

**ASU GENERAL STUDIES COUNCIL**  
MEETING MINUTES  
November 20, 2012  
3:00–5:00 p.m.

Present: Craig Allen, Rebecca Barry, Volker Benkert, Patrick Bixby, Debra Campbell, David Carlson, Ron Dorn, Alejandra Elenes, Barbara Fargotstein- Chair (for Chouki El Hamel), Hilde Hoogenboom, Barbara Lafford, Kate Lehman, Lauren Leo, Phyllis Lucie, Peter de Marneffe, Julia Sarreal, Mike Tueller

Excused: Sherry Feng, Antonio Garcia, Chouki El Hamel, Tracey Hayes, Matthias Kawski, Lisa McIntyre, Mark Montesano, Jeff Ricker, Joe Rody

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 3:10 p.m.

**2. Approval of Minutes—October 23, 2012**

The minutes were approved as written.

**3. Announcements**

The council thanked Kate Lehman for serving as interim chair on the Humanities, Fine Arts and Design subcommittee for the fall 2012 semester, while concurrently serving as a member of the Social & Behavioral Sciences subcommittee.

**4. Old Business**

The GSC continued their discussion on what constitutes substantive writing assignments for Literacy criteria. Barbara Fargotstein requested feedback from the council relating to the definition of a substantial writing assignment (criteria states two substantial writing or speaking assignments).

A lengthy discussion ensued with council members providing feedback that included: students need to master course content; ability to synthesize information; class time feedback; word minimum requirements; develop communication skills as it relates to discipline; writing a paper like a thesis; a substantial and convincing writing assignment; what percent of the grade is writing?

Barbara Fargotstein requested that Phyllis Lucie forward all suggestions sent thus far from council members (e-mails were sent after the GSC meeting).

5. **New Business**

None

6. **Subcommittee Reports**

A) **Literacy & Critical Inquiry (Barbara Fargotstein)**  
**From ASU**

**Approved for L designation, retroactive effective fall 2012 (new):**

CPI 485 & 486 Informatics Capstone (revise & resubmit)

**Approved for L designation, effective fall 2013 (new):**

SPA 431 Prose of Golden Age  
SPA 435 Cervantes - Don Quijote

From MCCCDC:(new)  
Revise & Resubmit:

CPD 160 Introduction to Multiculturalism

*Rationale:* the only substantial writings are the book analyses which are worth 400 points. With a total of 940 points possible Criterion #1 is not met.

**Table until January 22, 2013 GSC meeting:**  
**From ASU: (new)**

SPA 319 Business Correspondences & Communication

The description of the assignments (business letters and a resume) do not meet Criterion #1 that requires that 50% of the grade in the course be based upon writing. The subcommittee requests more time to review this course proposal.

B) **Mathematical Studies (MA)/(CS) (Joe Rody)**

none

C) **Humanities, Fine Arts & Design (HU) (Kate Lehman)**  
**From ASU:**

**Approved for HU designation, effective fall 2013 (new):**

MUS 210 The Arts Around Us  
MUS 211 Dance, Music & Meaning  
MUS 212 Music Meaning & Imagination  
MUS 213 Critical Thinking in the Arts  
MUS 214 Art, Music and Learning

MUS 215 Creativity, Children and the Arts  
SPA 435 Cervantes - Don Quijote

From MCCCCD:

**Approved for HU designation, effective spring 2013 (new):**

AHU 245 Arabic Culture and Islam  
ENH 245 J.R.R. Tolkien & C.S. Lewis - Battling Modernism  
HUM 245 Introduction Holocaust Studies  
MHL 155 The Survey of American Music

**From ASU:**

**Revise and Resubmit: (new)**

FMP 222 Education in Film

*Rationale:* For Criteria 4b it is suggested that in the course “film and film production are critiqued through representational and aesthetic criteria,” but the evidence for this is a course objective (1. critically reflect on one’s personal value/attitude/belief systems about teaching, students, and education) that is not directly related to aesthetic criteria.

JUS 435 Cinema and Justice

*Rationale:* For criteria 4b, the course seems to address social values rather than aesthetic values.

**D) Social and Behavioral Sciences (Rebecca Barry)**

**From MCCCCD:**

**Approved for SB designation, effective spring 2013 (new):**

HIS 105 Arizona History

**Approved to retain SB designation:**

PSY 241 Understanding and Changing Behavior

**E) Natural Sciences (SQ/SG) (Ron Dorn)**

**From ASU: SG (new)**

BIO 307 Dinosaurs

**Denied for SG:**

*Rationale:* Criteria 8, that the course be offered at the lower division level and does not have any prerequisites. One purpose of the lab science requirement is to provide a window into scientific thinking.

This occurs through iterative labs at an introductory level. By having so many choices of subfields, the hope is that students who were "turned off" by the limited sciences that high schools offer can be re-energized about scientific thinking and science. Thus, having a course on Dinosaurs would be fantastic. The course itself seems just great. Students would be exposed to a topic that they might have loved as first graders, reigniting their curiosities.

However, this is a 300 level biology course. Furthermore, there is a prerequisite that the student have sophomore standing. Both are incompatible with the criteria 8.

The chair of this subcommittee would be happy to chat with the faculty member and explain that the course just needs to be changed to lower division to be awarded G.

**F) Cultural Diversity in the United States (Alejandra Elenes)  
From ASU**

**Approved for C designation, effective fall 2013 (new):**

SPA 404 Spanish in the U.S. Professional Communities  
SPA 405 Latino Cultural Perspectives for the Professions  
SPA 485 Mexican American Short Story

**From MCCCCD:**

**Revise and Resubmit:(new)**

MHL 145 American Jazz & Popular Music  
MHL 155 Survey of American Music

*Rationale:* While the syllabi from both courses do fulfill the spirit of C designation, we would like to see the C criteria (focus on U.S. minority groups) mentioned in the MCCCCD district-level goals for this course. Otherwise, we cannot be sure that the course would meet the C requirements with another instructor not using these syllabi.

**G) Global Awareness (Mike Tueller)  
From ASU**

**Approved for G designation, effective spring 2013 (new):**

THP 498 Bali: Performance and the Art of Transformation

**From MCCCD:**  
**Approved for G designation, effective spring 2013 (new):**

AHU 245 Arabic Culture and Islam

**Approved to retain G designation:** (mandatory review)

IFS 102 Introduction to Information Skills in a Global Society

While we approve this course, we have a recommendation. A theme running throughout the course as taught is the contrast and conflict between an emergent, internet-powered global culture and a variety of local cultures around the globe. This theme coheres very well with the aim of the global awareness designation, and is very useful and interesting in its own right. Shouldn't it be included in the course competencies?

**Recommend to Revise and Resubmit:** (mandatory review)

GCU 121 World Geography I: Eastern Hemisphere

*Rationale:* The course as currently taught meets our criteria; sample test questions and the contents of the textbook clearly have a significant cultural component. We were surprised, then, to find that the course competencies refer to culture only tangentially. For instance, the competency most relevant to culture is number 13: "List the major racial groups of the region and identify and locate the major language and religious groups found in Eurasia and North Africa." This is the right kind of information, but students are required to do surprisingly little with it: these characteristics of peoples should not only be listed, identified, and located; the students should demonstrate an understanding of how these characteristics—not to mention other customs and social structures—affect the other information learned in the course.

**From ASU:**  
**DENY(new)**

SPA 435 Cervantes: Don Quijote

*Rationale:* The submission does not claim any relevance to contemporary non-U.S. culture; only the culture of the early 17th century is the object of its study.

**H) Historical Awareness (Jeffrey Ricker)**

**From ASU:**

**Revise and Resubmit:(new)**

SPA 435 Cervantes - Don Quijote

*Rationale:* The criteria checklist was not filled out correctly (Criterion 2 was not addressed) and the proposal did not include a syllabus.

**From MCCCD:**

**Approve for H designation, effective spring 2013: (new)**

HIS 105 Arizona History  
MHL 155 The Survey of American Music

**6. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Submitted by Phyllis Lucie