

Social-Behavioral Sciences Subcommittee Report

Date: 11/29/2018

To: General Studies Council

From: Social-Behavioral Sciences Subcommittee

Katherine Antonucci, Perla Vargas, Michael Mokwa, *Chair*

Re: Recommendations for Course Proposals for SB Designation

Social-Behavioral Sciences (SB)

Recommend Approve

The proposals are developed and documented adequately. The syllabi are presented effectively. There is a clear and dominant focus on studying and understanding human interaction with socio-behavioral perspectives and research grounding the material and work. There is one potential caveat with the IDS courses. Most IDS courses state that “this course is a permanent course with topics,” and the course that is being considered is a topical course. Our approvals extend only to this topic.

Courses from ASU

IDS 201 Intellectual Fusion (new)

IDS 311 Integration: Global Contexts (new)

IDS 314 Integrative Perspectives on Cultural Dynamics (new)

IDS 315 Integration: Social Contexts (new)

Courses from MCCCDC:

AFR 203 African-American History: The Slavery Experience (new)

AFR 204 African-American History: Reconstruction to the Present (new)

Recommend Resubmit

Courses from ASU

Most IDS courses state that “this course is a permanent course with topics.” In all three course of the following 300 level courses, there is a broad theme in the permanent course title, multi-dimensional perspectives for studying the topic, and extensive list of diverse readings/pedagogical materials. However, each proposal is presented focusing on a very specific topic that is related to the broader theme/permanent course title, but selectively captures/illustrates only a portion of the theme. From the proposals, it is unclear if the specific topic is what is being submitted or if it is the overall theme of the course which is not detailed at all throughout the proposal. Further, given the multi-dimensional perspectives being used to study the topics, it is very difficult to determine if SB is a dominant perspective pervading the course and coursework. We support the multi-perspective and integrative orientation of the courses, but we need more specific information about the role of understanding human interaction from a behavioral perspective in each of these courses.

IDS 140 The Nature of Knowledge Systems (new)

The proposal is very brief in actual content and somewhat vague relative to the SB criteria. There appears to be a dominance of institutional and methodological perspectives, rather than a dominant focus on furthering the understanding of interactive human behavior.

IDS 310 Integration: Cultural Contexts (new)

The topic is "immigration." Course materials and course work appear to focus on institutional perspectives from economics and policy with some SB.

IDS 312 Integrative Perspectives on Change (new)

The topic is "religion." There is not much in the syllabus and hardly anything in the proposal that explicitly address furthering the understanding of human interaction. Once again, there is a strong institutional orientation with some SB foundations.

IDS 313 Integrative Perspectives on a Changing World (new)

The topic is "sex and sexualities." Historical perspectives blending multi-disciplines appear to be the foundation for the course and coursework. While sociological methods and perspectives are relatively pervasive, they seem to be more instructionally oriented. While SB perspectives are included, we cannot assess if further the understanding of human interactions is a/the dominant focus.