

## **THEME DESIGN GUIDELINES LOCAL TO GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES**

Recognizing the growing significance of an interconnected world, Appalachian's general education program also encourages meaningful connections between local regions and global contexts. Knowledge of other cultures, diverse cultural frames of reference, and alternative perspectives are essential to thinking critically and creatively and to understanding the responsibilities of membership in local, regional, and global communities. The cultivation and maintenance of intercultural relationships require active cultural understanding, which is achieved by exploring multiple strategies for interacting with other peoples and cultures.

Local to Global Perspectives Themes are based on the General Education Task Force's Educational Goal "Local to Global Connections" which has the following five learning outcomes (see GETF Education Goals and Learning Outcomes 2006; Report on Educational Goals and Learning Outcomes 2006).

Themes will enable students to do the following:

1. Demonstrate the ability to think critically and creatively about the relationship between local regions and global issues, processes, trends, and systems.

AND at least two of the following:

2. Demonstrate knowledge of contemporary issues related to cultural diversity in the United States and other areas of the world.
3. Employ appropriate and increasingly sophisticated means for communicating with people of other cultures.
4. Analyze past and present relationships between humans and the natural and physical environment.
5. Evaluate community, natural, and global change through the lens of sustainability.

### **IMPLEMENTATION GUIDELINES**

1. Themes must address at least three of the learning outcomes. Individual courses may address only one or two of the learning outcomes.
2. Study abroad and other international experiences are encouraged as part of themes. Linkages between the study abroad or international experience and other courses in the theme must be made clear. Academic advising should encourage students to make plans to study abroad as part of the Local to Global Perspectives requirement. Since study

abroad often happens in the junior year, advisors should emphasize planning with freshmen to incorporate this opportunity in the college career.

3. The themes in “Local to Global Perspectives” would logically encourage language study as a complement to any of the desired learning outcomes (whether those outcomes are met on campus or abroad). Local to Global Perspectives themes that include study abroad programs or courses abroad should include language prerequisites when appropriate.