University Core Curriculum
B. Theme Area Courses

The Theme Area courses provide students with a choice of courses that address specific themes important to the identity of Duquesne University: Creative Arts, Faith and Reason, Global Diversity, and Social Justice. To fulfill the Theme Area requirements, students take one course designated as appropriate for each of the four theme areas. Of the four theme courses, a minimum of two must be taken in the McAnulty College – one offered by the History Department and one offered by the Social Science departments (Political Science, Psychology or Sociology). The remaining two courses may be taken in the College or in the other Duquesne University schools.

Core Theme Area courses must be open to undergraduate students in all of the schools of the University. Courses offered at the 300 and 400 levels may require prerequisites and/or the permission of the instructor. The Theme Area courses may be counted for a major or minor as well as for the Core.

Theme Area courses have a double listing in the Schedule of Classes booklet: a department number and a University Core Curriculum number, with the latter appearing under an appropriate heading, e.g., “Creative Arts.”

3 credits in Creative Arts
The study of the Creative Arts is essential to a liberal-arts education. It provides students with the opportunity to develop integrative skills and to have creative experiences that enhance overall intelligence. Through formal study of creative processes, students engage in non-linear modes of thinking, problem solving, collaborative achievement, and artistic expression in the fine arts, performing arts, or literary arts.

Learning Outcomes
Upon the completion of the Creative Arts requirement students are able to do #1 and at least one of the remaining four:

1. Demonstrate knowledge acquired by the study and analysis of the formal elements of the arts in a variety of media, and know how these elements are used to create compositions;
2. Identify representative musical works through perceptive listening with attention to various musical forms and periods, and composers and performers;
3. Explain the various facets of theater as an art form, including effective communication; creative expression; critical imagination; principles of form, style and function; and the interdisciplinary nature of dramatic performance, which includes writing, acting, directing, lighting, designing, and costuming;
4. Describe the visual arts (painting, architecture, sculpture, drawing, printmaking, and design) in various societies, with a focus on major artists, artistic styles and movements, employing both formal analysis and contextual methodologies;
5. Apply elements, skills, techniques, media, and processes that are appropriate for the fine arts, performing arts, and/or literary arts.