

GE Theme course submission worksheet: Origins & Evolution

Overview

Courses in the GE Themes aim to provide students with opportunities to explore big picture ideas and problems within the specific practice and expertise of a discipline or department. Although many Theme courses serve within disciplinary majors or minors, by requesting inclusion in the General Education, programs are committing to the incorporation of the goals of the focal theme and the success and participation of students from outside of their program.

Each category of the GE has specific learning goals and Expected Learning Outcomes (ELOs) that connect to the big picture goals of the program. ELOs describe the knowledge or skills students should have by the end of the course. Courses in the GE Themes must meet the ELOs common for **all** GE Themes and those specific to the Theme, in addition to any ELOs the instructor has developed specific to that course. All courses in the GE must indicate that they are part of the GE and include the Goals and ELOs of their GE category on their Course Details document.

The prompts in this form elicit information about how the course meets the expectations of the GE Themes. The form will be reviewed by a group of content and curriculum experts (the Themes subcommittees), who are responsible for the ELOs and Goals common to all themes (those elements that make a course appropriate for the GE Themes), as well as for the ELOs and Goals specific to the topic of **this** Theme.

Briefly describe how this course connects to or exemplifies the concept of this Theme (Origins & Evolution)

In a sentence or two, explain how this class “fits” within the focal Theme. This will help reviewers understand the intended frame of reference for the course-specific activities described below.

(enter text here)

Connect this course to the Goals and ELOs shared by *all* Themes

Below are the Goals and ELOs common to all Themes. In the accompanying table, for each ELO, describe the activities (discussions, readings, lectures, assignments) that provide opportunities for students to achieve those outcomes. The answer should be concise and use language accessible to colleagues outside of the submitting department or discipline. The specifics of the activities matter—listing “readings” without a reference to the topic of those readings will not allow the reviewers to understand how the ELO will be met. However, the subcommittee evaluating the fit of the course to the Theme will review this form in conjunction with the Course Details document, so if readings, lecture/discussion topics, or other specifics are provided on the document, it is not necessary to reiterate them within this form. The ELOs are expected to vary in their “coverage” in terms of number of activities or emphasis within the course. Examples from successful courses can be found on the ASCCAS website [here](#).

Goal 1: Successful students will analyze an important topic or idea at a more advanced and in-depth level than the foundations. In this context, “advanced” refers to courses that are e.g., synthetic, rely on research or cutting-edge findings, or deeply engage with the subject matter, among other possibilities.

Goal 2: Successful students will integrate approaches to the theme by making connections to out-of-classroom experiences with academic knowledge or across disciplines and/or to work they have done in previous classes and that they anticipate doing in future.

	Course activities and assignments to meet these ELOs
ELO 1.1 Engage in critical and logical thinking about the topic or idea of the theme.	
ELO 1.2 Engage in an advanced, in-depth, scholarly exploration of the topic or idea of the theme.	

ELO 2.1 Identify, describe, and synthesize approaches or experiences as they apply to the theme.	
ELO 2.2 Demonstrate a developing sense of self as a learner through reflection, self-assessment, and creative work, building on prior experiences to respond to new and challenging contexts.	

Goals and ELOs unique to Origins & Evolution

Below are the Goals and ELOs specific to this Theme. As above, in the accompanying Table, for each ELO, describe the activities (discussions, readings, lectures, assignments) that provide opportunities for students to achieve those outcomes. The answer should be concise and use language accessible to colleagues outside of the submitting department or discipline. The ELOs are expected to vary in their “coverage” in terms of number of activities or emphasis within the course. Examples from successful courses can be found on the ASCCAS website [here](#).

GOAL 3: Successful students will appreciate the time depth of the origins and evolution of natural systems, life, humanity, or human culture, and the factors that have shaped them over time.

GOAL 4: Successful students will understand the origins and evolution of natural systems, life, humanity, or human culture, and the factors that have shaped them over time.

time depth of the universe, physical systems, life on Earth, humanity, or human culture by providing examples or models.	
reconstruct the history of the universe, physical systems, life on Earth, humanity, or human culture and specify their domains of validity.	
and problems related to origins and evolution questions.	

ELO 4.1 Describe their knowledge of how the universe, physical systems, life on Earth, humanity, or human culture have evolved over time.	
ELO 4.2 Summarize current theories of the origins and evolution of the universe, physical systems, life on Earth, humanity, or human culture.	