What is a Learning Community?

A learning community (LC) is usually a combination of two courses organized around a common theme. The connection between the subject matter in each course is emphasized so that information and skills learned in one of the courses can be applied to the other courses in the learning community. The same students enroll in all the courses in a learning community and the instructors team teach. Students learn collaboratively and assignments are integrated. At the end of the semester, each student gets a grade and credit for each of the courses that are part of the learning community.

Why should I join a Learning Community?

- LCs build confidence and skills you will need wherever you go.
- LCs help you meet cool, new friends!
- LCs give you one-on-one help from TWO professors!
- LCs make required courses FUN!
- LCs prepare you for any career.
- LCs explore cool topics!
- LCs get you six credits (usually).
LC 101: Surviving: The Power of the Human Spirit  (6 credits)

How do men and women overcome unexpected crises and climb out of poverty or rise above abusive working conditions? In this LC, we will read memoirs, articles, essays, and short stories, to explore the inner strength that people discover when they experience injustice, exploitation, displacement, discrimination, racial profiling, and other difficult circumstances. What are the psychological qualities of a survivor? How do survivors connect to other people and communities? We'll examine the transformative role adversity can play in elevating the human spirit. The writing assignments will include some personal experience but mostly will be based on the readings and will include one research essay. This semester we will focus on the theme of survival as it pertains to food insecurity, worker exploitation, immigration difficulties, and racism. Pre-requisites: Recommendation of ESL 141 instructor, ENG095, placement test, or permission of LC instructors

Matin, ESL 151: MWF 9-9:50 (web) & MWF 10-10:50
Monize, ENG 101: MF 11-12:15
Blended/remote

CRN ESL 151.01: 10251
CRN ENG 101.06: 10362

To be registered in this LC you must register in each of its courses individually.
Who was the first great forensic scientist? Sherlock Holmes, of course. The fictional detective realized 130 years ago that fingerprints could be used to catch killers. At the time, this was mere invention, but by 1900 police would be using the scientific methods imagined by Sherlock Holmes to solve actual crimes. Ever since, countless writers have created characters who solve (and sometimes commit) crimes. This course will examine the fictional creations—in stories, novels, movies, and TV series—while also studying the real science of forensic investigation. This course combines FRS 100 (Forensic Science for Non-Majors) and ENG 102: Composition II, so students will receive laboratory science and required English credits. By the end of the semester, we hope to make sense of where fiction ends and reality begins. Warning: Some graphic content, including depictions of sexual violence, will be part of the reading and viewing in this course. Students will produce at least 3000 words of formal written work, including a documented essay of at least 1250 words. Prerequisite: English 101 with a grade of C- or higher.
Because I am a woman, I must make unusual efforts to succeed. If I fail, no one will say, “She doesn’t have what it takes.” They will say, “Women don’t have what it takes.” – Clare Boothe Luce

Women’s marches of 2017. Second Wave feminism. Rosie the Riveter. Surviving the Great Depression. The fight for the vote. Triangle Factory Fire. Anti-lynching campaigns. Slavery. Native American resistance. Throughout American History, women have persisted by negotiating the often oppressive political, social, economic, and cultural forces that shape their lives. Integrating the study of history and acting techniques, we will bring to life the stories of specific women in order to better understand the diversity of all women’s experiences. We will explore the ways in which notions of gender differences have changed over time and how women both created and responded to shifting and contested cultural, political, and social roles. Some of the major themes include the differences among women in class, race, ethnicity, and sexuality, the construction of gender, women’s roles in family and community, various movements for women's rights, women and reform, and women in the work force. Class format will include interactive discussion, critical reading and writing, improvisational techniques, and performances of monologues and scenes. Prerequisite: Eligibility for ENG 101
The Covid pandemic has subjected and continues to subject millions of lives to precarity. It has shattered economies across the globe, and left millions of Americans, in particular, jobless and highly vulnerable – witness the literally thousands of cars lining up for food donations across the nation -- and the future portends more of the same if not, indeed, far worse economic conditions. Simultaneously, we live amidst what many of us believe to be worst crisis to ever confront humanity: anthropogenic climate destabilization. Please join us in our LC as we explore two specific topics: work and the ecological crisis under the new normal of the pandemic. We will begin with a brief examination of the history and subsequent development of labor practices, especially how the advent of the social formation of capitalism has radically altered conceptions of labor. Then we will explore the contours of the ecological crisis and one prominent response to that crisis: ecosocialism. The alienation of nature and of human beings compels us to rethink the economic, social, political, cultural, and environmental norms of capitalist society. In order to propel this rethinking of the capitalist social formation, our inquiry will be informed by a variety of sources, including indigenous knowledges, ecofeminist critiques, classic works in political economy, and current scholarship in ecosocialist political ecology.

Clinton, POL 150: TR 2-3:15
Hanover, PHI 130: TR 12:30-1:45
Blended/remote

CRN POL 150.01: 10945
CRN PHI 130.01: 11024

To be registered in this LC you must register in each of its courses individually.
According to sociologist Anibal Quijano, “…race became the fundamental criterion…” in the stratification of the populations of the Americas. This inter institutional learning community will explore the social, cultural, and political constructions of race and ethnicity in Latin America and their connections with the processes of class, gender, and national formation in the region. We will explore Latin America from its indigenous and colonial roots through struggles for national liberation to movements for Pan Latin American solidarity in the era of neoliberalism and globalization. Students will have an opportunity to learn about the complex racial formations as well as the historical and political context of Latin America. Students will have an opportunity to have a deep intellectual engagement with Latin American history, culture, and politics. This blended/remote Learning Community will be co-taught by faculty from HCC and Westfield State University, and will co-enroll students from both institutions. Prerequisites: SOC 110, ENG 101. Taught in English

Gutierrez, SPA 209: MF 11-12:15
Aquino, SOC 220: MWF 10-11

CRN SPA 209.01: 11443
CRN SOC 220.01: 11498
Blended/remote

To be registered in this LC you must register in each of its courses individually.
Linked Course: LAND, WATER, AIR
ENV 140: Environmental History (4 credits) & ENG 102: Composition II (3 credits)

Interested in integrative learning but not ready to dive into an LC? A linked course may be the choice for you.

Trobaugh, ENG 102: MWF 10-10:50
CRN ENG 102.07: 10234

Carpenter, ENV 140: MWF 9-9:50
CRN ENV 140.01: 10235 & choose a lab section
CRN ENV 140.06 (R 11-1:30): 10239 (lab)
CRN ENV 140.07 (R 2-4:30): - 10785 (lab)

Both courses remote
Got Questions?

Feel free to contact Diane Beers and Mary Orisich at: lcprograms@hcc.edu

Or at the Integrative Learning Programs, Frost 270
LCs Are For Everyone!

LCs Are For YOU!