CSU GE-B Area C Arts, Literature Philosophy, and Foreign Languages

For Area C, courses emphasize the perspectives, concepts, principles, theories, and methodologies of the disciplines. Some application of principles and development of skills are acceptable as long as the foundational principles, concepts, theory, and perspectives underlying scholarship are strong components.

CSU GE-B C1 Arts (Art, Dance, Music, Theater)

Arts include visual arts, architecture and interior design (if aesthetic concerns are prominent), music, dance (if aesthetic concerns are prominent), theater, and most film courses.

Courses that meet IGETC Area 3 and CSU GE-Breadth Area C requirements encourage students to analyze and appreciate works of philosophical, historical, literary, aesthetic, and cultural importance and to develop an independent and critical aesthetic perspective in the arts. CSU GE-Breadth Area C1 courses should adequately address historical, theoretical, and cultural contexts of the art under study.

For IGETC Area 3A, performance and studio classes may be credited toward satisfaction of this subject area only if their major emphasis is in the integration of history, theory, and criticism; for CSU GE-Breadth Area C1, history, theory, and criticism must be a significant component but not necessarily the dominant component of the course. Some study of “great works of the human imagination” must be included in the course.

CSU GE-B C2 Humanities (Literature, Philosophy, Foreign Languages)

For CSU GE Area C2, foreign-language courses at the elementary level are acceptable if the cultural content justifies the qualification. The cultural content should include more than food, festivals, and holidays. Geography, history, arts and humanities may be appropriate for the cultural content in courses for students whose command of the language is unequal to literary works in that language.

In courses for heritage speakers, look for an emphasis on culture and cultural readings in the language rather than a focus on grammar and written language skills exclusively.
Mass communication/mass media courses are not accepted in Area C2, but mass-media-and-society courses may be acceptable in Area D7.

Creative writing courses can be included in Area C2 if they include reading and analysis of professional works of literature. A prerequisite is not a criterion for approval of a creative writing course for CSU GE-B. For approval in Area C2, it is necessary that students in the course read some high-quality professionally written fiction, poetry, scripts, and/or creative non-fiction, usually in addition to each other's works. They should be learning to "read as writers," said to be a different process from reading as literary analysts.

IGETC excludes creative writing courses categorically.

The UC has traditionally considered history to be inherently humanistic, and in response to that position, the CSU faculty (who have typically regarded it as social scientific) agreed to an undocumented but well-established arrangement with the UC regarding history courses. Except for arts history courses, if a course in history is acceptable for IGETC, both the UC and the CSU consider it acceptable in IGETC Area 3B and/or Area 4F, regardless of the focus. Rejection of history courses is extremely rare.

The EO 338 description of GE-B Area C, reproduced in EO 595, did not distinguish between arts and humanities, though the certification provisions of EO 595 later made that distinction significant. EO 595 references to "great works of the human imagination" and students' "subjective response to creative works" are standards considered applicable primarily to courses in the arts and literature. Standards for philosophy, religious studies, and history courses include the IGETC commitment of encouraging students "to analyze and appreciate works of philosophical, historical..., and cultural importance."

If an early world history/civilization course (prehistory to early modern era) is generally acceptable for GE, then it needs to be approved for Area C2. Not to do so would undermine the teacher-preparation Lower-Division Transfer Pattern (LDTP)—something we want to avoid as much as possible. If the course is proposed for IGETC Area 4F and/or GE-B Area D6, then it should also be approved for Area D6, but if it's proposed just for IGETC Area 3B and GE-B Area C2 and it's generally okay, we'll put it solely in IGETC Area 3B and GE-B Area C2.