REFORMING GENERAL EDUCATION:
What Should All College Students Know in the 21st Century?
a discussion with
Peter A. Shulman
Associate Professor of History
November 8, 2019 12:30 – 1:30 p.m.
Kelvin Smith Library Dampeer Room 11201 Euclid Ave.

Through much of the 19th century, college curricula were typically standard: all students taking more or less the same courses that university leaders deemed worth knowing. Beginning towards the end of that century, American colleges increasingly replaced this fixed system with electives and majors, carving out a smaller space for common requirements. Institutions focused on technical education in the sciences and engineering developed their own versions of this system, which held as the norm through the 20th century and beyond.

So what should all students today learn in common?

What required courses or subjects, if any, should organize undergraduate curricula? Do we encourage breadth or depth? Lectures or experiences? Large classes or small? The answers to these questions will reflect the purposes we have for college education this century: career development? The cultivation of character? Civic responsibility? They might also reflect economic and social pressures on the university, and who gets to make these decisions.

Professor Shulman has been participating in the ongoing process at CWRU towards introducing – for the first time – a GER common to all undergraduates.

The Friday Public Affairs Discussion Lunch is an opportunity for students, faculty, staff, emeriti and other members of our communities to learn and question each other about public policy issues at the international, national, and local levels. Faculty and other speakers share their research and experience to get beyond the headlines and repetition in the mass media, and the wild rumors of the internet. Lunch is brown bag, but cookies and some beverages are provided by the Center for Policy Studies of the College of Arts and Sciences.

http://fridaylunch.case.edu/