression

Core Learning Objectives: This course helps students:

1. Develop abilities in creative thinking and expression.
2. Understand key content, approaches to creativity and expression, and methods of analysis in a creative art.
3. Understand the relationships between a work of art and the context, the artist, intention or goal, audience reception, and medium of that work of art.
4. Develop basic oral presentation skills.
5. Become effective writers, including writers of high quality academic prose.

UCOR 1410-1440: Inquiry Seminar in Humanities

Core Learning Objectives: This course helps students:

1. Learn to engage in careful, analytic reading of primary texts.
2. Understand, at an introductory level, the subjects, contents, methods, and perspectives of a Humanities discipline.
3. Understand and value the breadth and diversity of academic inquiry through the study of a question in one discipline (students take several courses in different disciplines, which collectively help students understand breadth and diversity in scholarly inquiry).
4. Develop as thoughtful writers of effective academic prose.
5. Develop confidence and basic skills in public speaking.

UCOR 1610-1640: Inquiry Seminar in Social Sciences

Core Learning Objectives: This course helps students:

1. Understand, at an introductory level, the subjects, contents, methods, and perspectives of a Social Sciences discipline.
2. Reinforce their quantitative reasoning skills through analysis of numerical information.
3. Understand and value the breadth and diversity of academic inquiry through the study of a question in one discipline (students take several courses in different disciplines, which collectively help students understand breadth and diversity in scholarly inquiry).
4. Develop as thoughtful writers of effective academic prose.
5. Develop confidence and basic skills in public speaking.

UCOR 1810-1840: Inquiry Seminar in Natural Sciences

Core Learning Objectives: This course helps students:

1. Understand, at an introductory level, the subjects, contents, methods, and perspectives of a Natural Sciences discipline.
2. Reinforce their mathematical and quantitative reasoning skills through careful measurement and analysis of numerical data.
3. Understand and value the breadth and diversity of academic inquiry through the study of a question in one discipline (students take several courses in different disciplines, which collectively help students understand breadth and diversity in scholarly inquiry).
4. Develop as thoughtful writers of effective academic prose.
5. Develop confidence and basic skills in public speaking.

UCOR 2100: Theological Explorations

Core Learning Objectives: This course helps students:

1. Understand key theological foundations of the Christian, Catholic, and Jesuit traditions.
2. Examine their own beliefs and learn to effectively engage with the beliefs of others.
3. Understand, at an introductory level, the academic study of Theology, and the key issues, questions, and approaches of the discipline.
4. Become effective writers, including writers of high quality academic prose.
5. Learn to identify and think carefully about issues of value and justice.

UCOR 2500: Philosophy of the Human Person

Core Learning Objectives: This course helps students:

1. Understand the role of philosophical reasoning as a central practice/method of inquiry in the Jesuit tradition, important thinkers and texts in that tradition, and some of the questions about the human person that have shaped that tradition and ground that tradition's study of ethics.
2. Develop skills in logical analysis and reasoned dialogue, the ability to understand and assess the soundness of arguments, and improved skills in constructing well-reasoned arguments (including the ability to formulate objections to their own and others' arguments).
3. Understand key content, central problems, major perspectives, and methods of analysis of Philosophy.
4. Become effective writers, including writers of high quality academic prose.
5. Encounter and be better prepared to identify and understand issues of ultimate meaning, rights, and justice.

UCOR 2900-2920: Ethical Reasoning

Core Learning Objectives: This course helps students:

1. Understand key philosophical foundations of the Jesuit intellectual tradition, particularly insofar as that tradition has addressed issues of ethics.
2. Understand, use, and assess the strengths and weaknesses of ethical theories.
3. Become effective writers, including writers of high quality academic prose.
4. Learn to use ethical theories to analyze situations and inform judgments about actions.

UCOR 3100: Religion in a Global Context

Core Learning Objectives: This course helps students:

1. Understand different religious traditions, the interplay between religions, and the relationships between religious traditions and their cultural, historical, and social contexts.
2. Examine their own beliefs.
3. Learn to apply scholarly perspectives and methods to understanding religious traditions or to examining important global issues through the study of religion.
4. Become effective writers, including writers of high quality academic prose.
5. Examine important global issues through the analytical perspectives and methods of theological and religious studies (included in many, but not all, sections of this course).
6. Develop cross-cultural understanding and competence.

UCOR 3410-3440: Humanities and Global Challenges

Core Learning Objectives: This course helps students:

1. Gain additional humanities-based knowledge and insight and improve their abilities to use rigorous critical analysis grounded in the Humanities to answer questions and solve problems.
2. Develop their abilities to reflect on and use relevant knowledge they have learned in other courses across a variety of disciplines.
3. Become effective writers, including writers of high quality academic prose.
4. Learn to engage in persuasive communication in appropriate civic spheres.
5. Deeply understand a major global issue or challenge (primarily through the perspective of a Humanities discipline).
6. Understand relevant cultural dimensions of the global challenges being studied and, when appropriate, develop awareness and skills in cross-cultural engagement.

UCOR 3610-3640: Social Science and Global Challenges

Core Learning Objectives: This course helps students:

1. Gain additional social scientific knowledge and improve their abilities to use rigorous social scientific thinking to answer questions and solve problems.
2. Develop their abilities to reflect on and use relevant knowledge they have learned in other courses across a variety of disciplines.
3. Become effective writers, including writers of high quality academic prose.
4. Learn to engage in persuasive communication in appropriate civic spheres.
5. Deeply understand a major global issue or challenge (primarily through the perspective of a social scientific discipline).
6. Understand relevant cultural dimensions of the global challenges being studied and, when appropriate, develop awareness and skills in cross-cultural engagement.

UCOR 3810-3840: Natural Science and Global Challenges

Core Learning Objectives: This course helps students:

1. Gain additional scientific knowledge and improve their abilities to use rigorous scientific thinking to answer questions and solve problems.
2. Develop their abilities to reflect on and use relevant knowledge they have learned in other courses across a variety of disciplines.
3. Become effective writers, including writers of high quality academic prose.
4. Learn to engage in persuasive communication in appropriate civic spheres.
5. Deeply understand a major global issue or challenge (primarily through the perspective of a natural sciences discipline).
6. Understand relevant cultural dimensions of the global challenges being studied and, when appropriate, develop awareness and skills in cross-cultural engagement.