Interconnections Thread

Description
In this requirement, you will use the approaches of history and the social sciences to explore how peoples across time and space have organized local, regional, national, and global communities. You will consider the ways in which individuals, groups, and societies are related to one another and examine the social, economic, and political traditions and structures they create. In the end, you will gain a better understanding of how and why peoples and societies have become increasingly interconnected to and interdependent upon one another.

Learning Goals and Outcomes
Courses in this thread will be guided by the following learning goals and outcomes. Each course will meet at least five of the following ten learning outcomes:

GOAL ONE: To inspire intellectual curiosity about the world as it is and a deeper understanding of the global condition.
   Outcomes:
   1) Students can articulate the historical and contemporary significance of global interconnections and interdependencies in human, natural and physical worlds.
   2) Students explore and analyze the dynamic relationship of global and local issues or problems.
   3) Students understand sustainability as an economic, social and environmental practice.

GOAL TWO: To assist students in cultivating intercultural knowledge and competencies.
   Outcomes:
   1) Students gain enhanced understanding of the diversity of ideas, beliefs and practices across cultures and throughout historical eras.
   2) Students gain enhanced understanding of the cultural diversity that shapes local communities.
   3) Students recognize the interactive and dynamic relationship of global and local communities.

GOAL THREE: To promote active and critical reflection on the human self in its full range of contexts.
   Outcome:
   4) Students recognize and engage with that which is other or unfamiliar to them.

GOAL FIVE: To encourage purposeful public engagement and social responsibility.
   Outcomes:
   1) Students demonstrate the intellectual and practical skills necessary for meaningful work and active participation in the local community and the larger world.
   2) Students investigate multiple and evolving forms of civic identification and belonging, with particular attention to the practice of citizenship in local, national and global contexts.
   4) Students come to see themselves as responsible, engaged and informed persons, capable and willing to act in ways that will improve or reshape the world.

Staffing
Primary staffing responsibility for this thread will be delivered by the departments of History and Political Science, Psychology, and Sociology.