



ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY
ASU GENERAL STUDIES COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, February 2, 2017
3:00–5:00 p.m.

Present: Katherine Antonucci, Alexandra Aragon, Tamiko Azuma, Deepak Chhabra, Jason Bruner, Jessica Early, Caroline Harrison, Sean Hawkeswood, Julie Holston, Hilde Hoogenboom, Wendy Hultsman - Vice Chair, Phyllis Lucie, Fran Matera, Michael Mokwa, Darryl Morrell, Helene Ossipov, Kristen Parrish, Deborah Preach, Janice Pittsley, Brad Ryner, Matt Simonton, Michelle Zandieh

Excused: Heather Bateman, Alison Essary, Bertha Manninen, Stephen Wirkus

1. Call to Order

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

2. Approval of Minutes—November 17, 2016

The minutes were approved as written.

3. Announcements

4. Old Business – discussion continued as it relates to the review/updating of criteria check-sheets. Each subcommittee is tasked with reviewing their respective check-sheets.

Discussion will continue at the next GSC meeting.

5. New Business

6. Subcommittee Reports

A) Literacy & Critical Inquiry

From ASU:

Approved for L designation, effective retroactive Fall 2017 (new):

ENG 205 Introduction to Writing, Rhetorics and Literacies
ISS 456 Culture, Conflict and War
STS 235 Technology and Urban Systems

Revise & Resubmit for L designation (new):

STS 250 Science, Society and Global Warming

Rationale: From the materials submitted, it is impossible to determine if the course fulfills Criteria 2, 3, and 4. The assignments are not described in sufficient detail to determine if they “involve gathering, interpreting, and evaluating evidence” (Criterion 2), “entail sustained in-depth engagement with the material” and “reflect critical inquiry and evaluation” (Criterion 3), and are “arranged so that the students will get timely feedback from the instructor” (Criterion 4). A cause for concern that they do not fulfill these criteria is the length of the two assignments. Two 25-page papers constitute an immense workload if these papers are going to demonstrate significant upper-level critical analysis implied by Criteria 2 and 3 with sufficient time to develop these critical skills through the timely feedback implied by Criterion 4. The assignment descriptions state, “Evidentiary Research Analysis Literature Review requires the review of the scientific evidence on global warming, interpretation of that literature to reach an informed conclusion about global warming, and implications of that conclusion based on the review of available scientific evidence.” If the assignment is designed for students to learn the current state of the scientific inquiry into global warming, that constitutes important gained knowledge, but not necessarily critical analysis -- which would require adding to this knowledge or using it in some way to understand a particular question or issue. Similarly, the “Evidentiary Policy Report Review” is said to require “a review of the US government’s findings on global warming, stating the organizations and individuals who have contributed to the US government’s view on global warming, [and] the delineation of the US government’s policy approach(es) to global warming.” This appears to be fact-gathering, not critical analysis. The final element asking about “the implications for US national and international policy moving forward” does suggest analysis, but analysis of the sort significantly above what students in a 200-level could be expected to do well. To merit the L-designation, the course would need to show that it trains students to move beyond reviewing the state of knowledge to active critical analysis.

Deny for L designation (new):

ENG 390 Methods of Inquiry

Rationale: This course does not meet Criterion 1, that “at least 50 percent of the grade in the course should depend upon writing assignments.” This criterion specifies

written, as opposed to oral presentations, thus disallowing the presentations on each research method and the oral presentation on the research proposal, leaving only 40% of the grade determined by writing assignments. Additionally, the course does not seem to meet Criterion 3, that the “syllabus should include a minimum of two writing and / or speaking assignments that are substantial in depth, quality, and quantity.” The research proposal certainly meets this criterion, but the presentations of research methods (counting for only 10%) would not fulfill the requirement if they are epitomes of the material covered in each unit, rather than substantial applications or critiques of these methods.

From MCCCD:

none

B) Mathematical Studies (MA)/(CS)

From ASU:

Revise and Resubmit for CS designation:

ISS 401 Statistics for Integrated Social Science

Rationale: First, the applicants did not fill out the criteria form correctly. They selected all three possible criteria rather than satisfying only the one that was most applicable. Secondly, and possibly because they misread what was needed, they did not fully satisfy any of the three criteria enough that we could determine which should apply in this case.

Criteria 1. Computer applications. There is brief mention that the book covers three different statistical software packages, but there is no description of what students would do with these packages.

Criteria 2. Statistical Applications. We think the course may be able to satisfy the Statistics criteria, but it seems impossible to tell for sure. The statistical goals stated in the application and on the syllabus are very general, however the criteria requires more specificity such as standard probability models or regression or correlation analysis.

Criteria 3. Quantitative Applications. They might be able to satisfy with more information. We are concerned that since they only have the application of Decision Science, their work with it should be substantial, which it did not seem to be. Also, we did not get the impression the course was emphasizing the use of mathematical models as in this description.

From MCCC:

None

C) Humanities, Arts & Design (HU)

From ASU:

Approved for HU designation, effective retroactive Fall 2017 (new):

HEB 349 Israeli Wars in Israeli Movies

From MCCC:

None

D) Social - Behavioral Sciences (SB)

From ASU:

Approved for SB designation, Fall 2017 (new):

ISS 110 Dimensions of Social Science
ISS 301 Integrated Social Science Research Methods
ISS 302 Scope of Social Science
ISS 304 Integrated Theories of Social Science
ISS 410 Integrative Leadership Studies
ISS 415 Knowledge Leadership
ISS 441 Conflict and Conflict Resolution
ISS 456 Culture, Conflict and War
STS 202 Science, Technology, and Diversity

Deny for SB designation (new):

ISS 428 Religion and Global Violence

Rationale: The proposal is developed adequately. While a variety of sociological perspectives and some SB themes are addressed in the course, these do not appear to be the core or dominate perspectives in the course. To us, the course relies heavily on more structural perspectives of religion and violence. The readings and textbook contents that might relate more closely with SB perspectives are not elaborated. There is not a clear demonstration of how human interaction and social behavioral knowledge and research are the dominant focus of this course.

ISS 437 Integrative Ethics in Social Science

Rationale: The proposal is developed adequately, but it does not clearly demonstrate that socio-behavioral perspectives and knowledge are the integral approach used to understand ethics across different contexts (economic, sociological and political) or in the ethical analysis processes being advocated in the course work. The dominant approach appears to be instructional/structural rather than behavior.

ISS 450 Consumerism and Sustainable Development

Rationale: The proposal is developed adequately. The fundamental nature and role of human interaction as the base of consumerism and sustainable development is offered as the course platform. But, the course materials and course work appear to focus much more on institutional perspectives of the issues. The social behavioral theories, research or knowledge that are being addressed are not specified; and it is not specified if these are the dominant perspectives in the course work.

From MCCCDC:

None

E) Natural Sciences (SQ/SG)

From ASU:

None

From MCCCDC:

None

F) Cultural Diversity in the United States (C)

From ASU:

None

From MCCCDC:

None

G) Global Awareness (G)

From ASU:

HEB 349 Israeli Wars in Israeli Movies

ISS 428 Religion and Global Violence
ISS 441 Conflict and Conflict Resolution
ISS 456 Culture, Conflict and War
STS 332 Global Issues in Science and Technology

From MCCCDC:

None

H) Historical Awareness (H)

From ASU:

None

From MCCCDC:

None

6. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Submitted by Phyllis Lucie