

General Studies Request Form

Consult the [General Studies Request Overview and FAQ](#) for more information and quick answers.

New permanent numbered courses must be submitted to the workflow in [Kuali CM](#) before a General Studies request is submitted here. The General Studies Council will not review requests ahead of a new course proposal being reviewed by the Senate.

Proposal Contact Information

Submitter Name	Submitter Email	Submitter Phone Number
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College/School	Department/School	
The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLA)	School of Civic & Economic Thought and Leadership (CCETL)	

Submission Information

Type of submission:

New Request (Course or topic does not hold this designation)

Requested Effective Date

Spring 2024

ASU Request

Is this request for a permanent course or a topic?

Permanent Course

Subject Code	Course Number	Units/Credit Hours
CEL	304	3

Course Information

Courses approved for General Studies require mandatory review every five years.

Course Title

Classical to Modern Economic Thought

Course Catalog Description

Provides an introduction to the schools of thought concerned with explaining and influencing economic activity.

Is this a crosslisted course?

Identify all crosslisted courses.

Yes

ECN 304

Is this course offered by another academic unit?

No

Shared Departments/Schools

Department of Economics (CECONOMICS)

Statement of Support #1

Statement of Support #2

Statement of Support #3

[McDaniel Letter Support
CEL-ECN 304 S-B authoriza-
tion.docx](#)

No Response

No Response

General Studies

Requested Designation

SB - Social-Behavioral Sciences

SB: Social-Behavioral Sciences

Rationale and Objectives

Social-behavioral sciences use distinctive scientific methods of inquiry and generate empirical knowledge about human behavior, within society and across cultural groups. Courses in this area address the challenge of understanding the diverse natures of individuals and cultural groups who live together in a complex and evolving world.

In both private and public sectors, people rely on social scientific findings to consider and assess the social consequences of both large-scale and group economic, technological, scientific, political, ecological and cultural change. Social scientists' observations about human interactions with the broader society and their unique perspectives on human events make an important contribution to civic dialogue.

Courses proposed for a General Studies designation in the Social-Behavioral Sciences area must demonstrate emphases on: (1) social scientific theories, perspectives and principles, (2) the use of social-behavioral methods to acquire knowledge about cultural or social events and processes, and (3) the impact of social scientific understanding on the world.

[Revised April 2014]

Note: The following types of courses are **excluded** from the "SB" area, even though they might give some consideration social and behavioral science concerns:

1. Courses with primarily arts, humanities, literary or philosophical content.
2. Courses with primarily natural or physical science content.

3. Courses with predominantly applied orientation for professional skills or training purposes.
4. Courses emphasizing primarily oral, quantitative, or written skills.

An "SB" course should meet all of the following criteria. If not, a rationale for exclusion should be provided.

"SB" Criteria 1

Course is designed to advance basic understanding and knowledge about human interaction.

Identify the submitted documentation that provides evidence.

The course places emphasis on the various economic theories, both in terms of their economic analysis and their philosophical perspective. Most of the course emphasizes student understanding and application of key debates in the economics profession and in public discourse, including those regarding trade, money and banking, investment and interest rates, market and government failures, economic development, and theories of inequality.

How does this course meet the spirit of this criteria?

The scientific methods employed by economics are studied, along with the history of the changing assumptions and methods used. One of the unique aspects of the course is the emphasis on the connection between the evolving science and its impact through both academic and public discussion.

Provide detailed evidence of how this course meets this criteria (i.e. where in the syllabus or other course materials).

The textbook by Larry White (Clash of Economic Ideas) is unique in its connection between theoretical developments and coverage of policy debates, development economics, impact on public opinion, and the emergence of public economic institutions (World Bank, the Federal Reserve System, universities, etc.). The Sowell book provides a conceptual backdrop to how to see the underlying differences between approaches to economics and public engagement by the profession.

"SB" Criteria 2

Course content emphasizes the study of social behavior such as that found in:

Economics

Identify the submitted documentation that provides evidence.

Competing economic approaches are examined in terms of the knowledge they provide regarding social behavior that emerges from economic processes and outcomes. See Sowell and White textbooks, as well as key readings from economists who shaped the way we view economic behavior and its outcomes both in the past and today.

How does this course meet the spirit of this criteria?

The course meets the spirit of this criteria through its emphasis on key debates among economists over the past 100 years, as well a framework with which to characterize those debates and their impact of social outcomes.

Provide detailed evidence of how this course meets this criteria (i.e. where in the syllabus or other course materials).

See the initial reading of Sowell on "constrained" and "unconstrained" visions of social processes and behavior, as well as White's examination of competing visions of that social behavior.

"SB" Criteria 3

Course emphasizes:

a. the distinct knowledge base of the social and behavioral sciences (e.g., sociological anthropological)

Identify the submitted documentation that provides evidence.

The foundation of the course is the debate over what knowledge economics as a science contributes to society. The economic method (not mentioned above, btw) is different from sociology, anthropology, ethnography and history. It assumes certain key things about people (a small set), and then studies the outcomes of their interactions in markets.

How does this course meet the spirit of this criteria?

The course provides students the opportunity to examine competing theories in terms of the actual debates, as well as the indebtedness of more recent theories to past ones, in order to help students appreciate the impact economics has on the world we live in.

Provide detailed evidence of how this course meets this criteria (i.e. where in the syllabus or other course materials).

Sowell sets the stage with a framework for thinking about how we approach social outcomes; White follows with competing theoretical frameworks and how they evolved over the past century.

"SB" Criteria 4

Course illustrates use of social and behavioral science perspectives and data.

Identify the submitted documentation that provides evidence.

See textbooks and required assignments. The foundation of the course is the debate over what knowledge economics as a science contributes to society. Competing perspectives are introduced, and the historical treatment shows how competing perspectives have evaluated the economic impact of different policies and economic frameworks.

How does this course meet the spirit of this criteria?

The course focuses on the great debates within society over the usefulness of economic knowledge, and the great debates within economics over methods, assumptions, and the social outcome of economic processes. Students are able to examine competing perspectives, and also address the question of what data is relevant within the context of those debates.

Provide detailed evidence of how this course meets this criteria (i.e. where in the syllabus or other course materials).

The papers invite examination of the contrast between economic theories in real debates that have happened in the discipline, as well as the public indebtedness to the ideas those debates focused on. The focus throughout is on competing perspectives in theory, and in interpretation of the data.

Attach a sample syllabus for this course or topic, including the list of any required readings.

[CEL-ECN 304 Fall Syllabus complete.docx](#)

Attach the table of contents from any required textbook(s).

[CEL-ECN 304 Textbook info.pdf](#)

Attach any other materials that would be relevant or helpful in the review of this request.

No Response

Admin Only

Mandatory Review Implementation Needed

Form Submission - Proposer

Submitted for Approval | Proposer

Ross Emmett - September 18, 2023 at 5:58 PM (America/Phoenix)

Department Approval

Approved

Emily Rap - September 18, 2023 at 8:09 PM (America/Phoenix)

Provost's Office Review

Approved

Kaitlyn Dorson - October 2, 2023 at 11:09 AM (America/Phoenix)

April Randall

Social-Behavioral Sciences Committee Review

Acknowledgement Requested

Tamara Rounds

Jen Eden

Michael Mokwa - October 25, 2023 at 10:26 AM (America/Phoenix)

Revise and resubmit: There appears to be socio-behavioral content in the course. However, your syllabus must specify learning outcomes related to the SB content, and then clearly demonstrate how the students will meet these SB outcomes through their coursework. Further, for SB designation, the study of "interactive human behaviors" must be the dominant theme of the course. Beyond learning outcomes, a course schedule and readings list identifying the nature and amount of SB content could be very helpful.

Michele Devine

General Studies Council Meeting

Waiting for Approval

Kaitlyn Dorson

April Randall

Registrar Notification

Notification

Courses Implementation

Implementation

Approval

Rebecca Klein

Lauren Bates

Alisha Von Kampen

Proposer Notification

Notification

Ross Emmett

Permanent Course Notification

Notification

Tanaya Dempsey
