

The Neumann University Core Experience

Newsletter

July 2020

Volume 9, Issue 1

Dear Colleagues,

Thanks to everyone who contributed artifacts for the 2019-2020 Core Assessment which included learning outcomes related to *Contemplation* and *Conscience*. Results of assessments of the student work will be available in August.

This newsletter includes reminders for Core assessment for 2020-2021 with a focus on *Comprehension* and *Compassion*, a review of the Guidelines for Core Signature Assignments, information related to Service-Learning, and an invitation to consider developing Diversity-certified courses.

There is also a link to resources for creating an inclusive classroom and promoting racial justice and information about upcoming Core virtual presentations.

S. Patricia Hutchison, OSF

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Core Assessment 2020-2021

During the 2020-2021 academic year, the focus of Core assessment will be outcomes associated with *Comprehension* and *Compassion*. Courses noted in **Bold** will be involved in assessment!

Comprehension: Think critically, creatively, and analytically

- LO 1.1 Analyze and solve complex problems (TBD)
- LO 1.2 Demonstrate quantitative reasoning (**Math Core courses**)
- LO 1.3 Demonstrate scientific literacy (**Science Core courses**)
- LO 1.4 Explore the relationship of contemporary and historical events and issues. (**History Core courses**)

Compassion: Respect all of creation

- LO 4.1 Honor the worth and dignity of each person (**Diversity-certified courses**)
- LO 4.2 Interact respectfully in the local and global community (**Courses that include group projects**)
- LO 4.3 Engage in service to promote the common good (**Theology 104 & Service-Learning Core courses in each major**)
- LO 4.4 Demonstrate environmental awareness and stewardship (TBD).

Preparing for 2020 – 2021 Core Assessments

Please review the Core assessment plans and the rubrics for [Comprehension](#) and [Compassion](#), especially if your course will be included in the assessment process.

As you prepare your syllabus, please make sure to include a **Core Signature Assignment** that invites students to demonstrate mastery of the Core learning outcomes.

See Guidelines for developing a Core Signature Assignment in the [May 2019 newsletter](#).

Service-Learning 2020-2021 (in the midst of a Pandemic)

As a concrete expression of Neumann's commitment to Service, we have embedded Service-Learning into the curriculum in the first year with a day of service during NeuKnight Prep days and reflection on this service in Theology 104. In addition, every major has identified at least one course which requires students to participate in and reflect upon service.

During the coming academic year, service (like everything else during the pandemic) will look different. Our Campus Ministers are hoping to integrate service in some form during the NeuKnight Prep days. The reflection can take place as usual in Theology 104.

Faculty who teach the major course which includes service-learning should contact Megan Camp to discuss an appropriate service activity that is congruent with the objectives of the course and in compliance with safety standards.

Diversity-certified Courses: An Invitation

In the virtual Town Hall meeting held on June 8, several students spoke of their desire to participate in challenging classroom conversations around racial justice. Diversity-certified courses are designed to provide students with knowledge, skills, and attitudes/values to help them to engage in such conversations. Beginning with the class who entered Neumann in Fall 2019, students must participate in at least one diversity-certified course before they graduate.

The application and rubric for Diversity-certified courses can be found in the Faculty Senate-Faculty Development site within Blackboard. Once on this site, click on the link on the sidebar for **Faculty Development Resources**; then open the folder titled **Diversity-certified courses**.

Members of the Diversity-certified sub-group of the Core Committee are available to discuss applications with faculty members. Once an application is submitted, two members of the Diversity-certified sub-group will review the application and provide feedback. Please contact Sr. Pat Hutchison with questions.

The following courses are currently certified:

CJ 410	Multicultural Issues in Criminal Justice
MUS 104	Popular Music
PSYCH 285	Cross-Cultural Psychology
SOC 101	Principles of Sociology
SW 210	Diversity, Oppression, and Social Justice
ENG 250	Young Adult Literature: Educating the Imagination
ENG 303	Literature and Film

On the Faculty Senate -Faculty Development site in BlackBoard, there is a collection of *Faculty Development Resources*. The folder entitled *Inclusive Teaching Strategies* contains activities, web links, and resources that were shared by colleagues during Lunch and Learn sessions and Teaching and Learning Circles in October 2018.

These resources remain relevant today.

There is also a section on TedTalks that could promote personal and class reflection.

**As you prepare for the coming year,
you may also find the following resources helpful:**

Recommit to Racial Justice from *Network*

<https://networkadvocates.org/recommittoracialjustice/>

This 8-part guide examines the history of racism in America and its contemporary manifestations. Prepared by *Network*, an organization founded by Catholic Sisters to promote dignity and justice for all, the resource includes modules on racism and white supremacy, racial wealth and income gap, injustices against Native Americans, racism and immigration, and health equity.

Resources from the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops on *Combatting Racism*

<http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/racism/>

Resources include on *Combatting Racism* include articles, videos, and activities.

Educational Resources from USSCB

<http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/racism/educational-resources-on-racism.cfm#college>

USSCB College section includes links to USSCB backgrounders on [racism and employment](#), [housing](#), [wealth](#), [education](#), [criminal justice](#), [voting](#), and the [Native American experience](#).

A Study Guide to accompany *Open Wide Our Hearts*

This guide to *Open Wide Our Hearts* includes excellent resources related to racial justice.

<http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/racism/upload/study-guide-open-hearts-2019-09.pdf>

A Franciscan Response to Racism & Fear of the "Other" in Today's World

Fr. Dan Horan, OFM led a timely (and still relevant) discussion at Saint Francis University (Loretto, PA) on September 29, 2016 responding to social and cultural issues from a Franciscan perspective. This is a YouTube video of his presentation.

<https://www.francis.edu/News/2016/10/Franciscan-Response-to-Racism-Video/>

The assumptions of white privilege and what we can do about it, Rev. Bryan N. Massingale, *National Catholic Reporter*, June 1, 2020.

<https://www.ncronline.org/news/opinion/assumptions-white-privilege-and-what-we-can-do-about-it>

How Can Catholics Help Lead the Fight Against Racism? Olga Segura, *America*, May 29, 2020

<https://www.americamagazine.org/politics-society/2020/05/29/how-can-catholics-help-lead-fight-against-racism>

Film Recommendations from *Time* magazine

<https://time.com/5847912/movies-to-watch-about-racism-protests/>

21-Day Racial Equity Habit Building Challenge ©

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<https://www.eddiemoorejr.com/21daychallenge>

This program includes an invitation to do one action for 21 days to further your understanding of power, privilege, supremacy, oppression, and equity. The plan includes suggestions for readings, podcasts, videos, observations, and ways to form and deepen community connections. In addition, there are suggestions for adapting the resources as desired.

3 Lessons of Revolutionary Love in a time of Rage by Valarie Kaur

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5ErKrSyUpEo>

Uncomfortable Conversations with a Black Man by Emmanuel Acho

<https://uncomfortableconvos.com/>

Virtual Core Presentations

During the Fall semester, there will be opportunities to participate in virtual Core presentations related to the following topics:

Results of Core *Contemplation* and *Conscience* Assessment:
What we found and recommendations for improvement

How to craft a better Core Signature Assignment

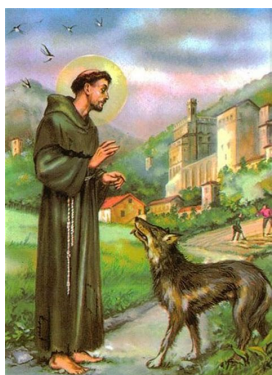
Diversity-certified Courses: How to apply

Diversity-certified Courses: What are we learning?

Dates and times of the presentations will be shared in August.

Closing Reflection

LORD, MAKE US INSTRUMENTS OF YOUR PEACE



Help us to recognize the evil latent in a communication
that does not build communion.

Help us to remove the venom from our judgements.

Help us to speak about others as our brothers and sisters.

You are faithful and trustworthy;

May our words be seeds of goodness for the world:

Where there is shouting, let us practice listening;
Where there is confusion, let us inspire harmony;
Where there is ambiguity, let us bring clarity;
Where there is exclusion, let us offer solidarity;
Where there is sensationalism, let us use sobriety;
Where there is superficiality, let us raise real questions;
Where there is prejudice, let us awaken trust;
Where there is hostility, let us bring respect;
Where there is falsehood, let us bring truth. Amen.



Pope Francis, World Communications Day, 24 January 2018