General Education Refresh

November 19, 2020

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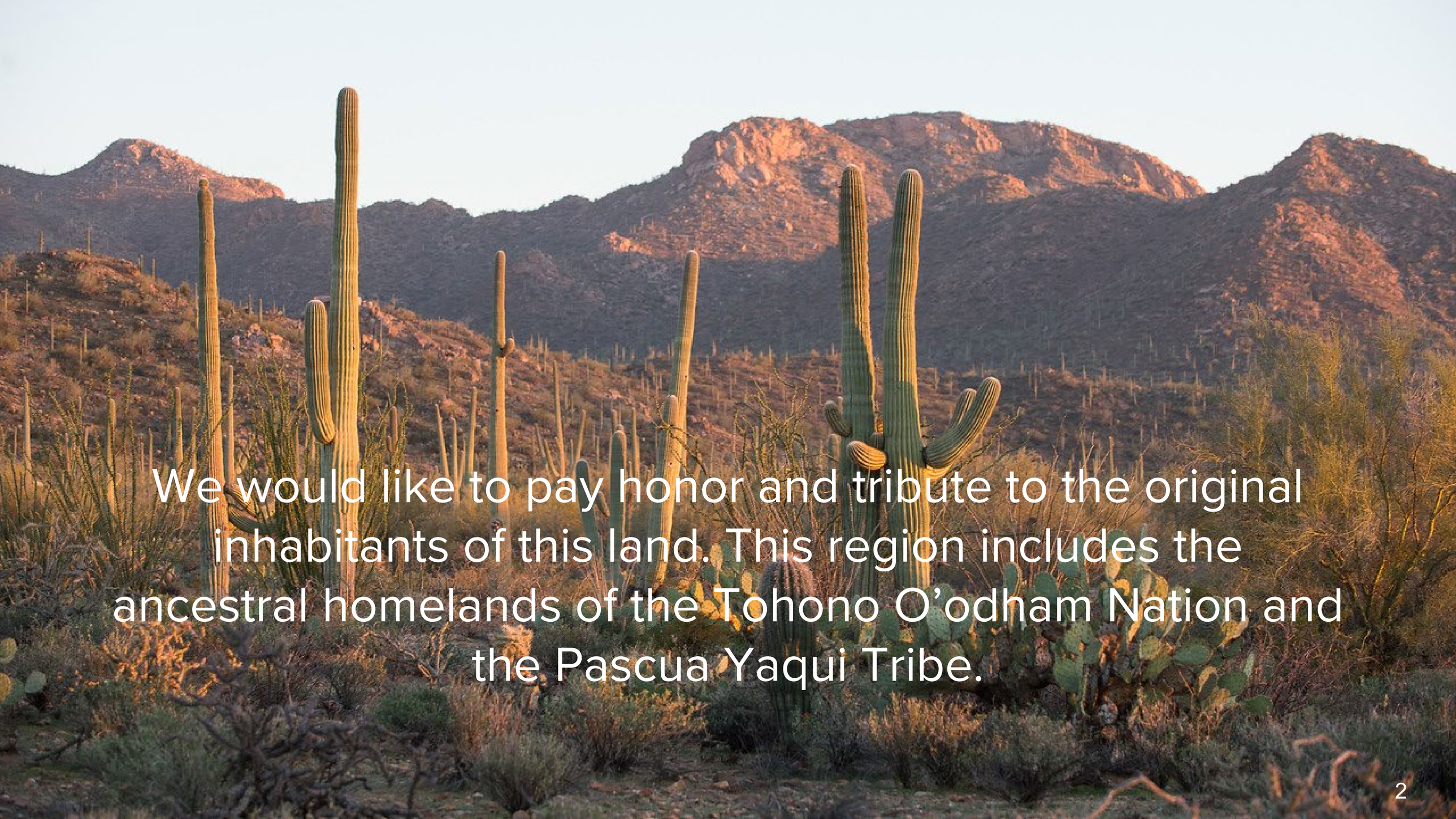
We would like to pay honor and tribute to the original inhabitants of this land. This region includes the ancestral homelands of the Tohono O’odham Nation and the Pascua Yaqui Tribe.

TOPIC: General Education Refresh

Panelists:

Susan Miller-Cochran

Executive Director of General Education

Professor of Rhetoric, Composition, and the Teaching of English

John Pollard

Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Curricular Innovation

Professor of Practice, Chemistry and Biochemistry

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Meeting Arrangement

This meeting is an official meeting of the University of Arizona.

- As with any official meeting, courtesy and professionalism are paramount.
  - See UHAP 7.01.01 Statement on Professional Conduct: *We are inclusive and respectful and we provide a safe environment for those who work, learn, and visit with us.*
- The meeting will be recorded, and the Q&A and Chat feeds will form part of the official record of this meeting.
- Anyone who engages in ad hominem attacks, or uses foul language, or limits the voices of others will receive one warning from the moderator team. If the behavior continues the individual will be removed from the meeting.

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Housekeeping

- **To ask questions live** during the webinar, please **submit your question in the Q&A window and raise your hand** using the hand icon located on the bottom of Zoom page.
- When called upon, you will be unmuted for others to hear. Please expect a slight lag. Due to Zoom limitations, we regret we are not able to show your video image without losing your access to the Q&A and chat history.
- The Chat function allows you to send chat messages to your colleagues in the meeting.
- The webinar Recording, the Q&A feed, the Chat feed, and any presentation materials will be available after the webinar at https://provost.arizona.edu/content/provost-forum.

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General Education Refresh

https://provost.arizona.edu/content/general-ed-refresh

A New Vision for General Education

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OUR VISION

Values & Priorities

The new curriculum model emphasizes:

- Student agency & exploration
- Connected & scaffolded student learning
- Relevance to & flexibility for a changing world
- Ways of thinking & ways of knowing to contextualize content
- Reflection on learning across the curriculum
- Collaboration across disciplines
- High quality teaching & engaged learning
- Holistic assessment & periodic review of courses

Shifting Our Approach

FROM	TO
Teacher-centered courses	Learner-centered courses
Segmented Checklists	Connected Curriculum
Disciplinary Knowledge	Reasoning and Perspective-Taking
Covering Topics	Asking Questions
Telling	Discovering
Tradition	Relevance
From *what* we know	***How* we think, know, & do**

What's Changing?

- The creation of a General Education Office to:
  - partner with colleges/units on enrollment management and scheduling
  - provide faculty support
- Two new **course categories** that emphasize perspective-taking and interdisciplinary thinking (replacing Tier 1 and 2 sequence)
- The development of **attributes** that connect across the curriculum and facilitate transfer of learning
- Two 1-unit courses bookending student GE experience:
  - An introductory GE course
  - A concluding portfolio course

Curriculum

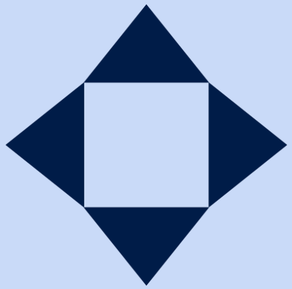
Foundations*

~9 units
(variable)

*Does not change in new Gen Ed

Introduction (Entry Course)

1 unit



Exploring Perspectives

12 units

Building Connections

9 units

Portfolio (Exit Course)

1 unit

Attributes

Introduction to General Education

A new 1-unit course required of incoming freshmen. The goals of the course are to facilitate:

- Introducing students to General Education & its conceptual foundations (interdisciplinary thinking, perspective-taking, reflection on learning)
- Start ePortfolios in Digication & develop digital literacy practices
- Transitioning to UArizona, including:
  - Supporting student well-being
  - Encouraging academic success

Foundations (no changes)

Typically 9 units, Foundations courses engage students in critical thinking and prepare them for future college work. Students must take or accomplish the equivalency of the following:

- Quantitative thinker (3 units)
- Writer (6 units*)
- Second-language learner (proficiency requirement, variable*)

*Number of units is variable depending on method of meeting writing & second language requirements

Portfolio Course

A new 1-unit course required of all UArizona students as a capstone to their General Education experience. The goals of the course are to help students:

- Develop an ePortfolio that reflects on their achievement of the General Education learning outcomes
- Reflect on their experience in General Education as a whole
- Identify potential connections between General Education courses & their major / professional aspirations

Exploring Perspectives

These courses introduce students to ways of thinking, knowing, and doing from the perspective of different disciplinary domains. Students will explore and practice the varied approaches of the:

- Artist
- Humanist
- Social Scientist
- Natural Scientist

- Choose at least one course from each perspective (12 units minimum)
- Courses can carry attributes that overlay (Writing, Diversity and Equity, World Cultures and Societies, Quantitative Reasoning)

Building Connections

These courses encourage students to bring together knowledge and modes of thinking from two or more disciplines and/or perspectives in order to foster more comprehensive understanding of questions, ideas, challenges, and/or problems. Students will utilize interdisciplinary approaches and multi-perspective taking to practice being:

- Conceptual Thinkers
- Creative Problem Solvers

- Choose three courses from any categories (9 units minimum)
- Courses can carry attributes that overlay (Writing, Diversity and Equity, World Cultures and Societies, Quantitative Reasoning)

Attributes

Exploring Perspectives and Building Connections courses can carry the following attributes (likely only 1-2 attributes per course):

- Diversity and Equity (2 courses required, one with a U.S. focus)
- Quantitative Reasoning (2 courses required)
- World Cultures and Societies (1 course required)
- Writing (2 courses required)

Pedagogy - A Hallmark of Gen Ed Curriculum

Students should have the opportunity to have a high-quality, engaged learning experience. As such, all Gen Ed courses will:

- Engage students in active and collaborative learning
- Provide ample opportunities for success through regular, low-stakes assessments (formative and summative)
- Have clearly stated learning outcomes and objectives
- Use evidence-based practices and inclusive pedagogical approaches
- Emphasize disciplinary/interdisciplinary perspective-taking
- Elevate diverse voices and scholarship whenever possible (e.g. BIPOC, disabled people, LGBTQIA+, women, and others who have been marginalized in their abilities, contributions, and knowledge)

Signature Assignments

*All Exploring Perspectives and Building Connections courses will include at least one **signature assignment** (developed by instructors) that will be included in students' GE ePortfolios. These will allow students to utilize highlighted perspectives from each course to showcase learning, skills, and personal reflection.*

- Connect to at least one course learning outcome
- Can be creative (websites, videos, performances, etc.)
- Should consider an external audience during development and highlight student strengths (skills, writing, growth)

Timeline

Three Stage Development Process

Stage 1: by Dec.

Finalize curriculum

Complete Approval Process

Determine Fiscal Impact

Begin System Development

Stage 2: by Mar. 1

Determine Final Budget

Open Proposal Window

Stage 3: by Mar. 1

Determine Scheduling/Enrollment Management Processes

Thanks and Questions are Welcomed!

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