

General Studies Request Form

Please see the [General Studies Request Overview and FAQ](#) for 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
John Duncan Shaeffer	shaeffer@asu.edu	480-965-3652

College/School	Department/School
The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLA)	School of Geographical Sciences and Urban Planning (CGEOGRAPHY)

Submission Information

Type of submission:

Mandatory Review (Course or topic currently holds this designation and is undergoing 5-year review)

What is Mandatory Review?

Courses and topics previously approved for General Studies must be reviewed every five years by the General Studies Council to verify requirements are still met.

ASU Request

Is this request for a permanent course or a topic?

Permanent Course

Subject Code	Course Number	Units/Credit Hours
GCU	421	3

Course Information

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

Course Title

Geography of Arizona and Southwestern United States

Course Catalog Description

Geography of the Southwest with an emphasis on Arizona. Divided into physical geography, history, people, and economy.

Is this a crosslisted course?

No

Is this course offered by another academic unit?

No

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.

See attached documents--"GCU 421 Syllabus" and "The 18 Lecture Modules--SB Criteria Highlighted" (see pages 1-7 of that document for "SB Criteria 1 Highlighted")

How does this course meet the spirit of this criteria?

In covering both the current as well as historic interactions between the primary cultural groups in Arizona and the Southwest, students gain valuable insights and learn key components that give a basic understanding and knowledge about human interaction as a whole.

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

See attached document--"The 18 Lecture Modules--SB Criteria Highlighted" (see pages 1-7 of that document for "SB Criteria 1 Highlighted")

"SB" Criteria 2

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

Cultural Geography

Identify the submitted documentation that provides evidence.

See attached documents--"GCU 421 Syllabus" and "The 18 Lecture Modules--SB Criteria Highlighted" (see pages 8-14 of that document for "SB Criteria 2 Highlighted")

How does this course meet the spirit of this criteria?

A huge portion of this course focuses on the cultural geography of Arizona and the Southwest.

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

See attached document--"The 18 Lecture Modules--SB Criteria Highlighted" (see pages 8-14 of that document for "SB Criteria 2 Highlighted")

"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.

See attached documents--"GCU 421 Syllabus" and "The 18 Lecture Modules--SB Criteria Highlighted" (see pages 15-21 of that document for "SB Criteria 3 Highlighted")

How does this course meet the spirit of this criteria?

This course covers, very precisely, many specific cultural geographic concepts as they relate to Arizona and the Southwest. These cultural geographic concepts add to greatly the distinct knowledge base of the social sciences (of which cultural geography is a major player), and through this course, this particular knowledge base for students is more clearly established, strengthened, and enhanced.

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

See attached document--"The 18 Lecture Modules--SB Criteria Highlighted" (see pages 15-21 of that document for "SB Criteria 3 Highlighted")

"SB" Criteria 4

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

Identify the submitted documentation that provides evidence.

See attached documents--"GCU 421 Syllabus" and "The 18 Lecture Modules--SB Criteria Highlighted" (see pages 22-28 of that document for "SB Criteria 4 Highlighted")

How does this course meet the spirit of this criteria?

There are numerous instances in the course where a number of different cultural geographic perspectives (which are perspectives within the social sciences) are employed.

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

See attached document--"The 18 Lecture Modules--SB Criteria Highlighted" (see pages 22-28 of that document for "SB Criteria 4 Highlighted")

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

[GCU 421 Syllabus.pdf](#)

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

[The 18 Reading Modules.pdf](#)

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

[The 18 Lecture Modules--SB Criteria Highlighted.pdf](#)

Form Submission - Proposer

Submitted for Approval | Proposer

Duncan Shaeffer - February 22, 2023 at 8:07 PM (America/Phoenix)

Department Approval

Approved

Duncan Shaeffer - February 22, 2023 at 8:08 PM (America/Phoenix)

Provost's Office Review

Sent Back

April Randall

Joni Lochtefeld - February 23, 2023 at 8:49 AM (America/Phoenix)

Please correct the Proposal Contact Information as the College/School: College of Integrative Sciences and Arts does not pair with Department/School: School of Geographical Sciences and Urban Planning.

Form Submission - Proposer

Submitted for Approval | Proposer

Duncan Shaeffer - February 23, 2023 at 9:55 AM (America/Phoenix)

Department Approval

Approved

Duncan Shaeffer - February 23, 2023 at 9:56 AM (America/Phoenix)

Provost's Office Review

Sent Back

April Randall

Joni Lochtefeld - March 2, 2023 at 10:13 AM (America/Phoenix)

Per the instructions on the form, current syllabus information must also be entered in Quali Curriculum Management (CM). If you don't have access to Quali CM, you'll need to work with your unit and coordinate with the individual(s) able to submit Quali CM course proposals. Please see the General Studies Request FAQ for more information: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1BF_lpZ4neXWRQgZfXj-5ILS07EEn-Nu34Z35S8CrAEVk/

Form Submission - Proposer

Submitted for Approval | Proposer

Duncan Shaeffer - March 2, 2023 at 4:12 PM (America/Phoenix)

Department Approval

Approved

Duncan Shaeffer - March 2, 2023 at 4:12 PM (America/Phoenix)

Provost's Office Review

Approved

April Randall

Joni Lochtefeld - March 6, 2023 at 11:44 AM (America/Phoenix)

Social-Behavioral Sciences Mandatory Review

Acknowledgement Requested

Michael Mokwa - March 29, 2023 at 2:59 PM (America/Phoenix)

Invite a Resubmission with Revision: This is an interesting and relevant course. The proposal was developed and documented adequately. The syllabus was also developed and presented adequately, and it aligned with the proposal. While the course includes some considerations of interactive human behaviors and societal perspectives, we do not have enough information to judge whether the explicit study of interactive human behavior is the dominant focus in the learning experience of the students. This must be clarified, elaborated, and demonstrated more explicitly.

L. Wallace

Michele Devine

General Studies Council Meeting

Waiting for Approval

April Randall

Joni Lochtefeld

Proposer Notification

Notification

Duncan Shaeffer
