

Date: 8/28/2018

To: General Studies Council

From: Cultural Diversity in the United States Subcommittee
Wendy Hultsman, Chair
Megan Short

Re: Recommendations for Course Proposals for C designation

Course Recommendations

Deny for C designation

ASU

FSH

204 Social Aspects of Fashion

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 presentation 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 Interculturam Communication

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.

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