

## Guidelines for Course Levels

**100-level courses:** Introductory courses appropriate for and generally taken by freshmen or students with no background in the discipline. Often without prerequisites, they may require some basic entry skill, such as mathematics or writing competence.

**200-level courses:** Courses of intermediate depth in the discipline, sometimes assuming some preparatory work on the part of the student, appropriate for and generally taken by sophomores or advanced freshmen. Prerequisites may be required, especially when limited specific knowledge or general academic preparation is necessary. 200-level courses often provide basic methodology in a discipline or surveys of disciplinary material that are more restricted in scope than is generally found at the 100-level.

**300-level courses:** Courses intended for upper-division students providing advanced treatment of a special subject and requiring a level of maturity and academic preparation inappropriate for lower-division students. 300-level courses usually presuppose students' prior work in the discipline and usually satisfy major requirements. Upper-division courses (300- and 400-level) have the following characteristics:

- a. Prerequisites, consisting of specific courses or skills levels or more general requirements such as one or more courses in a designated field or D.E.C. category, that require levels of maturity, skills, or preparation necessary to benefit satisfactorily from the course.
- b. Assignments that are more qualitatively advanced than those typically expected of lower-division students. Among these are extensive, sophisticated readings; extensive critical or creative writing; substantial research; a theoretical approach to particular questions; and the theoretical or field-based application of knowledge already gained. Students may be required to prepare seminar reports or independent projects where responsibility falls on them for developing important higher intellectual or creative skills.

**400-level courses:** Courses having the same general characteristics as 300-level courses, most often intended for upper-division students in the major, such as seminars, directed readings and research, and teaching practica. Some may be limited to seniors.

Note: There are no distinctions among higher and lower numbers at a given level. Departments are encouraged to use numbers in accordance with the structure of its curriculum.