

GENERAL STUDIES COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, April 30, 2020
3:15–5:00 p.m.

Present: Patience Akpan, Charlotte Armbruster, Tamiko Azuma, Caroline Harrison – Chair, Julia Himberg, Julie Holston, Phyllis Lucie, Bertha Manninen, Manisha Master, Michael Mokwa, Darryl Morrell, Helene Ossipov, Kristen Parrish, Shirley Rose, Peter Schmidt, Steve Semken, Megan Gorvin Short, Michelle Zandieh

Excused: Katherine Antonucci, Martha Cocchiarella, Brian Goodman, Aaron Hess, Mickey Mancenido

1. Call to Order

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

2. Approval of Minutes—April 2, 2020

The minutes were approved as written.

3. Announcements

4. Old Business - none

5. New Business - none

6. Subcommittee Reports

Literacy & Critical Inquiry

From ASU:

Approved to retain L designation (mandatory review):

ENG 452 Studies in the Novel - Topic: The Transatlantic Novel

Recommend to Revise & Resubmit for L designation (mandatory review):

ENG 440 Studies in American Literature and Culture - Topic: Sexuality in Contemporary American Literature and Culture

Rationale: There are two major writing assignments for the course, totaling 50% of the course grade, which meets Criterion 1. The instructor should also be commended for providing timely feedback and scaffolding assignments to allow students to improve their work (Criterion 4). However, based on the materials submitted, it is unclear how exactly the course meets Criterion 3. The syllabus does not indicate how “substantial in depth, quality, and quantity” the essay assignments are. This is especially necessary in evaluating a 400-level course. One way of addressing this would be to include a copy of the individual assignment prompts and ensuring that they include the relevant details for this criterion.

ENG 476 Studies in Folklore -Topic: The Legend

Rationale: There are two essay assignments in this course that meet Criterion 1 with 70% of the course grade dependent on these two writing assignments. The course and assignment descriptions demonstrate that the course meets Criterion 2, clearly involving the gathering, interpreting, and evaluating of evidence. However, based on the materials submitted, it is unclear how exactly the course meets Criterion 3. Besides the requirement to include at least three external sources in the bibliography, there is no information in the submitted materials on how substantive and in-depth in quality and quantity the writing assignments are. This is especially necessary in evaluating a 400-level course. The syllabus says that the instructor will provide specifics of the assignments later in the term, so it would be helpful for the committee if those materials could be provided with the revision.

From MCCCDCD:

no courses

B) Mathematical Studies (MA)/(CS)

From ASU:

no courses

From MCCCDCD:

no courses

C) Humanities, Arts & Design (HU)

From ASU:

Approved to retain HU designation (mandatory review):

ENG 434 Literature and Culture of the Americas -Topic: Border Literatures and Cultures

ENG 440 Studies in American Literature and Culture - Topic: Sexuality in Contemporary American Literature and Culture
ENG 452 Studies in the Novel - Topic: The Transatlantic Novel
ENG 461 Studies in Women and Literature -Topic: The Female Action Hero
ENG 469 Science and Literature -Topic: Science & Literature, 1770-1920
ENG 476 Studies in Folklore -Topic: The Legend

From MCCCDC:

Approve for HU designation, effective fall 2020 (new):

STO 295 Traditional Storytelling Around the World

Deny to retain HU designation: (mandatory review):

HIS 251 History of England to 1700

Rationale: This class covers too much ground to really be an HU class. There is interesting commentary on the *Bayeux Tapestry*, but it's mostly as a way to explain historical events rather than an analysis or interpretation of it as an literary or artistic tradition. Similarly with the other examples of student work: they are mostly a way to retell historical events.

D) Social - Behavioral Sciences (SB)

From ASU:

Approve for SB designation, effective fall 2020 (new):

IDS 311 Integration Global Contexts - Topic: European Jewish Life Today

Recommend to Revise & Resubmit for SB designation (mandatory review):

ENG 476 Studies in Folklore -Topic: The Legend

Rationale: This is an interesting course that may meet SB requirements. However, both the proposal and especially the syllabus are not developed and documented effectively to determine if there is sufficient focus on studying and understanding human interaction with socio-behavioral perspectives, theory, and research grounding the material and student work.

From MCCCDC:

no courses

E) Natural Sciences (SQ/SG)

From ASU:

no courses

From MCCCCD:

no courses

F) Cultural Diversity in the United States (C)

From ASU:

Approved to retain C designation (mandatory review):

ENG 434 Literature and Culture of the Americas - Topic: Border Literatures and Cultures

Recommend to Revise & Resubmit for C designation (mandatory review):

ENG 440 Studies in American Literature and Culture - Topic: Sexuality in Contemporary American Literature and Culture

Rationale: The course description shows good potential that this course fulfills the criteria for Cultural Diversity in the United States. However, we need more information on the readings and discussions to make our determination. Specifically, more information needs to be added to the syllabus to determine how students will use the texts to lead to a greater understanding of cultural diversity in the U.S. More information on the required texts, class discussion topics/weekly journals, and the essay assignments would be helpful. A weekly breakdown of class topics and the discussion questions would also be helpful to help us determine how the assigned texts will be used to develop students' knowledge of sexuality in a way that leads to a greater understanding of cultural diversity in the U.S.

Deny for C designation (mandatory review):

ENG 476 Studies in Folklore: The Legend

Rationale: The submission materials are underdeveloped and do not provide the committee with any evidence of how/where the course examines cultural diversity in the United States, much less how students will engage with this material. It is not fully clear from the course outcomes how much of this course focuses on the United States (criterion 1) nor how it is a comparative study within the U.S. (criterion 2b). If this course is resubmitted, significant revisions are needed. It would be helpful if the syllabus included more detailed information on content related to Cultural Diversity in the United States, information on which cultures the legends/folklore come from (with a focus on cultures within the U.S.), an explanation of discussion points for each reading/film and assignment, and a breakdown of weekly discussion topics.

From MCCCDC:

no courses

G) Global Awareness (G)

From ASU:

Approved for G designation, effective fall 2020 (new):

IDS 311 Integration Global Contexts - Topic: European Jewish Life Today

From MCCCDC:

no courses

H) Historical Awareness (H)

From ASU:

no courses

From MCCCDC:

no courses

7. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

Submitted by Phyllis Lucie