

AUSTIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

LIBERAL ARTS GATEWAY

STUDENT CENTERED COURSE DESIGNS



Persevere, Progress, Produce, Promote,
and Perpetuate.

Realities and (Im)mortality, Heidi Juel

In "Realities and (Im)mortality" we will discuss multiple realities: mental health, gender, economic class, race, and mortality. These are difficult subjects to discuss, but they are part of the human condition; we all are touched by these realities. My goals here are to build awareness of and respect for other people's realities, develop your listening skills, and, through the assigned readings and discussion, recognize our common humanity. I know that some of you have personal experiences that may make it difficult to read and discuss what I assign. Please note: I am available if you want to discuss things with me one-on-one, I have resources if you'd prefer to talk with someone else, and I am open to providing alternative readings and assignments if you find what I've assigned is making you uncomfortable.



ASPIRATION:

THE LIBERAL ARTS CAN SAVE CIVILIZATION BY EQUIPPING STUDENTS TO THRIVE IN A PLURALISTIC SOCIETY THROUGH DEEP ENGAGEMENT IN OUR DISCIPLINE.

Hot Topics and Cool Heads, Wendy Lym

In Hot Topics, Cool Heads, students use persuasive writing skills to tackle a local problem, by identifying a specific individual who can address their problem or concern and documenting a practical solution to the problem. Many share their work and have advocated for themselves and their community, arguing for such diverse things as better products to decontaminate fire-fighting gear, more equitable rules from managers at their public housing, and better accommodation for parents who work night shifts and want to eat breakfast with their elementary school kids on the school campus.

Exploring American Identities, Louisa Spaventa

In Exploring American Identities, students navigate unique concerns and challenges of underrepresented groups of people in the United States through readings, videos, music, visual art, and research. Individuals ponder the power of words to include or exclude people in a community by delving into themes such as citizenship, poverty, class, race, ethnicity, disability, gender, sexual orientation, and indigeneity. Coursework includes both creative and formal methods of communication and expression.



About our program ---->

<---- Course Descriptions



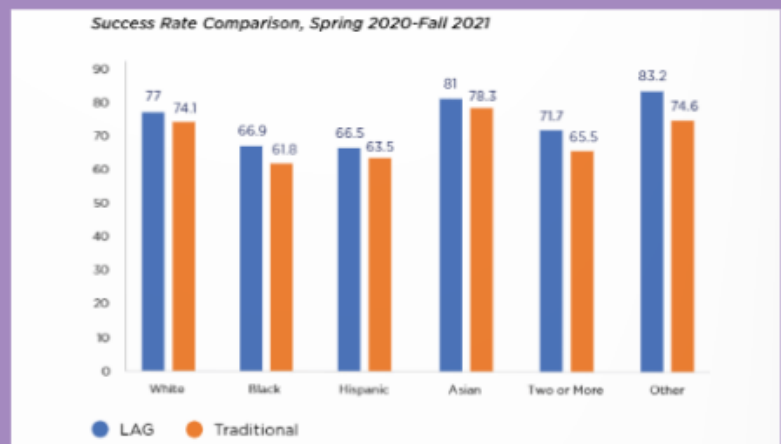
Student Testimonials and Successes

"This class was absolutely amazing.... We were challenged to think deeper about not only the texts assigned but our own lives. I dare say this class caused change in my own life. A different perspective on things grew for sure. I am left wanting so much more! This Liberal Arts Gateway class stands out from the rest. This is my fourth year in college but my first at ACC and I've never taken anything like it. It creates a natural desire to do well in the course and leaves you questioning and wanting to learn more. Please offer more of these types of courses! It's done nothing but increase my hunger for knowledge and love for education. What an eye opening experience this has been. 10/10 would recommend."

- A Student testimony.

"I just want you to know that this is the best class I have taken the entire time I have been in college at ACC. I have loved every single second and this class has given me confidence and made me feel like the amount of reading I do in a day has value."

"Now, my perspective has changed a lot because now I will say that I'm more open-minded and that I am more understanding about things going around me, all thanks to the readings."



"I've experienced and seen racism so to me this [research essay] was so meaningful I felt like I was able to really express myself in it talking about how racism has impacted what I want to be when I get older...[W]riting my essay.... made it so clear to me why I'm so drawn and inspired to being an immigration lawyer and an activist."