

## **Cultural Diversity in the US Subcommittee Report**

Date: 03/23/18

To: General Studies Council

From: Cultural Diversity in the US Subcommittee:

Deepak Chhabra, Chair  
Megan Gorvin Short

Re: Recommendations for Course Proposals C designation

### **Recommend for Approval**

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*From ASU:*

#### **AIS 445: Principles of American Indian Leadership**

This course looks at cotemporary challenges encountered by leaders in the American Indian communities in the US. The content is grounded in indigenous notions of leadership, autonomy, and nationhood. The course clearly contributes to an understanding of cultural diversity in the context of modern American Indian culture, politics, and government in the U.S. today (criteria 1). The syllabus also shows ample evidence of the study/comparison of various American Indian communities in the U.S. (Lakota, Hopi, Navajo, Sioux, Havasupai) and their history, nations, governments, traditions, leadership, etc. (criteria 2a). It also presents clear evidence of covering the different dimensions of relations (such as social, economic, political and/or psychological) among various American Indian communities and gender within the U.S. evidenced in the required reading list (criteria 2c). There also seems to be evidence that students will be comparing leadership in American Indian tribes in cultural, political and global contexts, in the various weekly essay topics (criteria 2b). We recommend approval.

*From MCCCD: None*

### **Recommend for Revise/Resubmit**

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*From ASU: None*

*From MCCU: None*

### **Recommended to Deny**

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*From ASU:*

#### **FSH 204: Social Aspects of Fashion**

Deny. The purpose of this course is to introduce different ways of examining clothing and fashion. The syllabus mentions that the course studies how different cultures impact clothing and fashion, but does not clearly specify how it will contribute to an understanding of cultural diversity in the modern U.S. society (criteria 1). It also mentions that students will examine different cultural views of bodies, gender, and how racial, ethnic, economic, and religious identity are manifested in dress and fashion. However, it does not provide depth of coverage of these topics. Because

specific cultures are not mentioned by the instructor, it is unclear how these weekly discussion topics can meet criteria 2. All topics mentioned in the week schedule list are general and there is no evidence of cultural context for the proposed weekly discussions. Finally, the final paper mentions that students will choose a current fashion topic and analyze the cultural factors behind it, but again, the depth of cultural coverage is unclear (criteria 2). It would have been helpful if the syllabus had included a more in-depth description of each weekly discussion topic. For instance, it is not clear how each topic will examine culture within the U.S. Furthermore, more detailed information by the instructor was needed on the final paper and how students will examine culture through fashion in this assignment. In summary, the course does not adequately address almost of the cultural diversity criteria. We recommended that the course be denied.

From MCCCD: None