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).
A little bit about the “lingo”...

- OL = Fully Online
- OC = On Campus
- HB = Hybrid (some parts of course OL, some parts OC)
LC 101: Rebel Women: The Struggle for Equity and Justice (6 credits)

“You have to act as if it were possible to radically transform the world. And you have to do it all the time.”
Angela Davis

Throughout U.S. History, diverse women resisted the oppressive political, social, economic, and cultural forces that shaped their lives. By exploring the many ways they fought back against those forces, we will bring to life representative stories to help us better understand the diversity of all women’s experiences. We will unpack how the social constructions 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 communities, movements for equity and justice, women and reform, and women in the workforce. Class format will include interactive discussion, critical reading, and writing.

Prerequisites: English 101

To be registered in this LC you must register in each of its courses individually.

Beers, HIS 130.65: MW 12:30-1:20 & Online (HB)
Kennedy, ENG 102.01: MW 1:30-2:20 & Online (HB)

CRN HIS 130.65: 10687
CRN ENG 102.01: 10688
LC 102: “Juntos Podemos/Together We Can”: Education and Community Organizing in Holyoke (6 credits)

This learning community will explore the education and community organizing in America. Holyoke, “an immigrant city”, will be the case study of the interconnectedness of community and education. The class will review historical, political, cultural, racial, and social underpinnings in education and organizing, as well as explore how these influenced each other. The course will also examine the current standards, requirements, and trends in early childhood through secondary education. The students will read and analyze literary, philosophical, political, and historical works, as well as gain experience in historical research in primary sources. A ten-hour field study in an educational setting is required.

Prerequisite: Eligibility to ENG 095

Graziano, EDU 100.01: TR 8:00 - 9:15 (OC)
Clinton, HIS 114.01: TR 9:30-10:45 (OC)

CRN EDU 100.01: 10875
CRN HIS 114.01: 10876

To be registered in this LC you must register in each of its courses individually.
LC 103: Writing for Our Lives: Stories of Women and Power
(6 credits)

What does it mean to share our own truth? How can we do that in writing? What impact can our words have on us and the world around us?

Writing for Our Lives: Stories of Women and Power explores the impact of personal narrative from a multidisciplinary and intersectional perspective, considering the role of identity in shaping one's message. Students of ALL genders will have the opportunity to analyze, interpret, synthesize, and reflect on women’s writing, consider the impact of that writing, and incorporate techniques that they find to be effective into their own written work, all in the context of an intellectually rich and supportive environment.

Prerequisite: Appropriate scores on English placement tests or a grade of C- or higher in ENG 095.

Giannelli, WST 100.01: TR 11:00 -12:15 (OC)
Mahon, ENG 101.10:: TR 12:30-1:45 (OC)

CRN WST 100.01: 10874
CRN ENG 101.10: 10877

To be registered in this LC you must register in each of its courses individually.
LX 100.01: Kids’ Stuff:
The Material Culture of Childhood

Picture a kid’s bedroom, or bunk area, or classroom. What ‘stuff’ would you expect to see there? How would your expectations change based on the time period or place? What would those objects tell us about what that child’s society expected of them, or hoped or feared from them? And if we looked more deeply at where that kid’s stuff came from, what might we learn about the relative power and influence their country holds in the world or what position their family holds in their country? In this Collaborative Learning Community, students may take either ANT 101.01 CRN 10793 or ENG 102.05 CRN 10361 or both in order to explore these questions about cultures of childhood. Both classes will explore this theme in different ways, through readings in anthropology, children’s media, economics, laws governing childhood, and even analyses of toys, games, and architecture. The classes will share a few readings and assignments to expand our discussions, but there is no obligation to take both classes.

Prerequisites: English 101

Lesley, ENG 102.05: MWF 12:30-1:20 (OC)
Martinez, ANT 101.01: TR 9:30-10:45 (OC)

CRN ANT 101.01: 10361
CRN ENG 102.05: 10793

In this Collaborative/Linked Learning Community, students may take either ANT 101 or ENG 102 or both
LX 101.01: Survival of the Human Spirit: Studying Endurance through the Lens of ESL 155 and ENG 095 (linked course - 9 credits)

How do we overcome unexpected crises and rise through global and local challenges? How do we meet and respond to the suffering that follows? In this LC we will read a memoir, articles, essays, and short stories to explore the inner strength that we discover when we encounter the unknown. The writing assignments will include personal experience and will respond to the readings; a short reflective essay will be included. This semester we will focus on the theme of meeting uncertainty and the impact it has on all aspects of our daily lives. In particular, we will look at how we respond when the basic pillars in our society are shaken or shattered, when our basic expectations and needs are not met, when we suddenly feel groundless, isolated by actual pandemics and those of beliefs, biases, racism, and fear.

Prerequisites: ENG 085 with a C- or better; or appropriate Placement Test scores

Monize, ENG 095.65: MW 8-8:50 + Online (HB)
Matin, ESL 155.65: MW 9-10:50 + Online (HB)

ENG 095.65: CRN 10929
ESL 155.65: CRN 10907

To be registered in this LC you must register in each of its courses individually.
Got Questions?

Feel free to contact Raúl D. Gutiérrez at:

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LCs Are For Everyone!

LCs Are For YOU!