Eastern Nazarene College  
Division of General Education  
Course Recommendations for Faculty Teaching Cultural Perspectives Classes

**CP150 – Christian Tradition**

**Course Description:** This course traces some of the pivotal events in Christian history, and includes the people, socio-cultural influences and basic theological concerns involved. Attention is paid to developments in each major period of Christian history, as well as to the growth of Christianity from its roots in the Middle East to expansion across Europe and Africa, to its appearance in Asia and the Americas.

Courses in the General Education *Cultural Perspectives* sequence at ENC have been selected and ordered with an intentional design and progression. The Division of General Education has considered a number of factors in the placement of courses on the sequence and on the expected content and outcomes that each course should include. Faculty can and should exercise creative license in the development and teaching of CP courses. For each General Education courses a set of parameters have been (or will be) established to serve as a common framework for the class.

The following is divided into *required* and *recommended* components of this course.

**Required Components of CP150**

- One key goal of this course is to familiarize students with “basic theological concerns.” The following doctrinal issues should be covered over the course of the class: the doctrine of God, the sacraments, the Holy Trinity, Christology, theories of atonement, sin, grace, ecclesiology and eschatology. Others may be included, certainly, but students who pass CP150 should have a basic understanding of these doctrines and their importance for Christianity.
- The course should provide students with a robust sense of the history and scope of Christianity, through either a historical approach to the development of Christianity or by other means. This course has been placed in the freshman year of the CP sequence in part to give students a vision of the breadth, depth and diversity of Christian thought and practice.
- Some attention should be given to one or more of the Christian creeds (Apostle’s Creed or Nicene Creed), either in the context of their appearance in Christian history or perhaps as the orienting framework for the class.

**Recommended Components of CP150**

- This course does not need to contain a heavy graded writing component. The class has high enrollment and serves the broader ENC population. During their freshman year students will be taking *CP100: Critical Writing*, a General Education course with an explicit focus on developing skills in written communication. *CP100 is not* a prerequisite for Christian Tradition, so it cannot be presumed that students have mastered the basics in college-level written communication. More than 10 graded pages is not recommended.
- It is recommended that students be given opportunities to visit places of Christian worship outside their more familiar corners of Christianity. The goal of these experiences is to expose students to the variety and diversity of Christian liturgical practices.
- We recommend that the course be oriented either according to Christian history or one of the creeds.
- Consider inviting guest speakers from other branches of the Christian faith.
- In order to limit the amount of grading hours, we suggest that faculty consider utilizing objective exams or tests with a limited writing component.
- Films can often be a helpful and acceptable supplement to the course material.
- We encourage faculty to make use of Teacher Assistant funds available to support teaching and assessment.