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Liberal and Civic Studies Program

Saint Mary's College of California

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LIBERAL & CIVIC STUDIES PROGRAM

Students in the Liberal and Civic Studies (L&CS) Program take four L&CS core courses. All other courses required for this program are offered by other academic departments of the College.

The L&CS Program is a broad integrative course of study that seeks the education of the whole person. In addition to traditional academic goals, the program emphasizes cultural awareness, civic and environmental responsibility, self-assessment, ethical values, critical inquiry, and active citizenship. The arts, academics, and social issues are integrated through service-learning experiences and coursework.

As an interdisciplinary program, L&CS fosters the development of a disciplined mind, one that is aware of the great ideas of the past, examines ideas across disciplines, and strives to understand the important issues of our times from multiple perspectives. In support of the Lasallian mission of Saint Mary's College, L&CS also promotes compassionate understanding of others and a sense of community that bridges diverse cultures and transcends national boundaries. The L&CS governing board believes that this program is particularly conducive to the development of well-educated individuals who are uniquely prepared to take on the role of responsible citizenship in a democracy.

The three guiding principles of the L&CS Program are breadth, depth, and integration. Breadth is provided through a balance of required and optional courses in the humanities, social sciences, natural sciences, mathematics, language, and kinesiology; depth is provided through a chosen minor/concentration in one of Saint Mary's departmental disciplines; integration is provided through the eight key courses required of all L&CS students: four Collegiate Seminar courses and four L&CS courses (Culture and Civic Responsibility, Environmental Responsibility in a Global Community, Assessment and Portfolio [25], and Education, Democracy, and Active Citizenship).

To fulfill its mission, the L&CS Program has three different tracks which are described below.

CIVIC TRACK

This four-year track is for those undergraduate students who are interested in a broad and general liberal arts program. The civic track in the Liberal & Civic Studies Program is an excellent choice for students who wish to pursue a creative and rigorous program of interdisciplinary studies as preparation for a future career in law, social work, public service, counseling, communications, business, or for future academic work at the graduate level.

EDUCATION TRACK

The education track is a four-year program designed for students who wish to become elementary teachers. The students in this track are provided with knowledge in a variety of disciplines to support their subject matter preparation and completion of the CSET (California Subject Examinations for Teachers). At the end of the four years, students earn a B. A. in liberal and civic studies and continue their preparation for teaching by entering a credential program of their choice.

TEACHERS FOR TOMORROW

Incoming freshman students and qualifying sophomores who are committed to becoming elementary teachers, may apply for the Teachers for Tomorrow (TFT) Program. This special program enables students to integrate education coursework and field experiences in elementary schools with their undergraduate course of study. Students proceed through the TFT Program as cohort groups, taking many of their courses and having all of their field experiences with other members of their cohort.

TFT students fulfill most of the same requirements as students of the L&CS Program education track; additional courses in education and field experiences replace some of the elective courses they might normally take. They earn their bachelor's degree at the end of four years and their multiple subject credential at the end of their fifth year. Students may also pursue a Masters of Arts in Teaching (MAT) degree in their fifth year at Saint Mary's by fulfilling additional coursework and research components. To be admitted to the program, incoming freshman students must demonstrate a strong academic record in high school, including at least three years of successful study of a single foreign language. Sophomores applying to the TFT Program must also demonstrate a strong academic record in their undergraduate work and the ability to complete program requirements within the normal graduation time frame. Students are encouraged to complete foreign language requirements before admission.

Prospective students must apply separately to the TFT Program by contacting the Liberal and Civic Studies Program to obtain an application.

FACULTY

Kathryn Porter, Ph.D., *Professor of Mathematics and Computer Science, Director of the L&CS Program*

Gloria Eive, M.A., *Adjunct, L&CS and Collegiate Seminar*

Robert Gardner, M.A., *Adjunct, L&CS and Collegiate Seminar*

Marsha Newman, Ph.D., *Professor of L&CS*

Deepak Sawhney, Ph.D., *Associate Professor of L&CS*

GOVERNING BOARD OF THE LIBERAL & CIVIC STUDIES PROGRAM

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Lori Spicher, *Modern Languages*

LEARNING OUTCOMES

The L&CS Program is committed to developing in its students the following understandings, abilities, and habits of mind:

- **HABITS** of critical inquiry that promote the understanding of written and visual texts and important issues in the larger society.
- **AN AWARENESS** of the interrelatedness of diverse fields of study.
- **AN UNDERSTANDING** of the interrelatedness of human communities and of the racial, ethnic, class, and gender diversity of the people who occupy them. Self-awareness, including an understanding of the relationship between personal and social values, and the implications of these values in the realm of action.
- **AN AWARENESS** of issues related to the natural environment and of humanity's role in that environment.
- **AN AWARENESS** of the role of the arts in expressing human uniqueness and similitude.
- **DEMOCRATIC** skills of written and verbal expression, as well as cooperation, negotiation, and goal-setting.
- **AN APPRECIATION** of education as a tool of individual and social progress.
- **AN UNDERSTANDING** of the connections between personal, local, and global issues.
- **AN UNDERSTANDING** of the powers of personal choice and of individual responsibility.

MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

L&CS 121 Culture & Civic Responsibility

L&CS 122 Environmental Responsibility in a Global Community

L&CS 124 Assessment and Portfolio (.25 credit)

L&CS 130 Democracy & Active Citizenship OR

L&CS 131 Education, Democracy & Active Citizenship

In the depth and breadth requirements listed below, education track students sometimes have specific course requirements, as noted, but may make certain substitutions with the approval of their advisors and the program director. TFT students follow the TFT track requirements.

English: **English 4, 5**

Religious Studies: One lower-division and one upper-division course.

January Term: A January Term course is required of all students for each academic year in attendance at Saint Mary's College. During one January Term, students preparing to be elementary teachers are required to take **Education 122: Field Experience in Education**. *Prerequisite: L&CS 121.*

Anthropology or Sociology: Any course that has a diversity focus (race, gender, global).

Fine or Performing Arts: One course in the history, philosophy, or aesthetics of art, drama, dance, or music; one studio production or presentation course (may be for .25 credit).

Foreign Language: Students are required to complete sufficient college-level courses in a language other than English to achieve demonstrable intermediate-level competency (equivalent to four terms of college-level work). Students with native ability in a language other than English may have this requirement waived by demonstrating oral, written, and reading skills equivalent to at least intermediate college-level work (four completed terms).

Kinesiology: One full-credit course. Education and TFT track students take **Kinesiology 103: Physical Education in the Elementary School**.

History: Any full-credit course. Students preparing to be elementary teachers take United States history.

Life Science: One course and lab. Students preparing to be elementary teachers take **Biology 50-51: General Biology**

Mathematics: Two courses in mathematics or computer science. Students preparing to be elementary teachers take **Mathematics I and 101**, or **Mathematics 27 and 101** or **Mathematics 27 and 28**.

Physical Science: One course and lab.

Psychology: **Psychology 10** plus **Psychology 139** or **Education 144**. TFT students are required to take **Education 144**. Students who minor in psychology may take **Psychology I and 140** instead of **Psychology 10 and 139**.

Curriculum Liberal & Civic Studies Program

MINOR

Students select a minor from established departmental minors or approved interdisciplinary minors. All L&CS students must complete a minimum of four upper-division courses in their minor even if the department requires fewer than four. Whenever possible, the minor must include a course with a multicultural or global focus.

Students should plan their minor with the assistance of their faculty advisor.

For more information on the Liberal & Civic Studies Program, please see our website at www.stmarys-ca.edu/liberal_civic/

PREREQUISITE GRADE

Any course listed in this program with a prerequisite assumes a grade of C– or better in the prerequisite course.

C O U R S E S

I21 Culture and Civic Responsibility

This course is the first required upper-division course that students take after they have declared liberal and civic studies as their program of study. The course introduces students to program themes, including "the Great Conversation," diversity (issues of race, class, and gender), the arts, and service learning. Lectures and discussions are complimented by a cultural workshop, a visit to Glide Memorial Church, and attendance at art events. Students are required to devote time each week to a service-learning project, write essays, intellectual integrations, and a self-assessment. Class sessions are supplemented by a biweekly activity lab. *Prerequisites:* English 4, and level 2 of foreign language.

I22 Environmental Responsibility in a Global Community

Taken the semester immediately following L&CS I21 whenever possible, this course focuses on the natural world in which we live, and the complex interrelationship between human activities, the values which determine these activities, and behavior toward our environment. Different societies' belief systems and attitudes toward the natural world are examined, as well as the holistic interconnectedness of our physical, biological, and social structures, with the goal of identifying environmental issues and solutions. Students are required to devote time each week to a service-learning project, write essays, intellectual integrations, and a self-assessment. Class sessions are supplemented by a biweekly activity lab. *Prerequisites:* L&CS I21, English 5, Collegiate Seminar 20/I30.

I24 Assessment and Portfolio (.25)

Students take this course in the semester immediately before L&CS I30/I31. The course, which consists of eight sessions, assists students in preparing their portfolios and themselves for their assessment interview which occurs in the latter part of the semester. *Prerequisite:* L&CS I22.

I26 Praxis: Art (.25)

I27 Praxis: Community Service (.25)

I28 Praxis: Environmental and Public Policy (.25)

I29 Praxis: REACH Program (.25)

The Praxis courses are a series of four optional .25-credit courses. Offered every semester, these courses enable students to involve themselves in explorations of the arts, community service, or environmental or public policy. In addition to field work (e.g., attending plays or museums, doing community service, working in student government, environmental projects, or in a political campaign, students meet to discuss their experiences and produce a culminating paper or project. These courses may be repeated for credit as content varies.

I30 Democracy and Active Citizenship

This is the capstone course of the Liberal and Civic Studies Program. It involves a careful examination of the assumptions upon which democracy is based and the work of citizen groups who are addressing America's social problems, from education and government to human services, jobs, and the media. The course also examines the possible challenges that the current generation will face in the future. Students complete a research project that is designed to integrate their minors with their service-learning work, and culminates in a formal paper and group presentation to the SMC community. This course has a biweekly activity lab. *Prerequisites:* L&CS I24 and the senior assessment interview.

I31 Education, Democracy, and Active Citizenship

This is the capstone course of the L&CS Program for the students in the Teachers for Tomorrow Program. As in L&CS I30, democracy and citizenship are examined with the unique challenges that the current generation will face in the future. This course also focuses on educational issues which are of special concern to the future teacher. *Prerequisites:* L&CS I24 and the senior assessment interview.

I92 Text-Based Discussion in the Elementary Classroom (.25)

This is a field-based course designed for students enrolled in the Teachers for Tomorrow Program. This course trains and gives students hands-on experience in facilitating seminar-style, text-based discussion groups for young children. After two introductory training workshops, students will first observe and then co-lead such discussion groups on-site in an elementary- or middle-school classroom. Students will learn about and practice an educational style that develops critical skills, speaking, reading, and thinking in open discussion. *Prerequisite:* Collegiate Seminar I22 or I31.