

Afterword: To ASEM

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In 2009, after extensive campus-wide deliberations, DU adopted a new general education program, known as the Common Curriculum. The capstone experience in this curriculum is the Advanced Seminar (ASEM), a course students take in the junior or, more often, senior years after having completed all other Common courses.

ASEM in many respects replaces the former Writing Intensive Core courses. These courses, too, are capped at 15 students, to foster interaction between professors and students and to allow significant writing. Course that were approved as “Writing Intensive” in the previous Core program are automatically transferred into ASEM. Following is a thumbnail of the advanced seminar:

Successful people navigate complex political, social, cultural and economic environments that challenge more traditionally limited concepts of higher education and competencies. To help students better understand the demands of contemporary life, instructors teach advanced seminars based in their area of expertise and passion. The topic will be approached from multiple perspectives in a course designed for nonmajors. Studying in this setting, students demonstrate their ability to integrate different perspectives and synthesize diverse ideas through intensive writing on that topic. This course must be taken at the University of Denver.

Faculty receive stipends to develop a new ASEM course, and they’re eligible for this funding every two years or after having taught three offerings. Faculty who haven’t previously completed a Core Writing Intensive workshop are required to participate in a Seminar on Writing in ASEM, for which they receive an additional stipend. Additional professional development funding is also available.

We can all look forward to reading essays still to be written about the new advanced seminars.

