



ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY

ASU GENERAL STUDIES COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, February 4, 2021

3:15–5:00 p.m.

Present: Katherine Antonucci, Tamiko Azuma, David Corlett, Melissa Dengler, Sarah Florini, Annapurna Ganesh, Caroline Harrison – Chair, Simin Levinsin, Phyllis Lucie, Bertha Manninen, Emily Mertz, Darryl Morrell, Ileana Orlich, Kristen Parrish, April Randall, Steve Semken, Michelle Zandieh, Anna Zischkau

Excused: Denise Bates, Aaron Hess, Natalie Heywood, Michelle Mancenido, Michael Mokwa, Peter Schmidt, Brent Scholar, Matt Simonton, Marie Wallace

1. Call to Order

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

2. Approval of Minutes— December 3, 2020

The minutes were approved as written.

3. Announcements – none

4. Old Business - none

5. New Business - none

6. Subcommittee Reports

A) Literacy & Critical Inquiry

From ASU:

Approved for L designation effective Fall 2021 (new):

IDS 302 Topic Interdisciplinary Forecasting (new/revised)

IDS 302 Topic: Integrative Thinking

LST 470 Topic: Changing Consciousness

Revise and Resubmit for Literacy:

TEL 331 Language and Literacy Method K - 8 (new/revised)

Rationale: The final elements are unclear based on the markings on the syllabus. Only one color was used to designate the four different criteria. It appears some of the grade is coming from group work and that there is special designation of individual work needing to be turned in, which is what would count as Literacy (see Criterion 1). There is no indication of the length of writing assignments which need to be substantial. Please complete the organizer instead of pointing us to another place in the packet. The committee asks for revisions that clearly designate in the syllabus where each criteria is specifically met, in order to assist us in approving your petition. Some ways this has been accomplished in the past are using different color highlights for each of the criteria or highlighting a section and adding a relevant comment using Word's comment feature.

From MCCCD:

no courses

B) Mathematical Studies (MA)/(CS)

From ASU:

no courses

From MCCCD:

no courses

C) Humanities, Arts & Design (HU)

From ASU:

Approved for HU designation effective Fall 2021 (new):

HST 302 Topic: Studies in History (Gods and Kings: Ancient Mesopotamia)

TEL 212 Understanding the Culturally Diverse Learner

From MCCCD:

no courses

D) Social - Behavioral Sciences (SB)

From ASU:

Approved for SB designation effective Fall 2021 (new):

IDS 312 Topic: Predators, Pets, and Pests

Revise and Resubmit for Social-Behavioral Sciences (new):

IDS 313 Topic: The Cultural and Chemical History of Beer

Rationale: The syllabi and proposal were developed and presented effectively. The course is interesting and will be engaging. Conceptually, the course has some focus on human interactions and the evolutionary sociology of beer. But, the day-to-day content and student work, as best illustrated in discussion questions and assignments, focuses more on the history of beer with SB perspectives and especially SB theoretical perspectives playing only a minor or implicit role throughout the course work.

VTS 302 Topic: Combat in Film

Rationale: The syllabi and proposal were developed and presented effectively. The course is relevant, interesting, and engaging. Conceptually, the course description suggests an SB perspective. But, in the actual course presentation and course work, as best illustrated in discussion questions and assignments, SB perspectives and SB theoretical perspectives were not a dominant focus.

From MCCCCD:

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:

no courses

From MCCCCD:

no courses

G) Global Awareness (G)

From ASU:

Approve for G designation, effective Fall 2021 (new):

CHI 294 Chinese Ghost Stories

IDS 313 Topic: The Cultural and Chemical History of Beer

SPA 385 Cinema and Culture of Spain (revised)

From MCCCDC:

no courses

H) Historical Awareness (H)

From ASU:

Approve for H designation (new):

HST 302 Topic: Studies in History (Gods and Kings: Ancient Mesopotamia)

Revise and Resubmit for H designation (new)

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:

Revise and Resubmit for H designation (mandatory review):

IFS 213 Hacking and Open Source Culture (revised)

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.

7. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Submitted by Phyllis Lucie