

## Tkach, Colleen

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**From:** Inform  
**Subject:** EM: Racial-Ethnic GE Petition

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**From:** Livesay, Daniel



### Summary of the Racial-Ethnic Cultural Understanding GE Proposal

The purpose of the Racial-Ethnic GE is to foster greater racial-ethnic cultural understanding by critically examining racism, social constructions of race-ethnicity & the contributions of minoritized racial-ethnic cultures in the U.S. & globally. It supports the principles of the Presidential Initiatives on Anti-Racism & the Black Experience & the Open Academy, by promoting freedom of expression & intellectual diversity.

The HEDS campus climate survey found that 70% of students surveyed agreed that the GE curriculum "could be improved with a deeper study of historically marginalized racial and/or ethnic identities."

The GE will accomplish the following goals in order to enable students to better relate to, interact with, serve, and collaborate with people from different racial-ethnic cultures in the U.S. and around the world and thus help CMC fulfill its mission to prepare responsible leaders:

Goal 1: To assess the components, application, and effects of racism on one or more racial-ethnic cultures in the U.S. or around the world.

Goal 2: To use a multi-dimensional approach (i.e. topical, theories, methods, and/or frameworks) to analyze race-ethnicity as a social construction in the U.S. or around the world.

Goal 3: To understand the basic elements and contributions (cultural texts, traditions, practices) of minoritized racial-ethnic communities in the U.S. or around the world.

This GE can be fulfilled by any CMC Curriculum Committee approved course offered at CMC or the intercollegiate Africana, Asian-American, & Chicano/a studies programs that spends a minimum of 5 weeks discussing any two of the following 3 criteria so that there is sustained attention to them and their impact on minoritized racial-ethnic communities: (a) racism (any region of the world), (b) the social constructions of race-ethnicity (any region of the world) and (c) the intellectual, social, and cultural contributions of minoritized racial-ethnic communities in the U.S. or around the world.

Last year 39 faculty from 9 departments proposed 126 courses for this GE & we expect this number to grow significantly if approved by the Board of Trustees. There are also 114 courses in Africana, Latinx & Asian studies that if approved could also count. This GE is an overlay course & the vast majority of the proposed current courses already count as GEs. It would only apply to students who matriculate after its approved. The Curriculum Committee will review the RE GE 3 years after its implemented.