

Historical Awareness Subcommittee Report

Date: 2/3/2021

To: General Studies Council

From: **Historical Awareness Subcommittee**

Denise Bates, Member

David Corlett, Chair

Matt Simonton, Member

Re: Recommendations for Course Proposals (H designation)

Recommend for Approval

From ASU:

- HST 302 Topic: Studies in History: Gods and Kings—Ancient Mesopotamia

From MCCCDC: (none)

Recommend for Revise/Resubmit

From ASU:

- IDS 312 Topic: Predators, Pets, and Pests
 - **Rationale:** This course is built on a wonderful concept and has a lot packed into it. However, it is hard to see how several of the criteria are met. It is hard to make the case for Criteria 1 “history is a major focus” and Criteria 3 “disciplined systematic examination of human institutions as they change over time” with the course as it stands. Certainly human-animal interaction (in its many facets as outlined in this course) serve as institutions for examination, but this needs to be traced over time rather than packaged thematically. Some of the assignments encourage students to take a historical perspective, but this is not done consistently, nor are the tools for historical evaluation clearly present in the materials.
- VTS 302 Topic: Combat in Film
 - **Rationale:** The course meets criteria 1 and 3 (history is a major focus; and the institution of war-making is observed changing over time). However, the course needs clarity and revision to achieve criteria 2 and 4. The assignments do not put the films in their various contexts (historical, social, political). It is also not clear how human development is shown being influenced by a variety of broader forces and trends or how the presentation of the infantry experience is the product of

such forces. It would be helpful if the syllabus included excerpts from secondary sources that put the events depicted in the films in their historical context

From MCCCDC:

- IFS 213 Hacking and Open Source Cultures
 - **Rationale:** The format of this class has improved from the initial review in December, and the modules and readings seem promising. However, the course needs further clarification and revision to achieve criteria 3 (examine human institutions as they change over time” and criteria 4 (examine the relationship among events, ideas, and artifacts and the broad social, political and economic context). In particular, the assessments have a static quality to them and are more descriptive than analytical.

Recommend for Deny

From ASU: (none)

From MCCCDC: (none)