



Spring 2025: What is *Proteus*?

Professors Amy Parsons and Sarah Senk in Culture and Communication received a grant from The Teagle Foundation in Summer 24 to revise some elements of our General Education program, and to offer interested students a 12-unit Certificate in Integrated General Education without adding any additional time to your degree.

Gateway Courses: EGL 101/102, EGL 100, EGL 220, EGL 200 (at least one course for 3 units)

Through the grant, faculty have collaborated on selecting a long list of “transformative texts,” and using that list to highlight Humanities-based inquiry in existing first-year General Education Requirements. Our guiding principle is that reading, analyzing, and discussing these kinds of texts can open up conversations about timeless and essential issues: What is education for? Why is it so hard to be a person, especially when we have to understand other people? How can we get more comfortable with ambiguity and taking risks when there isn’t just one right answer? How does self-awareness make us better at leading or working in teams? Why do these GE requirements matter if I’m here for a technical degree?

Certificate in Integrated General Education Courses (3 courses for 9 units)

It can be difficult to see the connection between GE requirements and your major, especially on our high-unit campus where so much emphasis has to be on your major course of study. The grant also supports creating a certificate option in which you select three of your remaining GE courses from within one of three thematic clusters. That is, you select **one theme** and **take three classes** within that cluster. You should select classes from at **least two different** academic disciplines.

These are not additional requirements or extra classes! The certificate offers a bit more intention and connection between courses you select to fulfill existing GE requirements. The certificate is completely voluntary! *NOTE: the list below is evolving, and not all the courses below are offered every semester.*

Maritime Culture	The Environment	Leadership/Global Citizenship
HUM 115 Maritime Arts GMA 220 Comparative Maritime Policy HIS 300 Maritime History EGL 309 British Literature of the Sea EGL 310 US Literature of the Sea EGL 315 World Literature of the Sea HUM 350 Maritime Culture	OCN 100 Marine Biology OCN 110 Marine Ecology OCN 105 Intro to Oceanography GMA 250 Environmental Policy GMA 320 Ocean Environmental Management OCN 320 Oceans and Climate LAW 200 Environmental Law EGL 345 Literature and the Environment NAU 330 Meteorology	PHY 120 Physics for Future Leaders 340 Multicultural Literature HUM 325 Globalization of Culture HUM 380 Ethical Inquiry GMA 300 US Foreign Policy GMA 355 Cross Cultural Competence GMA 415 Strategy and War GMA 425 Civil Conflict LAW 300 International Law

FAQ	
How do I know if I have already taken or am currently taking a “Gateway” class?	These are the sections and semesters that count for your 3-unit “Gateway” course: EGL 100 English Composition: Spring 2025 (all) EGL 101/102 Stretch Composition: AY 23-24 and AY 24-25 (all) EGL 220 Critical Thinking: Fall 23 (Senk or Parsons), Spring 24 (Senk), Fall 24 (all), Spring 25 (all) EGL 200 Intro to Literature: Fall 24, Spring 25 (all)
I have taken more than one of these. Do they all count toward the 12-unit certificate?	For the certificate, any one of the classes above fulfills your “Gateway” requirement, but they do not become part of the additional 9 units for the “Pathway” requirements. We wanted to create multiple options for students who might have taken AP credits (for EGL 100) or transferred from other schools.
I have already taken most of the classes in one of the Thematic Clusters. Can those courses count retroactively?	Yes! While the Gateway requirement has to come from the list above, we can retroactively include any of the courses on our list as part of your “Pathway” units.
Do I have to take my 9 themed units in the same semester?	No! As long as you complete your units before you graduate, you will get the certificate!
Are the classes identified in the Thematic Clusters all going to suddenly become English classes?	No! While some instructors might highlight the connections between their classes and the Gateway classes, their methods and materials all remain the same. The certificate program is about your selection of courses.
Can I do the Certificate without slowing down my progress to graduation?	Yes! The program draws from requirements that you already have to meet.
Does the program involve more than just classes?	Yes! We are working on other elements like cultural events, field trips, speakers, and social gatherings. Stay tuned!
If I want to know more about all of this, who do I contact?	Excellent question! You can write to or visit office hours with Amy Parsons (aparsons@csum.edu) or Sarah Senk (ssenk@csum.edu).