Historical Awareness Subcommittee Report

Date: 3/28/19

To: General Studies Council

From: Historical Awareness Subcommittee
   Julie Holston, Chair
   Jason Bruner
   Matt Simonton
   Mark Tebeau

Re: Recommendations for Course Proposals (H designation)

Recommend for Approval

From ASU:
HST 382 Studies in the History of Innovation and Technology:
   Special Topic--History of the Automobile

From MCCCD:
None.

Recommend for Revise/Resubmit

From ASU:
LAS/FOR/SPA 449 Latin American Cinema: The Dead and Disappeared
Rationale: While this course provides exposure to the historical context surrounding Latin American films and filmmaking practices during the designated period, it is not apparent from the assignments that systematic historical analysis is embedded throughout the course. In fact, historical/political framing is merely a choice in the final paper, not a requirement. The committee would like to see further evidence that the assignments will hold students accountable for historical research and analysis throughout the course.

From MCCCD:
None.
Recommend for Deny

From ASU:
REL 413/CRJ 423/FOR 413 Sacred Crimes: Religion and Violence
Rationale: The course content seems too broad to sufficiently address Criteria 1, 2, and 3. Although some of the material is arranged chronologically, it is on such a generalized scale that it would not lend itself to consistent historical analysis. The textbooks do not focus on historical content, and the religious elements of the various cases have been prioritized over the historical contexts. Additionally, the assignments don’t seem to require historical analysis or assess historical knowledge.

MHL 341 Music History I: Antiquity to 1750
Rationale: This course falls under the exclusionary criterion of “courses which are exclusively the history of a field of artistic endeavor.” While historical context is provided to help situate the various developments in music, systematic historical analysis does not appear to be embedded in the core of the syllabus, since the assignments seem more focused on assessing musical knowledge than historical knowledge. Additionally, the focus of the course seems too broad to effectively meet Criterion 3 (a disciplined systematic examination of institutions as they change over time).

From MCCCD:
None.