

### **How does the UO distinguish between lower and upper-division courses?**

It is important to note that the UO does not have general criteria for distinguishing between lower and upper-division courses. The UO catalog only indicates the year of study to which 100, 200, 300, and 400-level courses often correspond.

This became an issue in the UGC's previous review of Group-satisfying General Education courses. Therefore, the UGC recommended, and the UO Senate later approved language useful for distinguishing between lower and upper-division Group-satisfying courses.

Some language excerpted (and adapted) from that motion may be useful in the review of multicultural courses. Please remember, however, that the UO has not formally approved any general or specific criteria for distinguishing lower and upper-division multicultural courses – only for Group-satisfying General Education courses.

### **General excerpts from the distinction between lower and upper-division Group-satisfying courses that may apply in multicultural course review:**

Upper-division courses provide depth and rigor beyond that of typical lower-division courses. To achieve this, upper-division courses:

- Assume that students are capable of advanced university-level intellectual engagement as a result of having completed substantial lower-division work, although not necessarily in the subject of the course.
- Encourage integration of perspectives, as well as specific application of general principles, through analysis and synthesis of course material, including concepts from other courses.
- Engage students in substantial application of fundamental ideas.
- Employ evaluation methods that measure this high level of understanding.
- May have specific prerequisites in the form of other courses whose content provides an essential foundation in the subject.
- Often use primary as well as secondary sources.