

**ASU General Studies Council**

**MEETING MINUTES**

September 23, 2014

3:00-5:00 p.m.

- Present: Alexandra Aragon, Charlotte Armbruster, Nilanjana Bhattacharjya, Christine Buzinde, Alison Essary, Lara Ferry, Cora Fox, Chouki El Hamel – Chair, Cory Hansen, Sean Hawkeswood, Richard Herrera, Julie Holston, Paul Hirt, Lauren Leo, Phyllis Lucie, Lisa McIntyre, Helene Ossipov, Julia Sarreal, Brian Skromme
- Excused: Ariel Anbar, Eva Brumberger, Eileen Diaz McConnell, Stephen Krause, Bertha Manninen, Tim McGuire, Michael Mokwa, Janice Pittsley
- Guest: Sharon Yee

**1. Call to Order**

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

**2. Approval of Minutes—August 26, 2014**

The minutes were approved as written.

**3. Announcements**

**4. Old Business**

Chouki informed the GSC that Rebecca Barry will be doing the voice-over for the GSC tutorial on the website.

**5. New Business**

There was a question regarding whether a short comment on **approved** course submissions should be included on subcommittee reports. This will be discussed at the October 21<sup>st</sup> GSC meeting.

## 6. Subcommittee Reports

### A) Literacy & Critical Inquiry (Eva Brumberger)

#### **From ASU:**

**Approved for L designation effective Summer 2015 (new):**

ENG 494 Reading England's Literary Landscape

**Approved for L designation effective Fall 2015 (new):**

HON 370 History of Ideas

#### **From MCCCDC:**

None

### B) Mathematical Studies (MA)/(CS) (Brian Skromme)

#### **From ASU:**

None

#### **From MCCCDC:**

None

### C) Humanities, Arts & Design (HU) (Cora Fox)

#### **From ASU:**

**Approved for HU designation, effective Summer 2015 (new):**

ENG 494 Reading England's Literary Landscape

**Approved for HU designation, effective Fall 2015 (new):**

ENG 315 Medieval Literature in Translation

HON 370 History of Ideas

#### **Revise and Resubmit for HU designation:**

SWU 183 Introductory Ethics: A Social Issues Perspectives

*Rationale:* This course seems to be focused primarily on the development of individual professional ethics for those in social service fields, rather than a humanistic account of the development of philosophical/ethical thought itself. The course depends for its content almost exclusively on one textbook, *Contemporary Moral Issues: Diversity and*

*Consensus*, which includes readings on contemporary moral issues. The nature of these readings is unclear, however, and a significant portion of them seem to be experiential accounts of ethical situations. We would suggest that the application include a more detailed presentation of the course's specifically humanistic content, providing a discussion of the nature of the textbook's content, and explaining how readings in ethics, rather than applied ethics, are central.

**Deny for HU:**

SWU 459 Spirituality and the Helping Professions

*Rationale:* This course engages with questions of spirituality from an almost exclusively social sciences perspective. The nature and development of spiritual beliefs themselves are not the focus of the course; rather the focus is on the way spirituality affects social systems and individual experience. For example, the instructor notes the "House of Worship Ethnography" assignment as evidence of "the study of values, religions, spiritual belief systems, and ethics," but this is an inherently social scientific approach to these questions, not analyzing beliefs themselves but how those beliefs manifest in social practices and experience. Class 12 does cover some study of differing religions, and some of the assignments will encourage students to analyze the belief systems they approach from these social science perspectives, but this indirect engagement is not sufficient humanities content for the HU designation.

**From MCCCD:**

**Approved to retain HU designation:**

PHI 216 Environmental Ethics (Mandatory Review)

**D) Social-Behavioral Sciences (SB) (Michael Mokwa)**

**From ASU:**

**Approved for SB designation, effective Fall 2015 (new):**

SWU 182 Arizona and National Government: A Social Work Perspective

SWU 294 Stress Management Tools II

**Revise and Resubmit for SB designation:**

SWU 181 Economics: A Social Issues Perspective

*Rationale:* The SWU 181 proposal and materials need to be revised to more explicitly explain how the course meets the SB criteria. The description for SWU 182 (approved above) was much clearer and explicitly addressed the SB criteria. While the topics of

welfare and economics are typically social behavioral in nature, the current proposal is relying on many implicit assumptions to make a connections between the course topics and how they will be treated in the course to ensure that the SB outcomes are met. More detailed evidence in the syllabus is necessary.

**From MCCC:**

None

**E) Natural Sciences (SQ/SG) (Alison Essary)**

**From ASU:**

None

**From MCCC:**

None

**F) Cultural Diversity in the United States (C) (Nilanjana Bhattacharjya)**

**From ASU:**

**Approved** for C designation, effective Fall 2015 (new):

SWU 456 Immigrants and Refugees

SWU 457 Southwest Borderland Immigration Issues

SWU 461 Lesbian, Gay Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Issues

**From MCCC:**

None

**G) Global Awareness (G) (Richard Herrera)**

**From ASU:**

**Approved** for G designation, effective Fall 2015 (new):

JUS/SOS 456 Human Rights and Sustainability (Revised)

**Revise and Resubmit:**

ENG 494 Reading England's Literary Landscape

*Rationale:* The committee would like further clarification on how the assignments are linked to the examination of British culture and how the completion of the course contributes to an understanding of the *contemporary* world. Specifics might include how readings/assignments other than the Smith book lead to such an understanding.

**From MCCC:**  
**Approved to retain G designation:**

PSY 132 Psychology of Culture (Mandatory Review)

**H) Historical Awareness (H) (Julia Sarreal)**

**From ASU:**

**Revise and resubmit for H designation:**

ENG 494 Reading England's Literary Landscape

*Rationale:* The scope of the course seems to be limited to the study of the seven works of literature and how location influenced their work. While the application refers to historical content, the syllabus was not convincing: it did not provide enough information for an evaluation of historical content. The course does not seem to focus on "a sequence of events" (criteria #2) nor does there seem to be a "disciplined systematic examination of human institutions as they change over time" (criteria #3). Rather, the course looks at seven works of literature from various points in time. One improvement could be the specification in the syllabus of the historical topic to be discussed of each week.

HON 370 History of Ideas

*Rationale:* The course seems to be limited to an exploration of the ideas discussed in the readings. The seminar description and learning goals in the syllabus do not discuss history. The course does not seem to focus on "a sequence of events" (criteria #2) nor does there seem to be a "disciplined systematic examination of human institutions as they change over time" (criteria #3). Rather, the course looks at particular geographic areas and periods in human history.

**From MCCC:**  
None

**7. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

Submitted by Phyllis Lucie