

ASU TEMPE GENERAL STUDIES COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, November 24, 2009, 2009

3:00–5:00 p.m.

Ira A. Fulton Foundation Center – 2nd floor- room 2490

Present: Rebecca Barry, Debra Campbell, John Chance, Ron Dorn, Alejandra Elenes, Barbara Fargotstein, Cecelia Fiery, Matthew Isom –Chair, Matthias Kawski, Kristin LaCroix, Barbara Lafford, Phyllis Lucie, Peter de Marneffe, Tom Martin, Jeff Ricker, Joe Rody, Doug Spencer, Mike Tueller, Sergio Quiros, Kathy Wigal

Excused: Craig Allen, Antonio Garcia, Chouki El Hamel, Bernard Kobes, Eduardo Pagan, Ron Roedel, Helene Ossipov

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes—October 27, 2009

The minutes were approved as written.

3. Announcements

Dr. Isom sent the slide presentation to the Office of the Provost for comment.

4. Old Business

The GSC was informed that mandatory review courses will be ready for review by each subcommittee beginning with the March GSC meeting.

5. New Business

None

6. Subcommittee Reports

A) Literacy & Critical Inquiry (Barbara Fargotstein)

From ASU

Approved for L designation, effective Summer 2010 (new):

BIS 300 Theories and Applications of Organizational Studies
BIS 350 Diversity and Organizations

B) Mathematical Studies (MA)/(CS)

No report

C) Humanities, Fine Arts & Design (HU) (Kristin LaCroix)

From MCCCCD

Approved to retain HU designation (mandatory review):

HUM 250 Ideas and Values in the Humanities
HUM 251 Ideas and Values in the Humanities
REL 250 History of Religion in Ireland

From MCCCCD, effective Spring 2010 (new):

HIS 243 History of World Religions

D) Social and Behavioral Sciences (Rebecca Barry)

From ASU

Approved for SB designation, effective Spring 2010 (new):

AFS 200 Introduction to African and African Diaspora Studies
AFS 340 The Making of Modern Africa

Approved for SB designation retroactive Fall 2009 (new):

ASB 494 Andean Archeology

E) Natural Sciences (SQ/SG) (Ron Dorn)

No report

F) Cultural Diversity in the United States (Barbara Lafford)

From ASU

Approved for C designation, effective Summer 2010 (new):

BIS 350 Diversity and Organizations

Deny for a C designation:

MUS 356 Survey of Musical Theater

Rationale: This is a survey course and only briefly touches on Yiddish and African-American musical theater in the US; these are just two of a myriad of topics covered in this course and it seems like only three classes in the entire semester are dedicated to these two US minority groups.

G) Global Awareness (Debra Campbell)

From ASU

Approve for G designation, effective Spring 2010 (new):

AFS 340 The Making of Modern Africa

AFS 200 Introduction to African and African Diaspora Studies

DENY G designation:

From MCCC

PHS 120 Introduction to Physical Science: Astronomy, Meteorology,
Geology and Oceanography (**mandatory review**)

Rationale: While it is true that world geological, meteorological, etc. phenomena have an impact on world cultures, and vice-versa, studying those physical phenomena (or even their policy implications) does not count as a study of "cultural interrelationships," as requirement 2d mandates. None of the core competencies of the course address such global relationships. We also note that the "SQ" designation, which this course also has, specifically states at the bottom of its checklist, that "SQ requirements cannot be met by courses ... focusing on the impact of science on social, economic, or environmental issues." Thus, if this course focuses on cultural impact, it should not retain its SQ designation--and if it does not have a cultural focus, then it should not have the G tag.

HIS 243 History of World Religions (**new**)

Rationale: The purpose of this course is to provide a broad overview of the history of world religions. Since this course has received the H tag, this council has already granted that the main focus of this course is

on the "history of" world religions and thus is intended to raise historical awareness. The purpose of the global awareness area, however, is to promote a "contemporary" world view, which is not the focus of this course. In addition, there is another course entitled "World Religions" that has the G tag, and that course does focus on the five major religions of the world in their current cultural contexts.

H) Historical Awareness (Jeffry Ricker)

Approved for H designation, effective Spring 2010 (new):

From ASU

AFS 200-Introduction to Africa and African Diaspora Studies

AFS 340-The Making of Modern Africa

DENY (new):

MUS 356-Survey of Musical Theatre

Rationale: Criteria 3 and 4, considered together, require that a course be a broad or comprehensive survey of a period, a people, or a nation in order to obtain the H designation. This proposal does not provide sufficient evidence that the requirement is met. MUS 356 seems to be primarily "the history of a field of ... artistic or professional endeavor" (the second exclusionary criterion at the bottom of the checklist). Its subject matter definitely occurs in the past, and there are attempts to relate temporal changes in musical theatre to changing events in American society, but the course content comprises primarily a chronological overview of musical theatre from the turn of the 20th century to the present, which is clearly the history of an artistic endeavor.

7. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

Submitted by Phyllis Lucie