

## September issue (sept 20-21)

### Welcome to Fall 2017!

On behalf of the Mason Core Committee, welcome to fall 2017! It's great to have you back on campus. This year, Mason opens its doors to more than 3,600 first-year students. Go, Patriots!

[The Mason Core](#) is a foundational selection of courses in a student's curriculum that foster the knowledge and skills needed for academic success. Through the Mason Core, students explore new ideas, engage in inquiry and experiential learning, and learn how to integrate this learning into their chosen major and beyond.

### Welcome, 2017-18 Mason Core Committee!

**Bethany Usher** -Associate Provost for Undergraduate Education

**Dominique Banville** - College of Education and Human Development

**Melissa Broeckelman-Post** - College of Humanities and Social Sciences

**Cheryl Druehl**- School of Business

**Kelly Dunne** – School of Integrative Studies

**Rebecca Ericson** - College of Science

**Stephanie Foster**- Undergraduate Education

**Tamara Maddox** - Volgenau School of Engineering

**E Shelley Reid** - Stearns Center for Teaching & Learning

**Matthew Scherer**- Schar School of Policy and Government

**Mara Schoeny**- School of Conflict Analysis and Resolution

**Garry Sparks** - College of Humanities and Social Sciences

**Ali Weinstein** - College of Health and Human Services

**Peter Winant** - College of Visual and Performing Arts

**Vacancy**- College of Science

### Summary of New Courses and Policy Changes from AY 2016-17

#### New Mason Core Courses

- ANTH 382- Urban Anthropology (Approved for [Global Understanding](#))
- ARTH 206- Survey of African Art (Approved for [Arts](#))
- RELI 333 - Spiritual Autobiography (Approved for [Literature](#))
- RELI/HIST 384- Global History of Christianity (Approved for [Global Understanding](#))

#### Curriculum Modifications:

Global Understanding: The goal of the global understanding category is to help student see the world from multiple perspectives, reflect upon their positions in a global society, and be prepared for future engagement as global citizens. The learning outcomes for this category were revised to better reflect these goals. <http://masoncore.gmu.edu/global-understanding-2/>

### NEW for 2017-2018!

[Courseleaf's Curriculum Inventory Management Program](#) (CIM) is officially here! All new Mason Core course proposals will be submitted through CIM beginning September 2017.

Resources to assist you:

- [Registrar's Office CIM Help Site](#)
- [Running Reports in Courseleaf](#)
- [CIM FAQs](#)

Note that Courseleaf considers Mason Core as a specialty designation. Any new courses must first be approved through Undergraduate Council before they can be [re-]submitted for Mason Core designation. The following categories may be selected for Mason Core:

- Arts\*
- Global Understanding\*
- Information Technology/Ethics
- Literature\*
- Natural Sciences lab and non-lab\*
- Oral Communication
- Quantitative Reasoning
- Social and Behavioral Sciences\*
- Synthesis
- Western Civilization/World History\*

\* Courses submitted for these categories may also be submitted for one additional category. If requesting that a course be considered for more than one category, a separate proposal must be submitted for each category.

Questions regarding course submissions should be directed to [masoncor@gmu.edu](mailto:masoncor@gmu.edu) or 703-993-5941. For questions regarding Courseleaf, contact the Registrar's Office or your department's Catalog author.

### **Mason Core Assessment Cycle Launches this Fall**

This semester, we kick off a new **assessment** cycle for the Mason Core. Assessment is an essential and ongoing activity for all faculty to understand areas of strength and needs for improvement in course design and instruction. Between fall 2017 and fall 2020, a complete assessment cycle will be conducted for all of the Mason Core categories. We will focus on two Mason Core categories per semester, in which all faculty teaching that semester will be asked to provide a syllabus, course assignment, and student work samples. For fall 2017, the focus will be on **Global Understanding** and **Western Civilization/World History**. For more information about Mason Core assessment, visit <http://masoncore.gmu.edu/assessment/>

### **Join us for Innovations in Teaching & Learning Conference: Learning in a Digital World**

Friday, September 22

Join the Stearns Center for Teaching and Learning for a day of 30+ inspiring conference sessions (led by Mason instructors and our keynote speaker, Kentaro Toyama) that showcase strategies and tips to support student learning in and out of the classroom. Faculty from all ranks/disciplines, graduate students, and members of support offices are welcome. See the

online program for a preview of events. Graduate students and adjunct instructors can register at discounted rates; see information online.

### **Faculty Resources to Support Mason Core Courses**

- Mason Core courses and learning outcomes: <http://masoncore.gmu.edu/>
- Stearns Center for Teaching and Learning: Teaching guides and resources, including effective syllabus design, assignment design, exam construction, grading policies, etc.: <http://stearnscenter.gmu.edu/>
- Open Educational Resources: <http://publishing.gmu.edu/communication/open-educational-resources/>
- Research “Infoguides” by subject: <http://infoguides.gmu.edu/>

### **Visit Our Website!**

The Mason Core Newsletter will be published once per semester, with updates from the Mason Core Committee to support faculty and advisors across Mason.

For more information about the Mason Core, including course submission deadlines, visit <http://masoncore.gmu.edu/>

**Want to be on our list? Do THIS**