

Liberal Studies Program

Learning Outcomes and Writing Expectations

FOCAL POINT SEMINAR

Approved by the Liberal Studies Council, Spring 2006, revised April 2011

Learning Outcomes:

1. Students will discuss and analyze work from at least three different fields in their written work for the course.
2. Students will participate actively in advancing the collective intellectual understanding of the course topic through class discussions.
3. Students will be able to distinguish between primary and secondary sources, and to assess varying degrees of mediation and interpretation in specific source materials.
4. Students will construct arguments based on evidence and the work and interpretations of other sources.
5. Students will revise papers in response to the instructor's comments.
6. Students will produce a project with a central argument, in which all parts of the project support the central argument.

Writing Expectations:

The Focal Point Seminar is designated a writing intensive course in the Liberal Studies Program; assignments are designed to develop writing skills. A minimum of 12-20 pages of writing is required with at least one piece of formal writing that goes through a revision process based on feedback from the instructor.