

Dr. George Cronk  
Chair, BCC Committee on General Education  
Report to Faculty Senate – including proposal to add ANT-100 to the GE course list  
4/26/05

1. GE website – [www.bergen.edu/gened](http://www.bergen.edu/gened)

- NJ Statewide Articulation Agreement Between Two-Year and Four-Year Colleges and Universities
- New GE Course Certification Process (approved by Faculty Senate on 12/14/04)
- Required Syllabus Format for BCC General Education Courses
- All GE Committee meeting minutes since October 3, 1996
- And other materials

2. Major developments in 2004-2005:

- a. The new Course Certification process and policies (mentioned above)
- b. Statewide General Education Work Group Conference at BCC on Friday, October 28, in TEC-128.
- c. Sub-Committee on BCC's Diversity Course Policy.

The GE Committee decided this year that there is a need to re-visit the ideas and issues relating to diversity courses. Some key questions: Just what are the characteristics of a "diversity course"? Is it the content, subject matter, and/or coverage of such a course that makes it a "diversity course" (e.g., courses that cover non-Western cultures)? Or should diversity be understood as a focus on issues relating to race, ethnicity, gender, intercultural relations, etc.? Should we use both approaches? Can a single section of a multiple-section course (e.g., WRT-201, HIS-144) be designed and run as a diversity course in a single semester? Etc.

For the current BCC policy on the (statewide) diversity requirement, see the link on that subject on our GE website ([www.bergen.edu/gened](http://www.bergen.edu/gened)). The official statewide definition of a diversity course is as follows: "Any course whose primary purpose is to help students analyze the implications of the commonalities and differences among culturally diverse people/s.... [This may] include courses in gender studies or in non-western history or thought...."

A sub-committee on diversity has been formed. The members are Peter Dlugos, Thomas Jewell (chair), Alan Kaufman, Bill Morales, and Paula Williams. The sub-committee has begun its work and will report back to the full GE Committee in the early fall.

- d. GE course evaluation/assessment on the basis of our new standards and policies.

The Committee recently reviewed the syllabi for three of BCC's current GE courses and found that none of the three syllabi reviewed measured up clearly or completely to the new GE course standards and policies (see [www.bergen.edu/gened/GEcourse\\_standards\\_5.pdf](http://www.bergen.edu/gened/GEcourse_standards_5.pdf)). This is explained at least in part by the fact that the three syllabi under discussion had been developed prior to the college's adoption of the new GE course standards and policies (on 12/14/04).

It was agreed that the chair of the Committee, George Cronk, should draft and send a notice to the Deans of the Divisions of Arts and Humanities; Business, Mathematics, and Social Science; and Science and Health, and to the Department Heads in those divisions, informing them that the departmental syllabi for all GE courses must be updated and revised to make them as well-coordinated as possible with the college's GE standards and policies. This updating and revising is necessary in order to enable the GE Committee to do a careful and complete assessment of all courses currently listed as a GE courses at BCC.

- e. Approval of ANT-100 as a GE course with a Diversity Course designation (Senate Resolution materials attached).