

Cultural Diversity in the US Subcommittee Report

Date: 11/26/18

To: General Studies Council

From: Cultural Diversity in the US Subcommittee:

Wendy Hultsman, Chair
Megan Gorvin Short
Manisha Master

Re: Recommendations for Course Proposals C designation

Recommend for Approval

From ASU:

IDS 310 Integration: Cultural Contexts

The core of this course relates to cultural awareness thus that overrides the fact that there are a number of other topics in the course that do not have a direct relationship to the requirements of a C designation.

From MCCC:

Recommend for Revise/Resubmit

From ASU:

AFR 203 African-American History: The Slavery Experience

This course is very close to receiving Cultural Awareness designation. There is a definite emphasis on African American Slavery from many dimensions (i.e., the arts, language, history, gender, socio-economic status), however there needs to be more clarity in how students will make the connection among these dimensions and understanding their place in contemporary US society, a primary component of the C designation. This course mirrors the content in HST 333 African-American History to 1865 which carries the C designation. Thus, for consistency it would be appropriate for both courses to carry the same designation. One question might be...does ASU need two courses that overlap so much? If the answer is yes, then this course would benefit from a more detailed description of the essay assignment that asks students to explore how structural inequalities that began in slavery continue to impact African-Americans in their communities today as well as how multigenerational adaptive behaviors toward racism have evolved and ultimately impacted economic development in contemporary US society.

AFR 204 African-American History: Reconstruction to the present

This course is also very close to receiving C designation, and like AFR 203, it mirrors an existing course AFR 334 African-American History since 1865. What is missing in this course is how students' study of the history of African Americans in the U.S. will lead to a greater understanding of cultural diversity in contemporary U.S. society. This was the same concern for AFR 203. There is mention in the check sheet that students will study obstacles young Black people face, rise of mass incarceration of young Black men, and how Black women and girls have been left out of debates of these issues in current society. However, there isn't mention of these things in the course breakdown or syllabus. In addition, one of the essay topics that students can choose asks students to explore how various cultural and social movements from the 1950s-1970s have contributed to the creation of contemporary America. However, this is only one essay topic option and doesn't appear that it would be required for students to focus on this type of thinking. Thus, more evidence would be required on how the course will use the study of African Americans' history and culture to contribute to a greater understanding of contemporary U.S. society.

From MCCCD:

Recommended to Deny:

IDS 314 Integrative Perspectives on Cultural Dynamics

This course focuses much of its attention on theory and leadership related to war strategy. While there is reference to several culturally-related topics, they are mostly in support of the much stronger emphasis on war leadership. Much of the course is spent analyzing organizations and subsequently applying them to historical wars and conflicts. The US is involved in these wars but culture is not the primary perspective. The application indicates that there will be an examination of the racial and ethnic components related to US war involvement but there is a lack of clarity of where this is emphasized in either the readings or assignments. Perhaps this course will fit better in the Historical Awareness designation it also seeks.