

Linked Course Learning Communities:

- Give students a chance to dive more deeply into the subject matter, creating greater educational impact.
- Help students feel comfortable with classmates, leading to greater participation and cooperation.
- Encourage cross-disciplinary faculty collaboration.

"I feel like the learning community has forced me to keep my mind open to new thoughts and perspectives. I enjoyed that we got to write about what we learned and discussed in Social Problems.

I've become more comfortable with the other students in this linked class—we're in the same room with the same people for two different classes, so I think we are bound to know each other on a deeper level."

- Chris Bostwick



Jessica Jacobo, Chris Bostwick and Louetta Finch participate in the Writing for Social Justice learning community.

Linked Course Learning Communities are two or more courses that link material together for an entire semester, helping students make new connections in their learning. Usually the courses are scheduled back-to-back and the faculty teaching them weave their syllabi and assignments to enrich each course's ideas. Students enrolled in linked courses build a community and feel more connected to each other and to their campus community. Research indicates Learning Community students are more likely to remain in college, and because of their deeper engagement, earn higher overall GPAs. Kirkwood will offer Linked-Course Learning Communities in Spring 2008.

Kirkwood Community College
Start Here.
Go Anywhere!

For more information, go to www.kirkwood.edu/kcelt and click the "Learning Communities Initiative" link or contact Hope Burwell at 5871.

Spring 2008 Learning Communities

Writing for Social Justice

SOC 115: Social Problems and ENG-106: Composition II

Focuses on social justice and today's most pressing issues, including race, class, gender and sexuality. Studies how writers and filmmakers convey difficult and nuanced situations, and capture the voices of those most impacted by our current social system. Writing assignments help students convey thoughts more effectively and voice complex ideas about complex issues. Students take action through group service-learning projects and explore how groups and individuals can make a difference, both globally and locally.

Roots and Branches: Creative Exploration of Your Life and Religious Traditions

REL-120: Judaism, Christianity & Islam and ENG-105: Composition I

Explores the traditions of the great Western religions, how they co-exist, and what faith and belief is for each of us. Readings are drawn from historical and modern texts, reflections on religious faith and practice, and each student's personal reflections and analysis of belief, faith and tradition. Writings focus on exploring and defining personal belief, responding to the texts, and analysis and research on aspects of the readings.

Fall 2008 Learning Communities

Writing Your Experience in College

ENG-105: Composition I and SDV-109: College 101

Encourages students to discover their learning styles and personal reflections, and explores those issues through writing assignments. Instructors work together to help students understand basic ideas for college success, such as note taking, test preparation, conducting research, writing papers, reading critically, developing healthy relationships and teamwork.

Loss, Grieving and Growth in the Context of Human Development

SOC-135: Loss, Grieving and Growth and PSY-121: Developmental Psychology

Explores the losses people experience throughout their lifespans and how these losses can be understood within societal contexts. Uncovers two disciplines' unique contributions to the understanding of loss, grieving and growth. Issues of loss occur at many points in people's lives and are an important part of human development. Students emerge from the experience with a better understanding of losses they have experienced, and better prepared to cope with changes and loss in the future.

America: Continuity and Change

POL-111: American National Government and HIS-152: U.S. History Since 1877

Studies the relationship between American history and government. Emphasizes industrialization and its impact, the development of a more expansive federal government and more global foreign policy. Examines the impact of demographic change and diversity.

The Key to Success: Effective Communication for all Seasons

ENG-105: Composition I and SPC-101: Fundamentals of Oral Communication

Provides a variety of speaking and writing experiences that enable students to enhance communication skills and satisfy their social and career goals.