

Human Values and Social Contexts: Western Cultural Tradition

The Western Cultural Tradition involves the historical and/or philosophical examination of the basis of Western culture. Subject areas may include, but are not limited to, artistic, economic, educational, historical, legal, linguistic, literary, normative, philosophical, political, rhetorical, scientific, and social dimensions of Western cultural tradition and its impact.

Description	Capstone	Level 3	Level 2	Benchmark
Global Self-Awareness	Effectively addresses significant issues in the natural and human world based on articulating one's identity in a global context.	Evaluates the global impact of one's own and others' specific local actions on the natural and human world.	Analyzes ways that human actions influence the natural and human world.	Identifies some connections between an individual's personal decision-making and certain local and global issues.
Knowledge Cultural self-awareness	biases (e.g. seeking complexity; aware of how her/his experiences have shaped these rules, and how to recognize and respond to cultural biases,	rules and biases (e.g. not looking for sameness; comfortable with the complexities that new perspectives offer.)	Identifies own cultural rules and biases (e.g. with a strong preference for those rules shared with own cultural group and seeks the same in others.)	biases (even those shared with own cultural group(s)) (e.g. uncomfortable with identifying possible cultural differences with others.)
Knowledge Knowledge of cultural worldview frameworks	complexity of elements important to members of another culture in relation to its history, values, politics, communication styles, economy, or beliefs and practices.	complexity of elements important to members of another culture in relation to its history, values, politics, communication styles, economy, or beliefs and practices.	complexity of elements important to members of another culture in relation to its history, values, politics, communication styles, economy, or beliefs and practices.	complexity of elements important to members of another culture in relation to its history, values, politics, communication styles, economy, or beliefs and practices.
Influence of context and assumptions	Thoroughly (systematically and methodically) analyzes own and others' assumptions and carefully evaluates the relevance of contexts when presenting a position.	Identifies own and others' assumptions and several relevant contexts when presenting a position.	Questions some assumptions. Identifies several relevant contexts when presenting a position. May be more aware of others' assumptions than one's own (or vice versa).	Shows an emerging awareness of present assumptions (sometimes labels assertions as assumptions). Begins to identify some contexts when presenting a position.
Perspective Taking	Evaluates and applies diverse perspectives to complex subjects within natural and human systems in the face of multiple and even conflicting positions (i.e. cultural, disciplinary, and ethical.)	Synthesizes other perspectives (such as cultural, disciplinary, and ethical) when investigating subjects within natural and human systems.	Identifies and explains multiple perspectives (such as cultural, disciplinary, and ethical) when exploring subjects within natural and human systems.	Identifies multiple perspectives while maintaining a value preference for own positioning (such as cultural, disciplinary, and ethical).
Interpretation Making sense with sources as blueprints for meaning	Provides evidence that s/he can use an appropriate epistemological lens and that s/he can also engage with sources as part of a continuing dialogue within and beyond a discipline or community.	Articulates an understanding of the multiple ways of engaging with sources and the range of interpretive strategies particular to one's discipline(s) or community	Demonstrates that s/he can engage sources purposefully, choosing among interpretive strategies depending on the context	Can identify purpose(s) for using sources, relying on an external authority such as an instructor for clarification of the task.