

ASU GENERAL STUDIES COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, February 21, 2012

3:00–5:00 p.m.

Present: Rebecca Barry, Debra Campbell, Gregory Castle, Ron Dorn, Sherry Feng,
Joe Foy, Chouki El Hamel-Chair, Tracey Hayes, Phyllis Lucie, Lisa McIntyre,
Jeff Ricker, April Summitt, Mike Tueller

Excused: Craig Allen, Alejandra Elenes, Barbara Fargotstein, Antonio Garcia, Matthias Kawski,
Barbara Lafford, Kate Lehman, Karen Leong, Peter de Marneffe, Joe Rody, Julia Sarreal

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:05 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes—January 24, 2012

The minutes were approved as written.

3. Announcements

None

4. Old Business

None

5. New Business

None

6. Subcommittee Reports

A) Literacy & Critical Inquiry (Barbara Fargotstein)
From ASU

Revise & Resubmit (mandatory review)

AFH 459 Studies in African American/Caribbean Lit (ASU course)

Rationale: Need clarification that 50% of the course grade is derived from writing. The description of the essay and final essay exam only total 40% of the course grade.

From MCCCDC:

GBS 233 Business Communication (MCCCDC)

Rationale: Clarification needed on the exams and group project. It is not clear that the identified 80% of the grade is based on writing-intensive assignments. It is also not clear that the two exams and the individual component of the group project comprise substantial writing. If not, only the individual presentation would seem to qualify and 150/1000 points does not meet criterion 1.

From ASU

Deny:

ENG 294 Love and Lust in Medieval Literature (new)

Rationale: To meet criterion 1, this course's grading scale would need to be changed to reflect 500 points devoted to writing. At present, the writing assignments total only 400 points.

PRM 303 Program Planning (**mandatory review**)

Rationale: The materials submitted for this course do not reflect any substantial writing assignments (criterion 3).

B) Mathematical Studies (MA)/(CS) (Joe Rody)
none

C) Humanities, Fine Arts & Design (HU) (Gregory Castle)
From ASU

Approved for HU designation, effective retroactive Fall 2012 (new):

HEB/REL 394 Literary Readings of the Bible
IAP 464 Media and Diversity
JST 230 Introduction to Jewish Civilization

Approved for HU designation, effective Spring 2013 (new):

AFH 364 Unruly Voices
AFH 459 Studies in African American/Caribbean Lit
ENG 294 Love and Lust in Medieval Literature

From MCCC

Approved for HU designation, retroactive Spring 2012 (new):

INT 120 Modern Architecture and Furniture

From ASU

Revise & Resubmit (new):

IAP 364 Documentaries

Rationale: At bottom, this course does not sufficiently cover ground stipulated by the checklist. Six weeks are allotted to studio work, one to midterm projects, which leaves only seven weeks for viewing and discussing films. The discussions appear, on the evidence provided by the syllabus, to focus primarily on technical matters. Moreover, most of the grading is for studio work. We do not see that there is a “substantial portion” of this course devoted to #1 or #4. While it may be misplaced under HUM, it is possible that a revised proposal would be acceptable.

From ASU

Deny (new):

CON 294 Deductive Logic: Leadership and Industry Structure

Rationale: This course does not meet the spirit of the designation. It is largely grounded in social science methodology. It is not about “culture” nor does it discuss, or include readings on, anything recognizable as a “humanist” topic. The main concern is information technology and interactive environments. Course theme include modeling, decision making, industry structure and so on.

IAP 103 Foundations I: Interdisciplinary Digital Media

Rationale: Essentially a studio course, explicitly ruled out by the criteria checklist.

IAP 104 Foundations I: Fundamentals of Sound Art

Rationale: Essentially a studio course, explicitly ruled out by the criteria checklist.

D) Social and Behavioral Sciences (Rebecca Barry)

From ASU

Revise & Resubmit (new)

ASM 462 Dental Anthropology

Rationale: It is difficult to determine how criteria 3 and 4 of SB proposal requirements are met based on the submitted proposal and course syllabus, which really only provides a

reading list. There is not much explanation as to how course materials are treated in class or through assignments to determine if a social behavioral body of knowledge, perspective, and/or methods of inquiry are treated to the extent necessary for SB designation.

In addition, the criteria check sheet needs to be revised. It is not sufficient to say, simply, “syllabus” for required documentation in the first part. In the second part, the criteria may not be put together as you have done (so, you must address each criterion separately, and not lump them into “1-4” or “3-4”).

(A point for clarification: the application lists the title of the course as “Dental Anthropology,” but the syllabus and all other documentation list the title as “Medical Anthropology.”)

CON 294 Deductive Logic

Rationale: The committee is not convinced that this is really a social science course. The course objectives seem to center on ontological and philosophical questions, and a hint of “how to succeed,” not social science. It seems that most of the social science in the course hinges on the one ethnography assignment.

From MCCCD
Revise & Resubmit (new):

HIS 251 History of England to 1700

Rationale: While the topic of history is social behavioral in nature, there is not much explanation as to how course materials are treated in class or through assignments to determine if a social behavioral body of knowledge, perspective, and/or methods of inquiry are treated to the extent necessary for SB designation.

HIS 252 History of England 1700 to Present

Rationale: While the topic of history is social behavioral in nature, there is not much explanation as to how course materials are treated in class or through assignments to determine if a social behavioral body of knowledge, perspective, and/or methods of inquiry are treated to the extent necessary for SB designation.

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

Approved for SQ designation, Summer 2012 (new):

BIO 109 Natural History of the Southwest

We recommend approval of this course by John Weser.

The application was done well. The course itself seems of the type to bring excitement to learning the scientific process with such lab exercises as "Spiders, Scorpions, and Solpugids."

F) Cultural Diversity in the United States (Alejandra Elenes)
From ASU

None

G) Global Awareness (Mike Tueller)
From ASU

Approved for G designation, effective retroactive Fall 2012 (new):

JST 230 Introduction to Jewish Civilization

From ASU:(new)
Revise and Resubmit:

IAP 464 Media and Diversity

Rationale: The syllabus and media taught in the course, as submitted, clearly meet our criteria. Our only concern is that the official course description in the course catalogue gives no indication that the course must necessarily be about global cultures; thus, within the parameters of the catalogue, the course could be taught with an eye strictly to diversity within the U.S.— in fact, we believed that most students, upon reading the description, would get the impression that the course was mostly, or even exclusively, focused on U.S. issues.

The current course description is:

Interdisciplinary art projects exploring identity, perception, and technologies from a basis of class, race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, and ecology.

We recommend amending the description to something along the lines of the following (changes in italics):

Interdisciplinary art projects exploring identity, perception, and technologies *in a variety of world cultures* from a basis of class, race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, and ecology.

H) Historical Awareness (Jeffry Ricker)
From ASU

Approved for H designation, effective retroactive Fall 2012 (new):

JST 230 Introduction to Jewish Civilization

From MCCCCD (New):

Approved for H designation, effective retroactive Spring 2012 (new):

HIS 251 History of England to 1700
HIS 252 History of England 1700 to Present
INT 120 Modern Architecture and Furniture

6. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Submitted by Phyllis Lucie