

ASU GENERAL STUDIES COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, August 25, 2015
3:00–5:00 p.m.

Present: Alexandra Aragon, Charlotte Armbruster, Tamiko Azuma, Eva Brumberger, Alison Essary (Chair), Lara Ferry, Cora Fox, Juan Gil-Osle, Cory Hansen, Caroline Harrison, Rich Herrera, Julie Holston, Wendy Hultsman, Miki Kittilson, Bertha Manninen, Frances Matera, Mary McAvoy, Lisa McIntyre, Michael Mokwa, Lauren Leo, Phyllis Lucie, Stefan Stantchev, Michelle Zandieh

Excused: Ariel Anbar, Nilanjana Bhattacharjya, Sean Hawkeswood, Paul Hirt, Brian Skromme

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes—April 21, 2015

The minutes were approved as written.

3. Announcements

Alison Essary welcomed new and returning members to the GSC.

4. Old Business

None

5. New Business

Members of the Historical Awareness subcommittee informed the GSC that they would like to review and possibly amend the Historical Awareness check-sheet.

6. Subcommittee Reports

A) Literacy & Critical Inquiry
From ASU:

Approved for L designation, effective Fall 2016 (new):

CHI/SLC 120 Introduction to Chinese Culture
ENG 337 Major American Novels
GER 422 German Literature Survey, 1800-Today

Request to revise and resubmit for L designation (new):

CON/CNE 496 Construction Contract Administration

Rationale: The committee asks that page length information or similar length guidance for writing assignments be included on the syllabus, not just on the materials for GSC review.

Request to revise and resubmit for L designation (mandatory review):

FMS 110 Introduction to New Media (Mandatory Review - Revised)

Rationale: The committee asks that the syllabus be revised to include running length guidelines for the video project, so that the assignment criteria give some sense of the written content required. Additionally, the length requirement for the blog posts should be expressed as a number of words, rather than pages, since online pages do not necessarily equate to print pages.

FMS 351 Emerging Digital Media (Mandatory Review - Revised)

Rationale: As the committee noted previously, a three sentence discussion post does not seem to constitute “substantive” writing and critical thinking. Additionally, for the two larger writing assignments, the committee would like to see cumulative feedback included, so that students have the opportunity to revise and improve their writing before getting a final grade on the assignment.

JST/REL 210 Introduction to Judaism (Mandatory Review - Revised)

Rationale: All of the writing assignments are substantial, but the percentages allotted to each paper do not reflect this. There is one 2500 (~10 page) essay, worth 20%, and eight 2000 word (~8 page) essays:

- 2 for assignment #1, at 10% each
- 3 for assignment #2, at 6.67% each
- 3 for assignment #3, at 6.67% each

B) Mathematical Studies (MA)/(CS)

From ASU:

Approved for CS designation, effective Fall 2016 (new):

STP 280 Probability and Statistics for Researchers (CS)

Request to revise and resubmit for CS designation (new):

SLV 304 Computational Linguistics of Slavic Languages (CS)

Rationale: The syllabus for this course is lacking many elements required by ACD 304-10, most notably student learning outcomes. These are needed to properly evaluate the course for a CS designation, and the syllabus should be revised and updated to comply with ABOR requirements. Further, the committee questioned having only a pre-requisite of basic computer skills. A 300-level class should normally have pre-requisites that

preclude freshmen from taking it, for example (e.g., junior standing), and it is unclear how those with no prior foreign language or linguistics experience could successfully complete this course. Some sort of language and/or linguistics pre-requisite should probably exist. I could not begin to understand the language examples/samples on your website, for example, even with many years of studying French. A Modify Course form in Curriculum ChangeMaker would be needed to change pre-requisites. The committee feels that the course probably satisfies the criteria for spreadsheet/database applications and graphic design, but has only minimal content in music design and statistics. However, the learning outcomes and pre-requisite should be addressed before we can make a final determination.

C) Humanities, Arts & Design (HU)

From ASU:

Approved for HU designation, effective Spring 2016 (new):

ARS 330 The Portrait

Approved for HU designation, effective Fall 2016 (new):

HEB/SLC/JST 347 Modern Israeli Literature in Translation

D) Social-Behavioral Sciences

From ASU:

Approved for SB designation effective, Spring 2016 (new):

HCR 294 The Science of Sleep Behavior

Approved for SB designation effective Fall 2016 (new):

HSC 355 Eating for Lifelong Health

Request to revise and resubmit for SB designation:

HST 316 20th-Century U.S. Foreign Relations (Mandatory Review – Revised)

D) Natural Sciences (SQ/SG)

From ASU:

Approved for SG designation, effective retroactive Fall 2015 (new):

BIO 112 Discovery: Why Sex? (SG)

E) Cultural Diversity in the United States

From ASU:

Approved to retain C designation (mandatory review):

ENG 334 The American Southwest in Literature and Film

Request to revise and resubmit for C designation (mandatory review-revised):

COM 323 Communication Approaches to Popular Culture (Mandatory Review – Revised)

Rationale: Communication Approaches to Popular Culture. The course in its present form does not explicitly focus on the United States as a whole. Nor does the course seem to spend enough of the course covering the cultural groups within the United States listed within the designation criteria. The weeks on feminist criticism; lesbian, gay, and queer criticism; and African American criticism cover theoretical frameworks that presumably deal with these communities, but these together comprise only three weeks of the entire semester. We expect at least half of the material to engage explicitly with these communities in courses with the C designation.

G) Global Awareness

From ASU:

Approve for G designation, effective Fall 2016 (new):

HEB/SLC/JST 347 Modern Israeli Literature in Translation

JUS/SGS 325 Globalization and Socio-Economic Justice

H) Historical Awareness

From ASU:

Approve to retain H designation, effective (mandatory review):

HST 316 20th-Century U.S. Foreign Relations

JST/REL 210 Introduction to Judaism

LPH 310 History of Landscape Architecture

PHI 328 History of Ancient Philosophy

REL 310 Western Religious Traditions

Request to revise and resubmit for H designation (new):

ENG 400 History of Literary Criticism

Rationale: The committee is concerned that neither the proposal nor the syllabus explicitly addresses how the field of study is affected by political, social, economic, and/or cultural conditions AND how political, social, economic, and/or cultural conditions are affected by the field of study, thereby demonstrating an organic connection between the study of developments within the field in question and of society at large. Additionally, the brief length of time (less than one class period) allotted to each topic seems prohibitive to substantial methodical historical inquiry.

No courses were submitted from MCCCDC for this meeting.

7. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Submitted by Phyllis Lucie