

The Trinity College CCI Code

From the Curriculum 2000 Report

“Students living and working in the 21st century need to become aware of the ways in which different and shifting political economies, cultural identities, and social issues and conflicts are negotiated.”

“To be successful, Duke students need formal and academic experience in the processes of exploring, understanding, and analyzing differences among peoples and among social systems within both national and international contexts.”

“CCI provides an academic engagement with the dynamics and interactions of culture(s) in a comparative or analytic perspective. This type of inquiry provides a scholarly, comparative, and integrative study of political, economic, aesthetic, social and cultural differences. It seeks to provide students with the tools to identify culture and cultural difference across time or place, between or within national boundaries.”

“CCI encourages critical and responsible attention to issues of identity, diversity, globalization, and power so that students may evaluate complex and difficult issues from multiple perspectives.”

From the bulletin

“This Mode of Inquiry provides an academic engagement with the dynamics and interactions of culture(s) in a comparative or analytic perspective. It involves a scholarly, comparative, and integrative study of political, economic, aesthetic, social and cultural differences. It seeks to provide students with the tools to identify culture and cultural difference across time or place, between or within national boundaries. This includes but is not limited to the interplay between and among material circumstances, political economies, scientific understandings, social and aesthetic representations, and the relations between difference/diversity and power and privilege within and across societies. In fulfilling this requirement, students are encouraged to undertake comparisons that extend beyond national boundaries and their own national cultures and to explore the impact of increasing globalization.”

What is Cross-Cultural Inquiry?

Cross cultural inquiry involves:

- Analysis, interpretation, and evaluation of differences between and within cultures, in historical and/or contemporary perspective (differences, for example, in beliefs and belief systems; in characteristic modes of activity, both individual and collective; in structures of, and relationships among, institutions; and in forms of community)

This might be done through the following:

- Investigating culture and identity as they are socially constructed through nationality, relations of race, gender, ethnicity, class, sexuality and/or shared world views (behavior, arts, beliefs and institutions)
- Critical examination of issues and concepts of identity, diversity, and power within national or international contexts
- Undertaking an in-depth, intensive examination of a given (non mainstream U.S.) cultural group, cultural region, or nation in a comparative or analytic perspective.

To help the Course Committee approve your proposal for a CCI code:

- Describe the way students will gain a better understanding of culture and of differences among peoples and social systems within national or international contexts (this should be a central focus of the course)
- Describe which culture or cultures are being examined, and from which perspectives (historical, contemporary; within national or international contexts)
- If applicable, describe how the course critically examines issues and concepts of identity, diversity, and power within national or international contexts