

Historical Awareness Subcommittee Report

Date: 9/28/17

To: General Studies Council

From: Historical Awareness Subcommittee

Julie Holston, Chair

Jason Bruner

Manisha Master

Matt Simonton

Re: Recommendations for Course Proposals [H] designation

Recommend for Approval

From ASU:

SLC 294 Saving the Roman Empire

From MCCCCD:

None.

Recommend for Revise/Resubmit

From ASU:

None.

From MCCCCD:

None.

Recommend for Denial

From ASU:

SPA 394 Human Rights in Argentina

Rationale: The course satisfactorily fulfills criterion 4 (“examines the relationship among events, ideas, and artifacts and the broad social, political, and economic context”) but does not satisfy the first three criteria. The primary focus of the

course appears to be human rights rather than Argentine history, as evidenced by the learning outcomes for the course, which do not mention history or historical analysis, and the assessment metric indicating that the students will be held accountable for “key concepts of human rights” with no mention of historical analysis. The films on which the five essay assignments are based seem to depict the personal experiences of individuals involved in specific historical events, primarily for aesthetic and political purposes; therefore, these assignments do not seem intended to foster historical analysis. There is some sense in the syllabus of observing changes in institutions over time (in this case, the last 40 years or so), but the occasional nods to the sixteenth century and violence against indigenous communities seem to be more in the realm of intermittent, anecdotal historical context. Likewise, the reading material for Week 7, mentioned in the application, does not appear to be a sustained look at the Argentine justice system as a changing institution over time, but rather as an instance of politics and justice. The course clearly examines language, culture, human rights, political philosophy, and public policy from a particular time and era, but systematic historical analysis does not appear to be embedded in the core of the syllabus.

From MCCCD:

None.