

General Education Curriculum



BETHEL
UNIVERSITY

The College of Arts and Sciences

2024 Revision

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Preamble to the 2024 General Education Revision

The faculty of the College of Arts and Sciences at Bethel University propose this modest revision to the general education curriculum in order to adapt to the new and difficult challenges that have resulted from decisions made by the administration.

A decade of multiple faculty cuts across the university has resulted in the elimination or downsizing of a variety of programs and created an environment of scarcity in which fewer and fewer faculty are increasingly stretched to service the general education and programmatic curricula. We the faculty lament these cuts and the consequential reduction of our capacity to excellently support the general education curriculum and to uphold Bethel's historic, robust commitment to the liberal arts.

While the administration's push to convert to a 4/2/1 credit model could reduce faculty course preparations and help faculty more sustainably manage an increased teaching load, it also requires an adjustment to the general education curriculum, lest it grow to an unmanageable size. Yet during this season of scarcity and exhaustion, a complete revision of the general education curriculum would be impossible to responsibly implement within a sufficiently short time frame as departments rapidly undertake modifications to their own programs.

Therefore, we propose this minimally invasive revision that preserves the integrity of the general education curriculum and implements modest changes to convert it to a 4/2/1 credit model and ensure that it can be properly staffed. This revision is a pragmatic solution rather than an optimal one. It is designed to shore up what is working well in the general education curriculum and to make its near-term management more sustainable over the next several years, until the faculty are better positioned to accomplish a more comprehensive, principled, and innovative revision.

Summary of Revisions

The 2024 General Education Curriculum preserves most of the features of the 2017 General Education Curriculum, which was slightly revised in 2018. This revision modestly adjusts categories and courses and also includes various curricular and policy updates that have already been approved over the past several years by the CAS Faculty Senate. The revisions include the following:

- ❖ Maintain the basic structure of categories and courses while moving most courses and categories to 4 or 2 credits and preserving the total size of the General Education Curriculum at 48 to 56 credits.
- ❖ Students choose 4 Cultural Intelligence tags (S, Z, L, U, G). The U-tag includes a more robust writing component.
- ❖ Biblical Foundations is reduced from 9 to 8 credits. The J-tag has been eliminated. BIB101 and THE201 have both moved to 4 credits and are required for all students.
- ❖ The Humanities program is reduced from 16 credits to 12 credits. Students in the program take THE201 and the L-tag.
- ❖ P-tag is reduced to 2 credits, with a slight reduction in the size of the writing component.
- ❖ The CAS Faculty Senate voted on March 23, 2023 to eliminate the Q-tag and move Introduction to Wellbeing from 3 to 2 credits. This revision retains those changes.
- ❖ The Courses and Categories Chart, the Curricular Pyramid, and the Entry Standing Chart have been revised.
- ❖ Slight adjustments were made to the category and course descriptions, prerequisites, required transfer credits, and other policies, as necessitated by these structural changes.

Introduction

Central to the General Education Curriculum is Bethel’s mission statement and the broad goals of general education as they have evolved with the support of the faculty. The primary goal is to integrate the Christian faith with all areas of learning as the integrative principle for the entire curriculum, and a foundational area of study for all learners. Our mission further includes the integration of several elements that are often separated in contemporary academia:

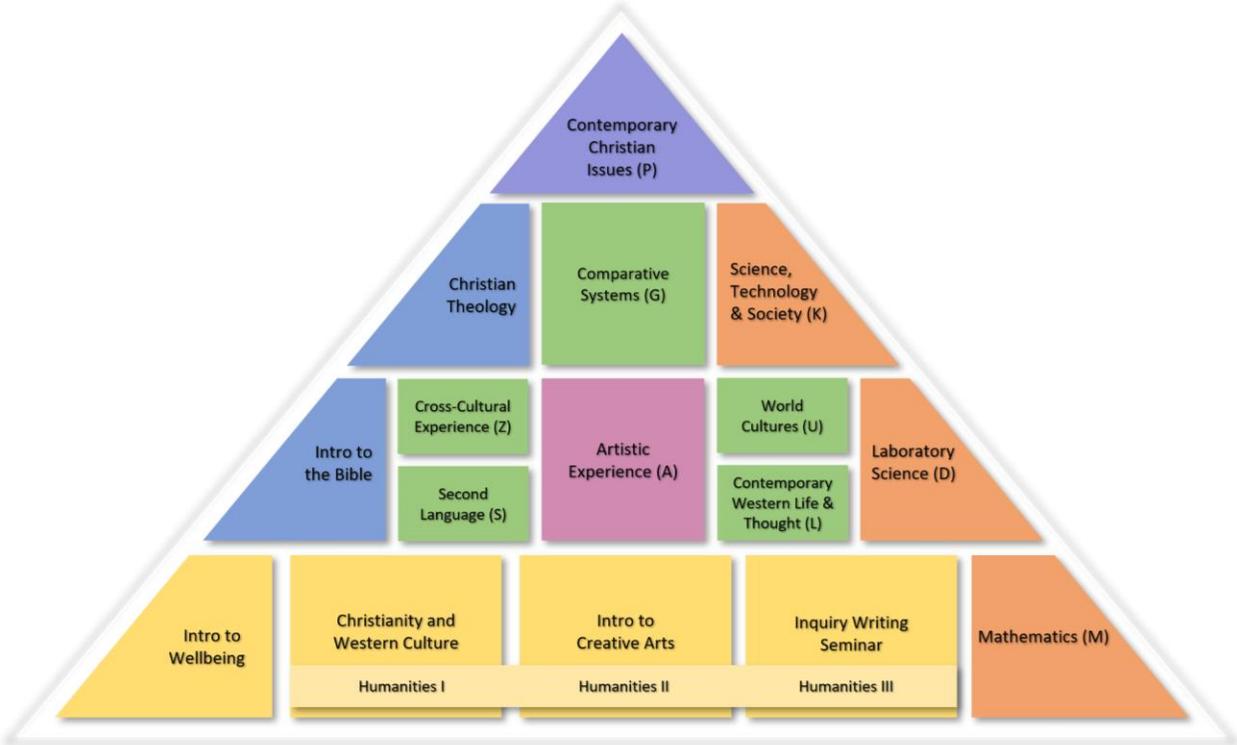
- ❖ the great fields of learning—humanities, social and natural sciences, the arts, and pre-professional studies, to emphasize the interdependence of knowledge,
- ❖ the many aspects of being human as individual persons and members of societies--to seek wholeness in one’s development and maturation,
- ❖ Western and nonwestern cultural perspectives—to communicate both the differences and similarities in their histories and worldviews and the understanding of diversity amid commonality,
- ❖ the study of the dominant ideas of many cultures with the firsthand experience of interacting with those cultures—to cultivate empathy and depth of understanding, and
- ❖ the perspectives of history with the shaping of the present and near future—to cultivate a sense of an “extended present” with the grasp of the movement of time and the impacts of human choices on the generations that follow

As a step to enhance such integration, the curriculum is arranged into five categories with a capstone that draws from all of them. Each category represents elements that form a unified perspective. To be described in detail on the following pages, these categories are:

1. First Year Foundations
2. Biblical Foundations
3. Math, Science, and Technology
4. Cultural Intelligence
5. Artistic Experience

The senior capstone of all five categories is Contemporary Christian Issues.

General Education Program Overview



- 
First Year Foundations
- 
Biblical Foundations
- 
Math, Science & Technology
- 
Cultural Intelligence
- 
Artistic Experience
- 
Senior Capstone

Categories and Courses

COURSE or CATEGORY	Number or LEVEL	PREREQUISITE	Credits
First Year Foundations (GES140, plus choose 1 track)			14
Introduction to Wellbeing	GES140	None	2
Modular Track			
Introduction to the Creative Arts	GES125	None	4
Christianity and Western Culture	GES130	None	4
Inquiry Writing Seminar	GES160	None	4
Integrated Track (Humanities)			
Humanities 1 (fall term)	GES145	None	4
Humanities 2 (January term)	GES147	GES145	4
Humanities 3 (spring term)	GES1XX	GES147	4
Artistic Experience			0-4
Artistic Experience (A)	100-400	None	0-4
Biblical Foundations			8
Introduction to the Bible	BIB101	None	4
Christian Theology	THE201	BIB101, sophomore standing	4
Math, Science, and Technology			12
Lab Science (D)	100-200	None	4
Mathematics (M)	100-200	None (some by placement exam)	4
Science, Technology, and Society (K)	300	D, M	4
Cultural Intelligence (choose 4)			12-16
Second Language (S)	200	Placement exam or credit for 101	4
Cross-Cultural Experience (Z)	100-400	None	0-4
Contemporary Western Life and Thought (L)	200	(GES130 and GES160*) or GES1XX*	4
World Cultures (U)	200	GES130* or GES1XX*	4
Global Systems (G)	300	(GES130 and GES160) or (GES1XX); and L-course or U-course	4

COURSE or CATEGORY	Number or LEVEL	PREREQUISITE	Credits
First Year Foundations (GES140, plus choose 1 track)			14
Introduction to Wellbeing	GES140	None	2
Modular Track			
Introduction to the Creative Arts	GES125	None	4
Christianity and Western Culture	GES130	None	4
Inquiry Writing Seminar	GES160	None	4
Integrated Track (Humanities)			
Humanities 1 (fall term)	GES145	None	4
Senior Capstone			2
Contemporary Christian Issues (P)	400	GES160 or GES1XX; THE201; L-course or G-course or U-course; senior standing	2
*May be taken concurrently			48-56

Entry Standing Chart

General Education Requirements by Entry Standing Fall 2024	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Completed MNTC	Completed AA, BA, or BS
	0-29 Credits	30-59 Credits	60+ Credits		
First Year Foundations					
GES140: Introduction to Wellbeing*	Yes	No	No	No	No
GES125: Introduction to the Creative Arts	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
GES130: Christianity and Western Culture*	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
GES160: Inquiry Writing Seminar**	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Biblical Foundations***					
BIB101: Introduction to the Bible	Yes	Yes	Choose 1	Choose 1	Choose 1
THE201: Christian Theology	Yes	Yes			
Artistic Experience					
Artistic Experience (A)	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Math and Science					

Lab Science (D)	Yes	Choose 2: D, K, or M	Choose 1: D or M	No	No
Mathematics (M)	Yes			No	No
Science, Technology, and Society (K)	Yes		No	No	No
Cultural Intelligence					
Second Language (S)	Choose 4: S, Z, L, U, or G	Choose 3: S, Z, L, U, or G	Choose 2: S, Z, L, U, or G	No	No
Cross-Cultural Experience (Z)				No	No
Contemporary Western Life and Thought (L)				No	No
World Cultures (U)				No	No
Global Systems (G)				No	No
Senior Capstone					
Contemporary Christian Issues (P) (2 credits)*	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Credit Totals	48-56	38-46	18-22	10	10
Other Requirements					
Interims that must be completed at Bethel	3	2	1	2	1

Yes = student must take the course. No = student is exempt from taking course

*Must be taken at Bethel.

**GES160 *Inquiry Writing Seminar* includes both speaking and writing components. GES160 can be fulfilled by transferring in courses that fulfill the writing component (GES161 *Inquiry: Writing*) and the speaking component (GES162 *Inquiry: Speaking*). To fulfill the speaking component, students may take one of the following speaking courses at Bethel: COM110 *Basic Communication*, COM324 *Professional and Technical Communication*, COM386 *Advanced Public Speaking*, or COM387 *Speaking in Ministry Contexts*.

***All students must take at least one Biblical Foundations course at Bethel.

FIRST YEAR FOUNDATIONS

DESCRIPTION: Facilitates a broad understanding of the richness inherent in humans and their relationships. Orients students to higher education, builds communication skills, enhances creative thought and expression, promotes holistic well-being, and increases understanding of human nature and Western society. The integration of these facets yields whole and healthy persons.

RATIONALE: In a fragmented society, it is necessary to seek wholeness in all areas of life. Personal development occurs in large part through interaction with others; understanding of others develops at least in part through examining oneself. Such examination must be holistic, including written and oral communication, creative expression, and physical activity.

GENERAL OUTCOMES: Upon completion of this theme, the students will

Knowledge

1. Identify the mission of Bethel University and Christian liberal arts education.
2. Reflect on and critically evaluate a wide range of creative arts from a Christian worldview.
3. Develop knowledge of Western culture and the Christian tradition.
4. Show imagination and originality in formulating hypotheses, ideas, and models.
5. Analyze the relationship between body, fitness, and whole-being wellness.

Skills

1. Research and write correctly, convincingly, and ethically.
2. Work cooperatively and effectively with others.
3. Establish a healthy self-identity.
4. Communicate with others clearly, authentically, and ethically.

COMPONENTS*:

- GES140 Introduction to Wellbeing
- GES125 Introduction to the Creative Arts
- GES130 Christianity and Western Culture
- GES160 Inquiry Writing Seminar

***NOTE:** Students may opt to participate *Western Humanity in Christian Perspective*, an integrated cross-themed program that replaces GES125, GES130, and GES160. Students who take the integrated core are still required to take GES140.

Introduction to Wellbeing (2 credit course)

DESCRIPTION: Explores many of the dimensions that influence wellbeing: including Spiritual, Cognitive, Emotional, Physical, Relational, and Meaning. Examines the dynamic interconnection between the dimensions. Students integrate foundational knowledge, experiences, and strategies to become successful whole and holy individuals not only in college but also throughout adult life.

RATIONALE: When students enter higher education, they must negotiate many transitional challenges. Students are more likely to persist and succeed in their education with a support group of peers and a faculty member. Additionally, students who learn life skills such as: emotional intelligence, conflict management, dialogue skills, care for one's physical, emotional, and spiritual wellbeing, etc. are more likely to successfully navigate the challenges of emerging adulthood and complete their undergraduate degree.

CONNECTION TO CAREER & LIFE BEYOND BETHEL (required syllabi statement as of FA24):

Introduction to Wellbeing gives students the opportunity to develop themselves through increased knowledge and awareness of self and by engaging in interpersonal communication with peers. As a result of taking this course, students should be able to demonstrate awareness of their own strengths, preferences, and values and develop plans and goals for continued growth.

PREREQUISITES: None

CLASS: GES140

RECOMMENDED CLASS SIZE: 32

OUTCOMES: The students will

Knowledge

1. Know and articulate six dimensions (aspects of life) that influence Wellbeing.
2. Identify and understand the interrelated nature of these dimensions.

Skills

1. Articulate how Wellbeing is influenced by and interconnected with: values and priorities, spiritual formation, emotional health, physical health, relationships, healthy intimacy, vocational choice(s), personal stewardship, and one's participation in the Kingdom of God.
2. Identify how their personal strengths positively influence dimensions of Wellbeing.
3. Practice communication skills necessary for relating with diverse cultures and perspectives.
4. Articulate a Strategy for Living (such as a Personal Credo/Rule for Life/Vision Board) that addresses each dimension of Wellbeing and how it will be tended to in college and beyond.

POSSIBLE FEATURES:

1. Small group interaction with upper class students called a Peer Facilitator.
2. Alternative course structure and pedagogy.

3. May be developed with a focus on faculty modeling commitment to integration of faith and learning.
4. Addresses the values and serving and stewardship

TRANSFER and EXEMPTION INFORMATION:

- **Common Necessary Features:** (*minimum content & skills required for transfer courses*)
 - Use of campus resources
 - Personal and academic skills to be a successful college student
- **Transfer course level:** 100 or higher
- **Transfer course credits:** ½ credit or more
- **Course Fulfillment Requirements:** Students required to fulfill this course requirement cannot transfer in credits for this course. Students must fulfill this course requirement at Bethel. ○ All students enrolling at Bethel through the Postsecondary Enrollment Options (PSEO) are required to complete GES140 during their first year at Bethel.
- **Exemptions:**
 - Students entering Bethel in Fall 2024 or later with 30 or more credits or a completed MNTC, AA, BA, or BS degree.

Christianity and Western Culture (4 credit course)

DESCRIPTION: Seeks to help students understand the key movements that have influenced the lives of people in Europe and North America up through the Enlightenment. Students read with insight and empathy the writings and lives of those who have influenced the course of world societies. Prepares students to appreciate and evaluate the diverse ways in which Christians have interacted with Western culture by shaping, absorbing, and criticizing the culture of the West.

RATIONALE: Students learn a cultural vocabulary that reflects an understanding of the history and mutual influence of the Christian tradition and Western culture. This vocabulary helps to prepare students to study other aspects of Western culture at a deeper level as well to meaningfully and insightfully compare and contrast Christianity and Western culture with other cultures and traditions.

CONNECTION TO CAREER & LIFE BEYOND BETHEL (required syllabi statement as of FA24): The **Christianity and Western Culture (CWC)** course at Bethel prepares students to critically reflect on the intersections between religion and culture in different historical and cultural contexts. In this course, you will have the opportunity to develop communication skills as you evaluate historical ideas and reflect on your own cultural identity and your role in shaping society.

PREREQUISITES: None

CLASS: GES130

RECOMMENDED CLASS SIZE: 135 for lecture; 18 for small group sections

OUTCOMES: The students will

Knowledge

1. Develop a basic historical and geographical outline of Western culture through the Enlightenment.
2. Examine personal faith within the broader Christian tradition.
3. Synthesize historical points of view with contemporary culture.

Skills

1. Write effectively and concisely, drawing on complex ideas.

TRANSFER and EXEMPTION INFORMATION:

- **Common Necessary Features:** (*minimum content & skills required for transfer courses*)
 - GES130 must be taken at Bethel. No transfer courses will be accepted to fulfill this requirement. This course must be taken at Bethel via a face-to-face or online format.
- **Exemptions:** None

Inquiry Writing Seminar (4 credit course)

DESCRIPTION: While exploring a specific topic of interest, students develop and understand the meaning and value of a liberal arts education in the Christian tradition. The seminar promotes the establishment of community among students, faculty, and varying aspects of student life. The seminar provides students with instruction and practice in writing as well as in preparing and delivering oral presentations. Supplemental assignments and activities outside the traditional classroom are required.

RATIONALE: Every Bethel graduate needs understanding and skill to manage information, appropriately use it to make sound decisions, and communicate it well in written form.

CONNECTION TO CAREER & LIFE BEYOND BETHEL (required syllabi statement as of FA24): **Inquiry Writing Seminar (IQ)** courses at Bethel give students the opportunity to develop the academic skills of research, writing, and speaking. As a result of taking this course, students should be able to demonstrate effective work habits, communicate in a clear and organized manner, and be accountable for individual and team responsibilities.

PREREQUISITES: None

CLASS: GES160

RECOMMENDED CLASS SIZE: 18

OUTCOMES: The students will

Knowledge

1. Recognize methods and perspective of the Christian liberal arts.
2. Identify how an individual's background affects his or her engagement (listening and response) with the community.

Skills

1. Listen and communicate with clarity.
2. Practice personal agency in the learning process.

TRANSFER and EXEMPTION INFORMATION:

- **Common Necessary Features:** (*minimum content & skills required for transfer courses*)
 - Academic research and writing
 - Practice of the writing process (i.e. planning, drafting, revisions, editing)
 - Research paper, including correct documentation, of 7 or more pages of text
 - Planning and delivery of at least two oral presentations.
- **Transfer course level:** 100 or higher
- **Transfer course credits:** 3 or more
- **Course Fulfillment Requirements:**
 - All students enrolling at Bethel through the Postsecondary Enrollment Options (PSEO) are required to complete GES160 during their first year at Bethel.
- **Exemptions:**
 - Students entering Bethel in Fall 2024 or later with 60 or more credits or a completed MNTC, AA, BA, or BS degree are exempt from this course.
 - GES160 Inquiry Writing Seminar includes both speaking and writing components. GES160 can be fulfilled by transferring in courses that fulfill the writing component (appearing as GES161 Inquiry: Writing) and the speaking component (appearing as GES162 Inquiry: Speaking).
 - Transfer of writing component: Students who have completed a composition course with a C grade or better at another college or university that has these features:
 - Academic research and writing
 - Practice of the writing process (i.e. planning, drafting, revision, editing)
 - Research paper, including correct documentation, of 7 or more pages of text
 - To fulfill the speaking component, students may take one of the following speaking courses at Bethel: COM110 Basic Communication, COM324 Professional and Technical Communication, COM386 Advanced Public Speaking, or COM387 Speaking in Ministry Contexts.

Introduction to the Creative Arts (4 credit course)

DESCRIPTION: Introduces the creative arts and highlights their crucial role in human experience. Art forms included each semester are chosen from music, visual arts, theater, dance, literature, or film. Creative works spanning stylistic, social, and historical contexts are examined in light of such issues as relationships, religion, death/despair, and humor (and abstraction). Students experience and critically interact with creative works and reflect on them from a Christian worldview, with the goal of developing literacy in artistic language as a tool for exploration and aesthetic interpretation and evaluation.

RATIONALE: The creative arts are an integral part of our identity as God's creatures. Through them, a person gains insight into the nature of humans and how they express themselves and relate to others. A liberal arts curriculum should provide an opportunity for students to interact with and learn to critically evaluate a wide range of creative arts and encourage students to analyze and reflect on creative works from a Christian worldview.

CONNECTION TO CAREER & LIFE BEYOND BETHEL (required syllabi statement as of FA24):

Introduction to the Creative Arts (ICA) courses at Bethel give students the opportunity to explore the influence of the creative arts. As a result of taking this course, students should be able to use art as a tool to develop personally and professionally.

PREREQUISITES: None

CLASS: GES125

RECOMMENDED CLASS SIZE: 135 (lecture) with corresponding sections of 45 focused on a specific creative arts genre.

OUTCOMES: The students will

Knowledge

1. Recognize the aesthetic nature of the creative arts and their role in human experience.
2. Develop artistic literacy.
3. Apply a Christian worldview to artistic reflection.

Skills

1. Interpret and evaluate works in the creative arts.

POSSIBLE FEATURES:

1. Provide means for better understanding human nature and the nature of God.
2. Attention to the value of aesthetic stewardship.

TRANSFER and EXEMPTION INFORMATION:

- **Common Necessary Features:** (*minimum content & skills required for transfer courses*)

- Study of one or more art form(s)
- Skills in evaluating art work
- Vocabulary to communicate about art
- **Transfer Course Level:** 100 or higher
- **Transfer Course Credits:** 3 or more
- **Exemptions:**
 - Students entering Bethel in Fall 2024 or later with 60 or more credits or a completed MNTC, AA, BA, or BS degree

Western Humanity in Christian Perspective

(3 course sequence)

An Integrated Cross-Themed Program

DESCRIPTION: The three-course sequence emphasizes in-depth reading, discussion, and analysis of texts and works of art. Students experience literature, theology, philosophy, music, theater, and art in historical context. They learn the foundations of theology and see how Christians have shaped and responded to Western culture. The three-course sequence must be taken in order. They replace the three courses in the First Year Foundations Category of Bethel's General Education Program: GES160 Inquiry Writing Seminar, GES125 Introduction to the Creative Arts, and GES130 Christianity and Western Culture.

RATIONALE: Students in the three-course Humanities Program develop skills in writing and an understanding of Western and US culture (including theology and the arts) in a coherent, chronological sequence. Students in the Humanities courses learn Western responses to the deepest questions regarding God, the self, and society in historical context through: (a) direct, personal experience with significant works that have shaped Western culture; (b) interdisciplinary and collaborative pedagogy; and (c) the patient study of great works in small group seminars.

CONNECTION TO CAREER & LIFE BEYOND BETHEL (required syllabi statement as of FA24): In the **Humanities** three-course sequence, you will study the vocabulary and modes of expression that Christians and others in the West have used to search for truth and express themselves throughout history in art, music, theology, drama, philosophy, literature, and politics. You will develop critical thinking and communication skills, especially writing, as you integrate an understanding of the arts, theology, and the humanities with personal faith.

PREREQUISITES: Each course serves as the prerequisite for the course that follows it in the three-course sequence (GES145, GES147, and GES149).

COMPONENTS:

1. GES145 Humanities I: Greco-Roman through Middle Ages
2. GES147 Humanities II: Renaissance and Reformation
3. GES1XX Humanities III: Enlightenment to Modernity

CLASS LEVEL: 100

CLASS SIZE: 27

OUTCOMES: The students will

Knowledge

1. Understand the vocabulary and modes of expression that Christians and others in the West have used to search for truth and express themselves through art, music, theology, drama, philosophy, literature, and politics.
2. Know significant primary texts in which central theological doctrines are debated: Trinity, justification, and incarnation and atonement of Christ.
3. Integrate an understanding of the arts, theology, and the humanities with personal faith.
4. Reflect critically, creatively, and faithfully on their own role in culture.
5. Learn the basic outlines of Western history through the Postmodern era, emphasizing the various ideas, movements, and cultures that have shaped it.
6. Develop and demonstrate an understanding of the writing process (planning, drafting, revision, editing, information literacy, effective use of secondary sources for research-based papers).

Skills

1. Develop writing skills: formulating and developing a thesis; drawing upon the full writing process to produce coherent papers; using research skills; documenting and integrating sources properly.
2. Communicate effectively understanding of issues across chronological and disciplinary lines in written form, using the vocabulary appropriate to the arts and humanities.
3. Interpret with understanding works of philosophy, literature, theology, and the arts.

ARTISTIC EXPERIENCE

Artistic Experience (0-4 credit category) (A)

DESCRIPTION: Students gain hands-on experience with creating/performing (engaging with materials, instruments, creative writing, etc.) that is planned, supervised, and evaluated by a faculty member. An in-studio experience/performance (individual or group) are critiqued in some form. The Artistic Experience may be taken before, during, or after Introduction to the Creative Arts or Western Humanity in Christian Perspective I-III.

RATIONALE: Hands-on participation in the creative process increases appreciation for and understanding of the creative arts, as well as opportunity for personal discovery and expression.

CONNECTION TO CAREER & LIFE BEYOND BETHEL (required syllabi statement as of FA24): **Artistic Experience** (A-tag) courses at Bethel give students the opportunity to display curiosity, develop personal growth, and participate in artistic expression. As a result of taking this course, students should be able to proactively develop oneself, receive feedback appropriately, and prioritize tasks to accomplish organizational goals.

PREREQUISITE: None

CLASS LEVEL: 100-300

CREDIT OPTION: A number of credited courses will be available to fulfill the requirement.

NON-CREDIT OPTION: Non-credit experiences must be approved by point person for this category through a petition form prior to participation in the activity.

OUTCOMES: The students will

Knowledge

1. Recognize elements of the creative genre being studied.

Skills

1. Express themselves through appropriate aesthetic, creative, and symbolic means.

POSSIBLE FEATURES:

1. Attention to the value of aesthetic stewardship

TRANSFER and EXEMPTION INFORMATION:

- **Common Necessary Features:** (*minimum content & skills required for transfer courses*)
 - Hands on artistic experience (dance, theater, art, music)

- Planned supervised, and evaluated by a faculty member
 - Critique of art form
- **Exemptions:**
 - Students entering Bethel in Fall 2024 or later with 60 or more credits or a completed MNTC, AA, BA, or BS degree.

BIBLICAL FOUNDATIONS

DESCRIPTION: Biblical and theological competence consists of attaining scriptural knowledge, understanding theology based on scripture, and responding to new situations in an authentically Christian manner. Such competence requires a foundational grasp of Bible and theology, together with the skills for understanding and interpreting the Bible and Christian faith for new situations.

RATIONALE: In educating today's Christians for tomorrow's world, it is essential that they become biblically and theologically competent. At the present time, world conditions are in such a state of flux that it is challenging to identify the issues of the coming decades and their potential solutions.

GENERAL OUTCOMES: Upon completion of this theme, the students will

Knowledge

1. Recognize the content, context, history and truth of the Bible.
2. Discern the biblical values that will govern one's conscience, judgments, goals, and decisions.
3. Apply the essentials of theology to the complexities involved in understanding human situations.

Skills

1. Acquire skills in the appropriate interpretation and application of scripture to personal issues and current issues.
2. Use biblical and theological principles to live and act influentially in society.

COMPONENTS:

- BIB101 Introduction to the Bible
- THE201 Christian Theology

RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT: At least one of the two General Education Biblical Foundations courses must be taken at Bethel.

TRANSFER STUDENTS

- Students entering Bethel in Fall 2024 or later with 60 or more credits or a completed MNTC, AA, BA, or BS degree may take either BIB101 or THE201. These students are encouraged to take THE201.
- All students, regardless of the number of credits with which they enter Bethel must take at least one Biblical foundations course at Bethel.

Introduction to the Bible (4 credit course)

DESCRIPTION: Traces the journey of God's people from Abraham and Sarah through the New Testament church, highlighting the unifying self-disclosure of God in the various cultures and types of writing of the Old and New Testament. A holistic approach is used to introduce students to both historical and thematic content as well as broad, but basic exegetical principles.

RATIONALE: A biblical foundation for Christian life and thought is an essential feature of Bethel's identity, heritage, and mission. A basic understanding of the history and context of the Bible is necessary for building this foundation.

CONNECTION TO CAREER & LIFE BEYOND BETHEL (required syllabi statement as of FA24):

Introduction to the Bible gives students the opportunity to think critically about the context and content of the Bible, which prepares them to consider how to respond to complex situations from a biblical perspective. As a result of taking this course, students should be able to consider how the situational context influences logical analysis of relevant information.

PREREQUISITES: none

CLASS: BIB101

RECOMMENDED CLASS SIZE: 35

OUTCOMES: The students will

Knowledge

1. Recognize the roots of Christian values in the history of God's faithful people.
2. Articulate the major themes of the Bible.
3. Affirm the Christian scriptures as literary, theological, and historical works.

Skills

1. Apply basic exegetical principles to Biblical content.

POSSIBLE FEATURES:

1. Attention to the values of peacemaking and stewardship

TRANSFER and EXEMPTION INFORMATION:

- **Common Necessary Features:** (*minimum content & skills required for transfer courses*)
 - God's people from Abraham and Sarah through the New Testament church
 - God as seen in and communicated through various cultures and types of writing in the Old and New Testament
 - Introduction to historical context of the Bible
 - Introduction to theoretical context of the Bible
- **Transfer Course Level:** 100 or higher
- **Transfer Course Credits:** 3 or more

- **Exemptions:** See exemption on Biblical Foundations page

Christian Theology (4 credit course)

DESCRIPTION: Investigates central themes of the Christian faith from a primarily systematic perspective. These themes are discussed both individually and in terms of the role each plays in worldview formation. Topics include Scripture (inspiration and inerrancy), God (Trinity), the person and work of Jesus Christ (incarnation and atonement), salvation (justification and sanctification), and last things (heaven and hell). Emphasis is placed on the unity and diversity of theological beliefs within Christianity, both past and present, and on the interrelationships between theological understanding, culture, and discipleship.

RATIONALE: In addition to a basic understanding of the history and content of the Bible, students need to explore the ways that theological questions have been answered throughout the Christian tradition. This provides students with a reflective understanding of the historical and cultural dimensions of Christian doctrine, which contributes to their development into whole and holy persons.

CONNECTION TO CAREER & LIFE BEYOND BETHEL (required syllabi statement as of FA24): Students in **Christian Theology** will thoughtfully consider specific beliefs within Christianity and make informed decisions about their own beliefs. As a result of taking this course, students should be able to understand, analyze, and communicate their own thoughts and beliefs and thoughts and beliefs that do not align with their personal perspective.

PREREQUISITES: Introduction to the Bible

CLASS: THE201

RECOMMENDED CLASS SIZE: 35

OUTCOMES: The students will

Knowledge

1. Identify the essentials of Christian theology in light of both historical and cultural influences.
2. Compare various attempts to define heresy and orthodoxy.
3. Evaluate a variety of approaches to doing theology.

Skills

1. Apply theological understanding to life choices.

TRANSFER and EXEMPTION INFORMATION:

- **Common Necessary Features:** (*minimum content & skills required for transfer courses*)

- Study the essentials of Christian Theology
- Theology is taught primarily from a systematic perspective
- Unity and diversity of theological beliefs
- **Transfer Course Level:** 100 or higher
- **Transfer Course Credits:** 3 or more
- **Exemptions:** See exemptions on Biblical Foundations page

MATH, SCIENCE, AND TECHNOLOGY

DESCRIPTION: Introduces students to the basic concepts, processes, ways of thinking, and applications in math and natural science, and promotes an understanding of central issues in the impacts of science and technology on society.

RATIONALE: Mathematics, science, and technology are driving forces in our society, impacting all areas of life. All persons must make choices in their personal and professional lives for which understanding of these disciplines and their ethical dimensions is essential.

GENERAL OUTCOMES: Upon completion of this theme, students will

Knowledge

1. Identify key concepts in one of the natural sciences.
2. Explain the process of scientific research and the methods for reaching consensus within the scientific communities.
3. Explain the process by which scientific knowledge is applied through technology.
Critique the impact of technology on society for selected issues.
4. Express aspects of the joy, wonder, and excitement of science, mathematics, and technology as evidence of God's creative work.

Skills

1. Utilize laboratory skills appropriate to one of the sciences.
2. Apply selected mathematical, computational, and/or logical principles to problem solving.
3. Make competent, critical, Biblical, and ethical judgments about the use of scientific information and technology.

COMPONENTS:

- *CATEGORY:* Mathematics (M)
- *CATEGORY:* Laboratory Science (D)
- *CATEGORY:* Science, Technology, and Society (K)

EXEMPTION INFORMATION:

- Students entering Bethel in Fall 2024 or later:
 - with 30 to 59 credits must choose 2 of the following: M, D, or K.
 - with 60 or more credits are exempt from K and must choose 1 of the following: M or D.
 - with a completed MNTC, AA, BA, or BS degree are exempt from M, D, and K.

Mathematics (4 credit category) (M)

DESCRIPTION: Introduces foundational mathematical concepts and reviews and reinforces quantitative skills. Demonstrates pure mathematics as the foundation for the models in use. Students apply appropriate mathematical models and techniques to real-life quantitative problems in order to develop problem-solving skills. Topics addressed include (a) proportional thinking, with ratios, percentages, and decimals, (b) graphs and tables that illustrate trends, rates of change, slopes, and continuous and discrete data, (c) single variable problems, simple algebraic expressions with one unknown, and (d) elementary data analysis, such as unit and unit conversion, significant figures, and basic probability.

RATIONALE: Mathematical knowledge and skills are essential to decision making in daily life and many professional situations. It is necessary to ensure that all graduates have at least a minimal level of competence in them.

CONNECTION TO CAREER & LIFE BEYOND BETHEL (required syllabi statement as of FA24):

Mathematics (M-tag) courses at Bethel give students the opportunity to think critically and develop problem-solving skills. As a result of taking this course, students should be able to identify and respond to organizational needs by gathering and analyzing information, solving problems, and making decisions.

PREREQUISITE: Passage of appropriate placement test for some courses.

CLASS LEVEL: 100–200

RECOMMENDED CLASS SIZE: 30

OUTCOMES: The students will

Knowledge

1. Interpret proportional measures, graphs and tables, single variable problems, and data analysis.
2. Appreciate the usefulness and aesthetic beauty of mathematical reasoning and logical deduction.

Skills

1. Apply mathematical and quantitative models to the investigation and analysis and solution of real-world problems from more than one discipline.

TRANSFER and EXEMPTION INFORMATION:

- **Common Necessary Features:** (*minimum content & skills required for transfer courses*)
 - Proportional thinking (ratios, percentages, decimals graphs and tables) that illustrate single variable problems and data analysis
 - Application of math knowledge and concepts to real world problems from more than one discipline

- Development of problem-solving skills
- **Transfer Course Level:** 100 or higher
- **Transfer Course Credits:** 3 or more
- **Exemptions:** See Math, Science, and Technology page

Laboratory Science (4 credit category) (D)

DESCRIPTION: Introduces the process and concepts of modern science by focusing on one specific discipline. Provides a broad perspective on scientifically acquired knowledge, inductive methods, and experimental procedures. Provides a basis for considering implications for Christian stewardship of the natural world. Laboratory forms a central experiential component of each course, and the analytical procedures used there build and reinforce the student's mathematical competence.

RATIONALE: All students benefit from participation in studying the physical and biological universe. This strengthens and broadens their knowledge of one area of science while increasing their appreciation of the process of reaching consensus within the scientific community. The content of these courses provides a basis for considering implications for Christian stewardship of the natural world.

CONNECTION TO CAREER & LIFE BEYOND BETHEL (required syllabi statement as of FA24): Laboratory Science (D-tag) courses at Bethel give students the opportunity to build and maintain collaborative relationships while thinking critically, leveraging technologies, and working effectively toward common goals. As a result of taking this course, students should be able to build positive working relationships, gather and analyze information, and adapt to new and unfamiliar technologies.

PREREQUISITE: Some courses require mathematics prerequisites or skills as defined in the course description.

CLASS LEVEL: 100–200

RECOMMENDED CLASS SIZE: Variable with the size of the laboratory.

OUTCOMES: The students will

Knowledge

1. Identify key concepts and principles of the specific discipline studied.
2. Describe the processes by which modern science gains knowledge.
3. Relate the specific discipline to modern life and/or stewardship of God's creation.

Skills:

1. Use appropriate laboratory techniques for the discipline.

2. Apply proper methods in investigating, quantifying, and reasoning from scientific evidence.

TRANSFER and EXEMPTION INFORMATION:

- **Common Necessary Features:** (*minimum content & skills required for transfer courses*)
 - Concepts and process of modern science focused on one discipline
 - Relate discipline to modern life
 - Apply methods in investigating, quantifying, and reasoning from scientific evidence
 - Lab required
- **Transfer Course Level:** 100 or higher
- **Transfer Course Credits:** 3 or more
- **Exemptions:** See Math, Science, and Technology page

Science, Technology, and Society (4 credit category) (K)

DESCRIPTION: Addresses the linkage of science and technology with other aspects of contemporary society and the natural environment. Focuses on a technological issue that poses current and emerging choices and which rests on a body of scientific understanding. At least one third of the course addresses the scientific and technological content, and at least one-third integrates it with contemporary issues. Addresses the means and criteria by which society decides how to use and regulate the technology. Gives attention to historical perspectives, the relevant ethical and theological principles, and the mandates for Christian stewardship in response to future challenges. Applies and reinforces at least one of the topics of the mathematics category description.

RATIONALE: Technology as a social enterprise and specific technologies exert a wide range of impacts on personal and professional lives. These require intelligent learning and decision making on their applications by individuals, organizations, and governments.

CONNECTION TO CAREER & LIFE BEYOND BETHEL (required syllabi statement as of FA24): **Science, Technology, & Society** (K-tag) courses at Bethel engage students in understanding technology, critically and ethically evaluating the impact of technology on society, and integrating mathematical skills with contemporary issues. As a result of taking this class, students should be able to understand and leverage technologies ethically, act in the interest of the larger community, and identify and respond to needs based upon an understanding of situational context.

PREREQUISITES: One Mathematics and one Laboratory Science course.

CLASS LEVEL: 300

RECOMMENDED CLASS SIZE: 35

OUTCOMES: The students will

Knowledge

1. Understand the concept of technology and the means by which it emerges from scientific knowledge.
2. Define and analyze complex technological issues and their social, ethical and theological dimensions.

Skills

1. Apply a rational research and decision-making process to choices about the use of specific technologies.
2. Apply mathematical skills relevant to the course material.
3. Pursue wise and ethical approaches to the stewardship of scientific and technological capabilities.

POSSIBLE FEATURES:

1. Team teaching to draw on the perspectives of more than one discipline.
2. An off-campus component to provide a first-hand encounter with the subject matter.
3. An intensive focus on current and emerging information technology and its many prospects and applications.

TRANSFER and EXEMPTION INFORMATION:

- **Common Necessary Features:** (*minimum content & skills required for transfer courses*)
 - Links science and technology with contemporary society
 - Focuses on technological issues
 - At least 1/3 of course addresses scientific and technological context
 - At least 1/3 of integrates science with contemporary issues
 - Applies and reinforces at least one mathematical concept/skill
 - Gives attention to historical perspective
- **Transfer Course Level:** 200 or higher
- **Transfer Course Credits:** 3 or more
- **Exemptions:** See Math, Science, and Technology page

CULTURAL INTELLIGENCE

DESCRIPTION: Students explore and engage diverse cultures using a variety of methods and approaches. They build skills to communicate in a foreign language, develop a deeper understanding of modern American society and other cultures, and analyze systems based upon these diverse cultures.

RATIONALE: In a diverse world, students need a cultural vocabulary that enables them to grasp the presentness of the past and the dimensions of change leading to appreciation of the plurality of world-views and the means by which cultures are transmitted. They need to place their own culture in the context of those cultures that are significantly different from their own, and grasp the systems that organize peoples' common life.

GENERAL OUTCOMES: Upon completion of this theme, the students will

Knowledge

1. Identify the plurality of world-views, perspectives, and/or values.
2. Recognize the United States' inheritance from other cultures.
3. Compare mutual influences among nations, peoples, faiths, and/or cultures.
4. Analyze relationships and inequality within and between societies.
5. Analyze all cultures from a biblical perspective.

Skills

1. Develop a cultural competence to engage in discourse of meanings and traditions.
2. Communicate and collaborate effectively with diverse individuals.
3. Communicate at a Novice-High level of competence in a Second Language.

COMPONENTS:

1. *CATEGORY:* Second Language (S)
2. *CATEGORY:* Cross-cultural Experience (Z)
3. *CATEGORY:* Contemporary Western Life & Thought (L)
4. *CATEGORY:* World Cultures (U)
5. *CATEGORY:* Comparative Systems (G)

REQUIREMENTS and EXEMPTIONS:

- Students entering Bethel Fall 2024 or later:
 - with 0 to 29 credits are required to choose 4 categories: S, Z, L, U, or G.
 - with 30-59 credits are required to choose 3 categories: S, Z, L, U, or G.
 - with 60 or more credits are required to choose 2 categories: S, Z, L, U, or G.
 - with a completed MNTC, AA, BA, or BS degree are exempt from S, Z, L, U, and G.

Second Language (4 credit category) (S)

DESCRIPTION: Equips students to understand and communicate with people of other cultures at the Novice-High level on the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) proficiency scale. In the case of ancient languages that are taught at Bethel, (Biblical Greek, Biblical Hebrew, Classical Latin), students are able to use the language to engage the ideas of those cultures. Documented proficiency in other languages not offered at Bethel serves to meet the requirement of this category. Learning experiences are focused on the use of the language for communication purposes within a broader cultural context. Provides opportunities for students to compare, contrast, and analyze their culture with other cultures.

RATIONALE: An essential component of developing students' global perspective is the ability to interact with people who don't speak their language and an appreciation of the need for this ability. Students should be able to initiate conversations of at least a basic nature with people from cultural and linguistic groups other than their own or interact with the ideas communicated by other cultural groups. Grammar is not an end goal of these courses; rather it is a tool to be used from the very beginning of language study as a means of communicating our humanity as well as basic information. We learn to communicate by communicating, not by simply memorizing grammatical paradigms.

CONNECTION TO CAREER & LIFE BEYOND BETHEL (required syllabi statement as of FA24): **Second Language (S-tag)** courses at Bethel give students the opportunity to communicate and engage across cultures. As a result of taking this course, students should be able to minimize cross-cultural communication barriers and seek experiences that enhance one's understanding of different demographic groups.

PREREQUISITES: One semester of college level language or placement exam

CLASS LEVEL: 100

RECOMMENDED CLASS SIZE: 25

OUTCOMES: The students will

Knowledge

1. Understand the grammatical structure of a second language.
2. Describe the power of language to bridge and/or divide varying experiences of different cultural or linguistic groups.
3. Compare, contrast, and analyze one's culture with another culture.

Skills

1. Communicate at the Novice-High level of proficiency in a second language

2. Communicate effectively with diverse persons.

POSSIBLE FEATURES:

1. Participation in multilingual/multicultural communities
2. Use of language as a means of service
3. Attention to the values of peacemaking and service

REQUIREMENTS and EXEMPTIONS Information: See Cultural Intelligence page.

TRANSFER INFORMATION:

- **Common Necessary Features:** (*minimum content & skills required for transfer courses*)
 - Students use language for communication
 - Learn aspects of culture(s)
 - Understand grammatical structures at basic level (grammar is not the only focus)
 - Equivalent of 2nd semester of first language at the college level (e.g. Elementary, Introductory, Beginning) or a language course at a higher level
- **Transfer Course Level:** 100 or higher
- **Transfer Course Credits:** 3 or more

Cross-cultural Experience (0-4 credit category) (Z)

DESCRIPTION: Students experience an off-campus person-to-person (ideally one-on-one) intercultural engagement, of at least 25 hours with a specific cultural group that supports the development of awareness of one's own culture and the culture with which the student is interacting. (Culture can be defined as the values, beliefs, and behaviors of a group.) Students develop an increased understanding of the complexity and tension cultural difference has on interaction with others. Successful-Z-tag outcomes include students being able to identify and describe: (a) some behaviors, beliefs, and values of their own culture and the culture they are interacting with; (b) features of subgroups (e.g., class, gender, socioeconomic class, religion, etc.) within these cultures; and (c) the effect of their own cultural behavior, beliefs, and values on interactions with those from the other culture. Students learn methods of guided reflection and analysis that facilitate processing experiences of difference. The Z-tag experience places students in an experiential person-to-person learning environment (domestic or abroad) that includes faculty guided pre-experience preparation and post-experience processing. This requirement can be met by taking a course designated with a Z-tag, participating in an approved, non-credit experience, or by spending an approved semester abroad.

RATIONALE: In order for every Bethel graduate to have a fuller and deeper understanding of the differing perspectives inherent in different cultures, some experience in an environment different from the Bethel community culture is required.

CONNECTION TO CAREER & LIFE BEYOND BETHEL (required syllabi statement as of FA24): Cross-Cultural Experience (Z-tag) courses at Bethel give students the opportunity to increase awareness, knowledge, and skills required to equitably engage and include people from different local and global cultures. As a result of taking this course, students should be able to reflect on how their engagement with people across different demographic groups prepares them to live and work in a complex society and display curiosity for learning about different people and cultures.

OUTCOMES: The students will

Knowledge:

1. Identify and describe some values, beliefs, and behaviors of one's own culture.
2. Identify and describe some values, beliefs, and behaviors of the culture with which the student is interacting.
3. Identify and describe some distinguishing features of subgroups (e.g., class, gender, socioeconomic, religion, etc.) within these cultures.
4. Identify and describe how cultural difference impacts interactions.
5. Learn a method of guided reflection and analysis.

Skills:

1. Ask questions that lead to a deeper understanding of another culture.
2. Engage in active listening to gain understanding from interactions with someone from another culture.
3. Engage in person-to-person interactions with someone from another culture in a way that demonstrates an understanding of and respect for difference.

OPTIONS:

1. Z-tag course – Enroll in a course that has been approved by the General Education Committee as a Z-tag course (Z is part of the course number.)
2. Semester abroad – Complete an approved semester abroad program. (Must be completed during the years the student is enrolled at Bethel or at another college or university.)
3. Individualized cross-cultural experience –
 - a. Enroll in GES101* Pre-Intercultural Engagement Preparation
 - b. Participate in an approved cross-cultural experience (experience is evaluated for approval while enrolled in GES101)
 - c. Enroll in GES102Z* Post-Intercultural Engagement Processing

*For the individualized option, GES101 must be taken prior to participating in the cross-cultural experience. GES102Z must be completed after participating in the cross-cultural experience.

Examples of experiences that may qualify as a cross-cultural experience to fulfill the Z requirement are listed below. This list is illustrative, not exhaustive. The experience is evaluated for approval while enrolled in GE101 and must meet the requirements listed in the category description.

- Participation in a Spring Break trip to the Dominican Republic
- Service as a language partner for an international student at the University of Minnesota
- Participation in a service-learning or other cross-cultural experience in a Bethel course that is not a Z course. (Requires approval of the faculty member teaching the course, although this instructor is not responsible for overseeing or evaluating the Z requirements. Enrollment in GES101 and GES102Z required.)
- Service as a tutor or teacher for ESL students through a church program

REQUIREMENTS and EXEMPTIONS Information: See Cultural Intelligence page.

TRANSFER INFORMATION:

- **Common Necessary Features:** (*minimum content & skills required for transfer courses*)
 - Must be part of a credit bearing course. Regular transfer policies apply (e.g. grade of C or better, cannot be S/U.)
 - Minimum 25 hours person to person (preferably one on one) with someone from another culture
 - Develops awareness of one's own culture
 - Identification of values, beliefs, behaviors of a culture different from their own
 - Pre-experience preparation
 - Guided reflection
 - Method for understanding another culture
 - Post-experience processing
 - Students cannot use a previous experience for the Z requirement.
 - They can transfer in a college course they have taken that includes the elements above, passed with a grade of C or better, and for which they have received college credit.

NOTE: Students CANNOT use an "independent" experience (e.g. missions trip) that they have already completed to retroactively meet the Z requirement. (Independent cross-cultural experiences can be used to meet the Z requirement, but the student must take GES101 before or concurrently with the experience and then take GES102Z after the experience.

Contemporary Western Life & Thought (4 credit category) (L)

DESCRIPTION: The main focus of courses in this category is exploring contemporary American life, culture, and thought within the broad context of Western culture and thought. The courses build on the critical historical events, persons, movements, institutions, and world views of the enlightenment that have had phenomenal impact on the direction and evolution of Western life and culture. They address

the question, “What does it mean to live in a Western culture in the 21st century, given the influences of the past 200 years?” Courses explore some of the key historical and contemporary persons, events, movements, institutions, and worldviews that have shaped Western culture, with significant emphasis on the United States. While they are taught primarily from the perspective of one academic discipline, they use readings, materials, and insights from at least three disciplines. Although courses in this category might explore America’s European heritage, their core emphasis should be the unique nature of the American experience.

RATIONALE: It is essential for students to be able to situate their lives in the context of contemporary U.S. culture. By engaging students with the history and traditions of the past two centuries of Western life and thought, they develop a more complete understanding of how Western culture is related to other global perspectives and are better prepared to compare and contrast Western culture with those perspectives. In addition, these courses enable students to better comprehend the transition from modernity to postmodernity.

CONNECTION TO CAREER & LIFE BEYOND BETHEL (required syllabi statement as of FA24):

Contemporary Western Life and Thought (L-tag) courses give students the opportunity to identify and critically evaluate many of the factors that shape the complexity and diversity of the contemporary world. As a result of taking this class, students should be able to seek out and leverage diverse resources and feedback, explore information from a diverse set of sources and individuals to fully understand a problem, communicate clearly by summarizing and analyzing multiple sources, keep an open mind to diverse ideas and new ways of thinking, and understand how values can be leveraged to lead to social or organizational change.

PREREQUISITES: Christianity and Western Culture and Inquiry Writing Seminar (may be taken concurrently) or Western Humanity in Christian Perspective III (may be taken concurrently)

CLASS LEVEL: 200

RECOMMENDED CLASS SIZE: 30

OUTCOMES: The students will

Knowledge

1. Recognize the richness of contemporary Western culture in light of the influences of the past 200 years.
2. Distinguish between several of the diverse ideas, events, and/or persons that have shaped contemporary United States culture.
3. Critique and evaluate various Christian responses to contemporary United States and Western cultures.

Skill

1. Discern how one's values relate to new and changing situations and when to accommodate, resist, or attempt to change.

WRITING REQUIREMENTS: Students focus on comprehension by learning to paraphrase and summarize scholarly arguments. To fulfill this objective students will:

1. Complete writing assignments that summarize and interpret scholarly texts or primary sources chosen by the instructor.
2. Receive instruction/modeling from the instructor in methods of reading and comprehending such texts and formulating concise, coherent response essays that properly credit all sources.
3. Receive formative feedback on their writing to encourage improvement in successive assignments.

POSSIBLE FEATURES:

1. Interdisciplinary team teaching
2. Attention to the values of peacemaking, serving, and/or stewardship
3. Appropriate off-campus experiences

REQUIREMENTS and EXEMPTIONS Information: See Cultural Intelligence page.

TRANSFER INFORMATION:

- **Common Necessary Features:** (*minimum content & skills required for transfer courses*)
 - Contemporary American Life (last 200 years) (No more than 1/3 of course may be about historical periods prior to the 19th Century.)
 - Study of influence of last 200 years on life today
 - Core emphasis of the course is the unique nature of the American experience.
- **Transfer Course Level:** 100 or higher
- **Transfer Course Credits:** 3 or more

World Cultures (4 credit category) (U)

DESCRIPTION: Focuses primarily on one historical or contemporary cultural group whose ways of thinking and living are substantially different from the dominant cultures of Europe and North America. Generally, this is an Asian, African, Latin American, Middle Eastern, or Native American culture. The culture's religious/philosophical traditions, economic & political structures, socio-cultural frameworks are examined, along with the various influences that have acted upon the culture's history and development. Writings by and about the lives of those who have influenced the course of contemporary cultures and societies are included.

RATIONALE: A global perspective requires that, at some point, students encounter cultures and worldviews that are substantially different from their own ways of thinking and living. This allows them

to begin to recognize how their own culture surrounds and pervades aspects of their own life and challenges them to question or evaluate its assumptions and practices.

CONNECTION TO CAREER & LIFE BEYOND BETHEL (required syllabi statement as of FA24): World Cultures (U-tag) courses at Bethel give students the opportunity to think critically about the traditions, frameworks, and structures of cultures that are different from their own. As a result of taking this course, students should be able to recognize the diverse perspectives and lived experiences of neighbors and colleagues and demonstrate flexibility by adapting to diverse environments.

PREREQUISITE(S): Christianity and Western Culture or Western Humanity in Christian Perspective III (may be taken concurrently)

CLASS LEVEL: 200

RECOMMENDED CLASS SIZE: 30

OUTCOMES: The students will

Knowledge

1. Identify the interconnectedness of the culture being studied with other world cultures.
2. Analyze worldviews and ways of life from a variety of perspectives, including Christian.
3. Analyze how the culture has been transmitted and changed due to the influence of time, environment, and other cultures.

Skills

1. Develop a vocabulary that allows discourse between the culture being studied and one's own culture.
2. Show sensitivity to the ideas, points of view, and feelings of others when these differ from one's own.

POSSIBLE FEATURES:

1. Full text primary source reading assignments
2. Interdisciplinary team teaching
3. Off-campus multicultural interaction
4. Attention to the values of peacemaking and stewardship

WRITING REQUIREMENTS: Students will focus on skills of application, analysis, synthesis, and evaluation by learning to compare and compile ideas into coherent arguments, and then discover and construct relationships between those ideas and every day, modern life. To fulfill this objective students will:

1. Complete writing assignments that utilize two or more primary or scholarly sources (properly cited and referenced) to draw appropriate comparisons, find common threads, and combine ideas into meaningful arguments.
2. Receive formative feedback on all writing assignments to improve on successive assignments.
3. Complete at least one assignment that requires two preliminary steps in the writing process (thesis statement, outline, annotated bibliography, draft, etc.)

REQUIREMENTS and EXEMPTIONS Information: See Cultural Intelligence page.

TRANSFER INFORMATION:

- **Common Necessary Features:** (*minimum content & skills required for transfer courses*)
 - Study of one cultural group
 - Cultural group, such as Asian, African, Latin American, Middle Eastern, or Native American, different from dominant culture in the US or Europe
 - Religious/philosophical, economic/political and socio-cultural frameworks.
 - Writings by and about the lives of people of the culture.
- **Transfer Course Level:** 100 or higher
- **Transfer Course Credits:** 3 or more

Comparative Systems (4 credit category) (G)

DESCRIPTION: Compares and contrasts how societies in their large and small-scale manifestation develop mechanisms and strategies for dealing with numerous fundamental problems those individuals, groups, and institutions must resolve in order to progressively reproduce themselves. Engages students in the comparative examination of ideas, themes, processes, structures, institutions, or contemporary social, political, economic, religious, national, or international issues. Focuses on at least two distinctly different units of analysis, regions, or historical epochs. Deliberate attention is paid to the impact on different groups of the subject matter under consideration in a particular social and historical context. Students interact with “voices” (readings, materials, and insights) from the societies, regions, or the historical epoch being studied.

RATIONALE: Students must develop an understanding of how: a) all human societies or social groups share certain similar fundamental challenges and are unique in certain respects; b) given the same challenges, groups may adopt similar or varying mechanisms and strategies for confronting the challenges with varying degrees of success. Students should appreciate the diverse strategies used to resolve collective challenges in social environments and existential realities.

CONNECTION TO CAREER & LIFE BEYOND BETHEL (required syllabi statement as of FA24):

Comparative Systems (G-tag) courses at Bethel give students the opportunity to think critically and reflectively about how different socioeconomic, cultural, and religious systems impact the world both now and in the future. As a result of taking this class, students should be able to effectively communicate different information and ideas, gather and analyze data from a diverse set of sources to fully understand a problem, and advocate for inclusive and equitable practices that influence individuals, communities, and systems.

PREREQUISITES: (Christianity and Western Culture and Inquiry Writing Seminar) or Western Humanity in Christian Perspective III; and Contemporary Western Life and Thought or World Cultures.

CLASS LEVEL: 300

RECOMMENDED CLASS SIZE: 25

OUTCOMES: The student will

Knowledge

1. Identify external influences on all societies and cultures.
2. Describe common elements shared by all or different human societies.
3. Analyze how different ideas, social processes, economics, institutions, social and/or religious organizations may have similar consequences in different societies.
4. Think critically and reflectively about cultural, economic, and/or religious systems.

5. Evaluate the impact of present decisions on the future.

Skills

1. Develop effective writing and argumentation skills based on synthesis of numerous perspectives.

WRITING REQUIREMENTS: Students will focus on skills of application, analysis, synthesis, and evaluation by learning to compare and compile ideas into coherent arguments, and then discover and construct relationships between those ideas and every day, modern life. To fulfill this objective students will:

1. Complete writing assignments that utilize two or more primary or scholarly sources (properly cited and referenced) to draw appropriate comparisons, find common threads, and combine ideas into meaningful arguments.
2. Receive formative feedback on all writing assignments to improve on successive assignments.
3. Complete at least one assignment that requires two preliminary steps in the writing process (thesis statement, outline, annotated bibliography, draft, etc.)

POSSIBLE FEATURES:

1. Interdisciplinary team teaching.
2. Guided reflections such as journals, response papers, interpretive drama, or group discussion.
3. Collaborative project involving students and or members of an external community.
4. Experiential component to complement classroom lectures and discussion.
5. Attention to the values of peacemaking, service, and stewardship.
6. Use of primary sources.

REQUIREMENTS and EXEMPTIONS Information: See Cultural Intelligence page.

TRANSFER INFORMATION:

- **Common Necessary Features:** (*minimum content & skills required for transfer courses*)
 - Compares and contrasts societies or compares culture and subculture
 - Writing demonstrating synthesis of perspectives
- **Transfer Course Level:** 200 or higher
- **Transfer Course Credits:** 3 or more

SENIOR CAPSTONE

Contemporary Christian Issues (2 credit category) (P)

DESCRIPTION: Explores selected topics that challenge Christians to make personal and collective choices in light of their Christian values, education and personal experience. Emphasizes deeper levels of self-understanding or a sharpened sense of some of the complex issues present in our contemporary society. The primary goals are to cultivate holistic and biblically based views of oneself and the world and to facilitate ethical decision-making when facing these issues. Students explore alternative Christian worldviews that can define and guide decision-making and/or developing oneself. They examine a theme pertaining to one's personhood and/or relationship to a facet of contemporary society in order to personalize and integrate varied approaches to that issue as part of the process of formulating a personal ethic.

RATIONALE: It is important that students acquire the necessary skills to evaluate life issues through the lens of a Christian world-view. Students utilize various perspectives in approaching issues and making choices that affect their individual lives.

CONNECTION TO CAREER & LIFE BEYOND BETHEL (required syllabi statement as of FA24):

Contemporary Christian Issues (P-tag) courses at Bethel engage students in thinking maturely about their own faith identity and issues they will encounter in the world after graduation. As a result of taking this course, students should be able to communicate effectively with others who hold different perspectives and demonstrate career and self-development through curiosity, seeking opportunities to learn more, and learning to professionally advocate for oneself and others.

PREREQUISITES: Senior standing; Inquiry Writing Seminar or Western Humanity in Christian Perspective III; Christian Theology; and Contemporary Western Life and Thought or World Cultures or Comparative Systems.

CLASS LEVEL: 400

RECOMMENDED CLASS SIZE: 20

OUTCOMES: The students will

Knowledge

1. Explore and evaluate Christian worldviews and develop personal strategies to inform decision-making.
2. Critique alternative points of view to various life issues.

Skills

1. Write correctly, convincingly, and ethically.
2. Communicate with others clearly, authentically and ethically.
3. Establish a healthy Christian self-identity.

WRITING REQUIREMENT: Students will focus on evaluation of ideas and arguments, as evidenced by their ability to critique, choose, and defend points of view that have relevance to personal and societal issues. To fulfill this objective, students will

1. draw from several sources to describe the formative influences on their personal worldview,
2. address aspects of the issue that is the focus of the course from various points of view,
3. critique from an alternative point of view (along with their own) the target issue, and
4. identify personal judgments and decisions with regard to the target issue and justify those in light of data and worldview.

POSSIBLE FEATURES:

1. Interdisciplinary, integrative discussion and exploration focus

TRANSFER and EXEMPTION INFORMATION:

- **Common Necessary Features:** (*minimum content & skills required for transfer courses*)
 - P courses *must* be taken at Bethel. No transfer courses will be accepted to fulfill this requirement.
- **Exemptions:** None

Appendix A: General Education Outcomes

Approved by the Faculty

April 4, 2001

I. Knowledge

1. Bible and Christian Traditions
2. Cultures and Traditions
 - a. U.S.
 - b. Western
 - c. Non-Western
3. Natural World
4. Technology
5. The Arts
6. The Human Person
 - a. Human Nature
 - b. Self-understanding
 - c. Human Relationships

II. Skills

1. Collaborating
 - a. With diverse individuals
 - b. With diverse cultures & ethnic groups
 - c. Conflict resolution
 - d. Cultivating the irenic spirit
2. Communicating
 - a. Writing
 - b. Speaking
 - c. Understanding
 - d. Creative/symbolic expression
 - e. Facility in more than one language
3. Critical & Creative Thinking
 - a. Reasoning
 - b. Analyzing
 - c. Investigating
 - d. Inquiring
 - e. Integrating
 - f. Imagining
 - g. Problem solving
 - h. Quantifying
 - i. Information Literacy
4. Healthy Living
 - a. Physically
 - b. Emotionally
 - c. Relationally
 - d. Spiritually
 - e. Morally

III. Values

1. Christian Piety
2. Integrity
3. Learning
4. Peacemaking
 - a. Reconciliation
 - b. Justice
 - c. Empathy
5. Serving
 - a. Civic
 - b. Humanitarian
 - c. Leadership
 - d. Ministry
6. Stewardship
 - a. Economic
 - b. Environmental
 - c. Personal
 - d. Aesthetic

Appendix B: Detailed General Education Outcomes

I. KNOWLEDGE

1. BIBLE & CHRISTIAN TRADITIONS

- A. Recognize the content, context, history and truth of the Bible.
- B. Discern the biblical values that will govern one's conscience, judgments, goals, and decisions.
- C. Apply the essentials of theology to the complexity of its application to human situations.

2. CULTURE & TRADITIONS

- A. Identify the plurality of world-views, perspectives, and/or values.
- B. Recognize the United States' inheritance from other cultures.
- C. Describe the power of language to bridge and/or divide varying experiences of different cultural or linguistic groups.
- D. Compare, contrast, and analyze one's culture with another culture.
- E. Compare the mutual influences among nations, peoples, faiths, and/or cultures.
- F. Analyze the cause and effect relationship inherent in decisions made by institutions and individuals.
- G. Analyze relationships and inequality within and between societies.
- H. Analyze cultures from a biblical perspective.

3. NATURAL WORLD

- A. Identify key concepts in one of the natural sciences.
- B. Explain the process of scientific research and the methods for reaching consensus within the scientific communities.

4. TECHNOLOGY

- A. Understand the concept of technology and the means by which it emerges from scientific knowledge.
- B. Explain the process by which scientific knowledge is applied through technology.
- C. Critique the impact of technology on society for selected issues.

5. THE ARTS

- A. Recognize elements of the creative genre being studied.
- B. Recognize the aesthetic nature of the creative arts and their role in human experience.
- C. Develop artistic literacy.
- D. Reflect on and critically evaluate a wide range of creative arts from a Christian worldview.
- E. Show imagination and originality in formulating hypotheses, ideas, models, and/or works of art.

- F. Apply a Christian worldview to artistic reflection.

6. THE HUMAN PERSON

- A. Describe how physical, psychological, social, and/or spiritual aspects contribute to one's personal identity.
- B. Describe strategies for achieving and maintaining physical well-being.
- C. Compare and contrast various fundamental ideas about human nature.
- D. Analyze the relationship between physical health, activity, overall well-being, lifelong personal stewardship, and/or social responsibility.

II. SKILLS

1. COLLABORATING

- A. Understand and appreciate diversity.
- B. Develop a vocabulary that allows discourse between the culture being studied and one's own culture.
- C. Develop a cultural competence to engage in discourse of meanings and traditions.
- D. Describe the common elements shared by all or different human societies.
- E. Communicate and collaborate effectively with diverse individuals.
- F. Show sensitivity to the ideas, points of view, and feelings of others when these differ from one's own.
- G. Analyze how different ideas, social processes, economics, institutions, social and/or religious organizations may have similar consequences in different societies.
- H. Reflect on one's own cultural identity and the factors contributing to the formation of values, attitudes and beliefs of self and others.

2. COMMUNICATING

- A. Work cooperatively and effectively with others.
- B. Write clearly, ethically, and appropriately for the target audience.
- C. Express themselves through appropriate aesthetic, creative, and symbolic means.
- D. Communicate at a Novice-High level of competence in a Second Language.
- E. Communicate clearly, effectively, authentically and ethically with diverse persons.

3. CRITICAL & CREATIVE THINKING

- A. Acquire skills in the appropriate interpretation and application of scripture to personal issues and current issues.
- B. Use biblical and theological principles to live and act influentially in society.
- C. Research a topic from a variety of reputable sources.
- D. Formulate, develop, and support a thesis.
- E. Interpret and evaluate works in the creative arts.
- F. Apply basic exegetical principles to Biblical content.
- G. Apply selected mathematical, computational, and/or logical principles to problem solving.

- H. Apply mathematical and quantitative models to the investigation and analysis and solution of real-world problems from more than one discipline.
- I. Apply proper methods in investigating, quantifying, and reasoning from scientific evidence.

4. HEALTHY LIVING

- A. Describe how to pursue a healthy self-identity and lifestyle.
- B. Discern how one's values relate to new and changing situations and when to accommodate, resist, or attempt to change the situation.
- C. Apply physical activity to promote personal well-being.
- D. Practice ethical and legal responsibilities of living in a digital age.

III. VALUES

This General Education curriculum affirms the values that emerged from faculty discussion and that were adopted by the faculty on April 4, 2001. These values are: Christian piety, integrity, scholarship, peacemaking, serving, and stewardship, along with several subgoals. Certainly, the faculty promotes many other values in their teaching, but these are broadly representative.

There is good reason not to place specific values into each program category. The first three values in the list are understood to have a place in every course, allowing for different ways to promote them. The last three can be developed in many courses, and the proposal includes them as possible features in categories and courses where they are deemed particularly relevant.

Students' value development must occur in their entire course of study, both in the general education program and their major and elective courses. No single course can be expected to produce a particular value outcome by itself. Rather, the general education program is designed to provide a common base for faculty members to discern how best to foster the development of all six values in each course, given its discipline and methods.

Appendix C: General Education Policies

1. All General Education courses must be approved through the normal curriculum review and approval process. No petitions to substitute a non-General Education Bethel course for a General Education requirement will be approved. An existing Bethel course may never be used to fulfill a General Education requirement until it has been approved by the General Education Committee through the established course approval process.
2. Each course that carries a General Education tag contains components and requirements unique to that tag. These components and requirements are integral and necessary parts of the course. Students must satisfy all course components and requirements, even if they have previously completed another course containing that tag, or are taking another course with that tag in the same semester. For example, a student taking more than one "Z" tagged course must complete all "Z" tag components and requirements in each course.
3. General Education courses, with the exception of Cross-cultural Experience (Z) courses, may not be taken as a Directed Study. General Education courses may be taken as a Course by Arrangement only when they meet all requirements in the policy on Course by Arrangement.
4. Students may not register for more than one P course per semester. Students who have completed one Contemporary Christian Issues (P) course must obtain the consent of the instructor to take an additional course in this category.
5. No more than three (3) courses may be used to meet both General Education requirements and requirements for a major. Exceptions may be made for accredited programs, at the discretion of the General Education Committee. A Cross-cultural Experience (Z) course does not count toward these three courses.
6. General Education requirements may total no more than 56 credits.
7. Prerequisites for all courses within a General Education category or for a stand-alone General Education course must be the same. General Education courses are open to all students who have met the General Education prerequisites.
8. Students should submit their petitions directly to the Office of the Registrar for evaluation. In consultation with the General Education Committee, the Registrar's office reviews all transfer work to determine General Education equivalencies. Students should use the petition form found on the [Registrar's website](#) when petitioning a course requirement. Department chairs may not approve or deny a petition for General Education requirements. Course petitions for study abroad courses must also be approved by the Office of International and Off-Campus Programs.
9. With the exception of three requirements, General Education requirements must be completed through courses taken at Bethel or at another accredited college or university or through CLEP/AP/International Baccalaureate exams. Exceptions include:

- a. Second Language (S) – See proficiency testing options in the section of the General Education document that applies to this category as well as in the appendixes.
- b. Artistic Experience (A) – See experience options in the section of the General Education document that applies to this category.
- c. Cross-cultural Experience (Z) – See experience options in the section of the General Education document that applies to this category.

Appendix D: Second Language Requirement

Students may fulfill Bethel's language requirement, which includes credits and the S-tag, by:

1. Completing the second semester of the first year of a (beginning or introductory) college-level language class or higher with a passing grade at Bethel University (e.g., FRE 102S Introductory French II).
2. Completing the second semester of a first-year (introductory or beginning) college-level language class or higher with a grade of C or higher at another college/university (any language other than English).
3. Earning a score of 3 or better on an Advanced Placement language exam or a score of 50 or better on a language CLEP test.
4. Heritage and native speakers of languages other than English may fulfill the requirement by passing a language proficiency assessment interview with the Director of Language Placement. As an alternative, students may petition to have the S-tag waived with no credits added to their transcript.

(Policy adopted by CAS Faculty Senate, December 7, 2022.)

Language Placement Testing

See the World Languages and Cultures webpage for additional information:

<https://www.bethel.edu/undergrad/academics/languages-cultures/language-placement/>

Appendix E: Previous Entry Standing Charts

2023 Entry Standing Chart

Gen Ed Requirements by Entry Standing Level Fall 2023	Level 1 0-29 credits	Level 2 30-59 credits	Level 3 60-90+ credits	Completed MNTC	Completed A.A., B.A., or B.S.
Personal Development					
GES125: Introduction to the Creative Arts	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Artistic Experience (A)	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
GES160: Inquiry Writing Seminar	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
GES140: Introduction to Well-Being*	Yes	No	No	No	No
Biblical Foundations					
BIB101: Introduction to the Bible	Yes	Choose 2:	Choose 1:	Choose 1:	Choose 1:
THE201: Christian Theology	Yes	1 must be	Must be	Must be	Must be
Interpreting Biblical Themes (J)	Yes	at Bethel	at Bethel	at Bethel	at Bethel
Science, Technology, and Society					
Mathematics (M)	Yes	Choose 2:	Choose 1:	No	No
Laboratory Science (D)	Yes	M, D, or	D or M	No	No
Science, Technology, and Society (K)	Yes	K	No	No	No
Global Perspectives					
GES130: Christianity and Western Culture*	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Contemporary Western Life and Thought (L)	Yes	No	No	No	No
Comparative Systems (G)	Yes	Choose 1:	Choose 1:	No	No
World Cultures (U)	Yes	G or U	G, S, or	No	No
Second Language (S)	Yes	Choose 1: S	U	No	No
Cross-Cultural Experience (Z)	Yes	or Z	No	No	No
Senior Capstone					
Contemporary Christian Issues (P)*	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Total Gen Ed credits (maximum)	54	37	18	10	10
Interims completed at Bethel	3	2	1	2	1

Yes = Students must take course

No = Student is exempt from taking course

*Must be taken at Bethel

**GES 160 Inquiry Writing Seminar includes both speaking and writing components. GES160 can be fulfilled by transferring in courses that fulfill the writing component (GES161 Inquiry: Writing) and the speaking component (GES162 Inquiry: Speaking). Students may also transfer a course that meets the writing component (GES161 Inquiry: Writing) and take one of the following Speaking courses: COM110 Basic Communication , COM324 Professional and Technical Communication , COM386 Advanced Public Speaking , or COM387 Speaking in Ministry Contexts at Bethel.

2022 Entry Standing Chart

General Education Requirements by Entry Standing 2022	Level 1 0-29 credits	Level 2 30-59 credits	Level 3 60-90+ credits	Completed MNTC	Completed AA, BA, or BS
Personal Development					
GES125 Introduction to the Creative Arts	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Artistic Experience (A)	Yes	Yes	Choose 1: A or Q course	No	No
Leisure and Lifetime Sport (Q)	Yes	Yes		No	No
GES140 Introduction to Wellbeing*	Yes	No	No	No	No
GES160 Inquiry Seminar**	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Biblical Foundations					
BIB101 Introduction to the Bible	Yes	Choose 2: One must be at Bethel	Choose 1: Must be at Bethel	Choose 1: Must be at Bethel	Choose 1: Must be at Bethel
THE201 Christian Theology	Yes				
Interpreting Biblical Themes (J)	Yes				
Math, Science, and Technology					
Mathematics (M)	Yes	Choose 2: M, D, or K course	Choose 1: M, D, or K course	No	No
Laboratory Science (D)	Yes			No	No
Science, Technology, and Society (K)	Yes			No	No
Global Perspectives					
GES130 Christianity and Western Culture*	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Contemporary Western Life and Thought (L)	Yes	No	No	No	No
Comparative Systems (G)	Yes	Choose 1: G or U course	Choose 1: G, S, or U course	No	No
World Cultures (U)	Yes			No	No
Second Language (S)	Yes	Choose 1: S or Z course	No	No	No
Cross-cultural Experience (Z)	Yes			No	No
Senior Capstone					
Contemporary Christian Issues (P)*	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Credit Totals	49-50	34	18	10	10
Other Requirements					
Interims that must be completed at Bethel	3	2	1	2	1

Yes = Students must take course

No = Student is exempt from taking course

*Must be taken at Bethel

**GES 160 *Inquiry Seminar* includes both speaking and writing components. GES160 can be fulfilled by transferring in courses that fulfill the writing component (GES161 *Inquiry: Writing*) and the speaking component (GES162 *Inquiry: Speaking*). Students may also transfer a course that meets the writing component (GES161 *Inquiry: Writing*) and take one of the following Speaking courses: COM110 *Basic Communication*, COM324 *Professional and Technical Communication*, COM386 *Advanced Public Speaking*, or COM387 *Speaking in Ministry Contexts* at Bethel.

2019 Entry Standing Chart

General Education Requirements by Entry Standing 2019	Freshman Fewer than 30 credits	Sophomore 1 30-44 credits	Sophomore 2 45-59 credits	Junior At least 60 credits	Senior At least 90 credits	Completed MNTC	Completed AA, BA, or BS
Personal Development							
GES125 Introduction to the Creative Arts	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Artistic Experience (A)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
GES160 Inquiry Seminar**	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
GES140 Introduction to Wellbeing*	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No
Leisure and Lifetime Sport (Q)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Biblical Foundations							
BIB101 Introduction to the Bible	Yes	Choose 2: One must be at Bethel	Choose 2: One must be at Bethel	Choose 1: Must be at Bethel	Choose 1: Must be at Bethel	Choose 2: One must be at Bethel	Choose 1: Must be at Bethel
THE201 Christian Theology	Yes						
Interpreting Biblical Themes (J)	Yes						
Math, Science, and Technology							
Mathematics (M)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Laboratory Science (D)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Science, Technology, and Society (K)	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
Global Perspectives							
GES130 Christianity and Western Culture*	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Contemporary Western Life and Thought (L)	Yes	Yes	Choose L or G	No	No	No	No
Comparative Systems (G)	Yes	Yes		No	Choose 1: G, S, U, Z	No	No
Second Language (S)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		No	No
World Cultures (U)	Yes	Yes	No	No		No	No
Cross-cultural Experience (Z)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes
Senior Capstone							
Contemporary Christian Issues (P)*	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Credit Totals	49-50	46-47	40-41	28-29	25-29	19	10
Other Requirements							
Interims that must be completed at Bethel	3	3	2	1	0	2	1

Yes = Students must take course

No = Student is exempt from taking course

*Must be taken at Bethel

**GES 160 *Inquiry Seminar* includes both speaking and writing components. GES160 can be fulfilled by transferring in courses that fulfill the writing component (GES161 Inquiry: Writing) and the speaking component (GES162 Inquiry: Speaking). Students may also transfer a course that meets the writing component (GES161 Inquiry: Writing) and take one of the following Speaking courses: COM110 *Basic Communication*, COM318 *Argumentation and Debate*, COM324 *Professional and Technical Communication*, COM386 *Advanced Public Speaking*, or COM387 *Speaking in Ministry Contexts* at Bethel.

2018 Entry Standing Chart

General Education Requirements by Entry Standing 2018/2019	1 0-25 Credits	2 26-43 Credits	3 44-57 Credits	4 58-89 Credits	5 90+ Credits	Completed MNTC	Completed AA, BA, or BS
Personal Development							
GES125 Introduction to the Creative Arts ²	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Artistic Experience (A)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
GES160 Inquiry Seminar ²	Yes ³	Yes ³	Yes ³	Yes ³	Yes ³	No	No
GES140 Introduction to Wellbeing ¹	Yes ⁴	Yes or PEA100	Yes or PEA100	No	No	Yes	No
Leisure and Lifetime Sport (Q)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Biblical Foundations¹							
BIB101 Introduction to the Bible	Yes	Choose 2: One must be at Bethel	Choose 2: One must be at Bethel	Choose 1: Must be at Bethel	Choose 1: Must be at Bethel	Choose 2: One must be at Bethel	Choose 1: Must be at Bethel
THE201 Christian Theology ²	Yes						
Interpreting Biblical Themes (J)	Yes						
Math, Science, and Technology							
Mathematics (M)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Laboratory Science (D)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Science, Technology, and Society (K)	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
Global Perspectives							
GES130 Christianity and Western Culture ^{1,2}	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Contemporary Western Life and Thought (L) ²	Yes	Yes	Choose or G L	No	No	No	No
Comparative Systems (G)	Yes	Yes		No	Choose 1: G, S, U, Z	No	No
Second Language (S)	Yes	Yes	Yes	No		No	No
World Cultures (U)	Yes	Yes	No	No		No	No
Cross-cultural Experience (Z) ¹	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Senior Capstone							
Contemporary Christian Issues (P) ¹	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Other Requirements							
Interims that must be completed at Bethel	3	2	2	1	0	2	1

¹ Must be taken at Bethel

² This requirement can also be met through Bethel's four-course Humanities Program (GES145, GES147, GES244, GES246).

³ This requirement can be met by certain transfer courses or exams (such as AP, IB, or CLEP) focused on College Composition.

⁴ Until Fall 2019, students who completed a course equivalent to PEA100 prior to entering Bethel may use that course to meet this requirement

Yes = Students must take course

No = Student is exempt from taking course

Appendix F: Comprehensive List of Required Catalog Edits

(Note: page numbers refer to 2022-2023 General Education Curriculum PDF.)

College of Arts & Sciences Philosophy of Higher Education (p. 19)

- Update categories.

General Education (pp. 21-22)

- Update categories, tags, policies.

General Education Requirements and Prerequisites (pp. 22-23)

- Update table.

Themes of the General Education Curriculum (pp. 26-33)

- Update categories and courses: titles, descriptions, requirements and prerequisites transfer level and credits, requirement and exemption information, common necessary features).

General Education Curriculum Diagram (p. 34)

- Replace two pyramid diagrams with the new single diagram.

General Requirements for a Baccalaureate Degree (pp. 46-47)

- Update Item 4: residency requirements.
- Updated Item 5: new minimum of 4 Biblical Foundation credits.
- Update Item 10: writing courses: add World Cultures (U).

General Requirements for an Associate of Arts Degree (pp. 47-48)

- Update required courses, credit total, and *Additional Requirements*.

General Education Entry Standing (p. 66)

- Update introduction and Entry Standing Chart.

An overview of how to use this catalog (p. 73)

- Update *General Education Category Designators*.
- Update *General Education Prerequisites* chart.