



ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY  
**ASU GENERAL STUDIES COUNCIL**

MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, August 30, 2018

3:15–5:00 p.m.

**Present:** Patience Akpan, Katherine Antonucci, Charlotte Armbruster, Tamiko Azuma, Jason Bruner, Martha Cocchiarella, Wendy Hultsman, GSC-Chair, Julie Holston, Phyllis Lucie, Manisha Master, Michael Mokwa, Darryl Morrell, Helene Ossipov, Kristen Parrish, April Randall, Peter Schmidt, Steve Semken, Megan Gorvin Short, Mark Tebeau, Perla Vargas, Michelle Zandieh

**Excused:** Martha Caron, Jessica Early, Caroline Harrison, Bertha Manninen, Matt Simonton

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 3:15 p.m.

**2. Approval of Minutes—April 26, 2018**

The minutes were approved as amended.

**3. Announcements**

Wendy Hultsman, GSC Chair welcomed new and returning GSC members.

**4. Old Business**

none

**5. New Business**

none

**6. Subcommittee Reports**

**A) Literacy & Critical Inquiry**

**From ASU:**

None

**From MCCCDC:**

None

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

**From ASU:**

None

**From MCCCDC:**

None

**C) Humanities, Arts & Design (HU)**

**From ASU:**

**Approved for HU designation, effective Fall 2019 (new):**

ITA/SLC/FMS 423 Mafia and Film (new)

**From MCCCDC:**

None

**D) Social - Behavioral Sciences (SB)**

**From ASU:**

**Approved for SB designation, effective Fall 2019 (new):**

ASB 230 Beginning Social Research (new)

FSH 204 Aspects of Fashion (revised/new)

**Recommend to revise & resubmit for SB designation (new):**

HCD 394 Introduction to Dementia and Alzheimer's Disease (new)

Rationale: This is an interesting and significant course with a novel methodology and some SB content. However, the course does not align effectively with a general studies orientation. The course is dominated by experiential learning methods where most of the students' time is spent outside the classroom in the field interacting directly with patients and other providers. The use of SB based knowledge and methods is not presented as an integral component of the learning outcomes nor is it highly integrated into the class framework.

**From MCCCDC:**

None

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

**From ASU:**

None

**From MCCCDC:**

None

**F) Cultural Diversity in the United States (C)**

**From ASU:**

**Recommend to Deny for C designation (new):**

FSH 204 Social Aspects of Fashion (revised/new)

Rationale: This course seems to touch on cultural aspects of fashion, but it is difficult to determine the depth of cultural study involved in the course. The weekly topics mention various cultural groups in relation to fashion such as body image of Caucasian and African American women, Muslim women, GLBT persons, but it is unclear how these cultures will be studied in relation to fashion. It appears that the primary concentration of this course is on how people from "different cultures" dress...thus "culture" is the independent variable, in a sense...and more tangential to analysis than directly involved. It is also not specified that these groups are specifically being studied within contemporary U.S. society (criterion 1). Of equal concern, there are also quite a few outside the U.S. cultures mentioned (Tokyo, Spain, Tanzania, Ghana, Norway, etc.) so it is unclear how much of this course would actually study various cultures within the U.S. as opposed to cultures in other countries.

Finally, each weekly reading topic will be presented to the class by fellow students. Since the assignment description for these presentations states that each student is allowed to choose a series of points or questions to present to the class about the reading and then lead the class discussion, it is not guaranteed that the students will interact with the cultural aspects of each weekly reading in a way that would satisfy the cultural diversity requirements – in-depth study or culture-specific elements, comparative study of cultures, or study of relations among cultures (criterion 2). This is also a concern with the cultural event critical analysis and the final paper; the topics for these are very broad so it is difficult to determine how students will interact with the cultural elements in this class in a way that satisfies criterion 2. Although this is a

re-read, there is still more that needs to be done show that this course meets the Cultural Awareness criteria.

TGM 268 Intercultural Communication (new)

Rationale: This course mentions learning one's own cultural perspectives and then studying how these views impact their communication with others. However, it is unclear how these students will use this information to study culture within the U.S. Much of the emphasis appears to be on world cultures and more specifically, Canadian culture. There is no clear indication that culture within contemporary U.S. society will be studied (criterion 1). It is also unclear how students will compare diverse cultural contributions, experiences, or world views of various cultural groups within the U.S. (criterion 2). As a point...there is mention of case study activity that mentions workers from Canada and Mexico, but again, it is unclear how students will interact with this case study in a way that leads to greater cultural understanding through comparison of various minority groups within the U.S.

**From MCCC:**

None

**G) Global Awareness (G)**

**From ASU:**

**Approved for G designation, effective Fall 2019 (new):**

FSH 300 Global Fashion Industry (revised/new)

**Recommend to revise and resubmit for G designation (new):**

ITA/SLC/FMS 423 Mafia and Film (new)

Rationale: The content seems to emphasize the U.S. (Criteria 2a, c, d) and always aligns back to the U.S. Recommendation to resubmit with less emphasis on the U.S. (in addition, it might be helpful to submit the assignments for review).

**From MCCCDC:**

None

**H) Historical Awareness (H)**

**From ASU:**

**Recommend to revise and resubmit for H designation (new):**

JUS 355 Human Rights Orgs and Institutions ( revised/new)

Rationale: The application has been revised to include a justification for Criterion 2, which was omitted from the original submission and necessitated the Revise/Resubmit determination at the 11/30/17 GSC meeting. Upon giving the course a full review, it appears that the purpose of the course is to explore various thematic issues pertaining to human rights organizations and institutions, rather than to historically investigate their development. The committee has concerns that while some of the weekly topics and discussion questions are historically oriented, the assignments throughout the course do not seem to require systematic historical examination from the students, and the final project does not appear to assess historical knowledge. The Historical Awareness designation requires that systematic historical analysis be embedded in the core of the syllabus, including readings and assignments; therefore, a Revise/Resubmit is in order.

**From MCCCDC:**

None

**6. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

Submitted by Phyllis Lucie