

## Historical Awareness Subcommittee Report

Date: 3/1/18

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

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From ASU: (none)

From MCCCCD: (none)

### Recommend for Revise/Resubmit

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From ASU: (none)

From MCCCCD: (none)

### Recommend for Denial

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From ASU: (none)

From MCCCCD:

#### **ENH 140AA Sports in Literature and Film**

Rationale: The course meets criterion #4, in that it examines the relationship among events (sports), ideas (values and assumptions of culture), and artifacts (films and literature) and the broad social, political and economic context. However, criteria #1, #2 and #3 are not so clearly met. The course description indicates that the focus of the course is on “analysis of narrative’s form and content and the construction of meaning” rather than history, as required by criterion #1. The proposal points to competency #1 as a justification for each of the four criteria, when in fact the competency, which reads “Analyze how the formal elements of narrative communicate ideas and emotions”, has nothing to do with historical analysis. Regarding criteria #2 and #3, the readings and film assignments do not seem to follow a historical progression that would allow the students to assess changes in sports and other American institutions over time. The films included are not ordered chronologically in terms of subject matter, and are not paired with any kind of secondary source examining their historical context. The assignments are devoted to analysis of how sports are portrayed in films and literary works (which is in keeping with the course description and competencies)—and as such, they do not require the level of systematic historical analysis from the students that the criteria call for. The intent and purpose of the course overall appears to be focused on cultural studies rather than historical awareness.