

ASU GENERAL STUDIES COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, August 30, 2011
3:00–5:00 p.m.

Present: Craig Allen, Rebecca Barry, Debra Campbell, Gregory Castle, Ron Dorn, Alejandra Elenes, Barbara Fargotstein, Chouki El Hamel-Chair, Tracey Hayes Matthias Kawski, Kate Lehman, Phyllis Lucie, Peter de Marneffe, Sergio Quiros, Joe Rody, Julia Sarreal (by phone), April Summitt, Mike Tueller, Kathy Wigal

Excused: Karen Bollermann, Antonio Garcia, Kristin LaCroix, Lisa McIntyre, Jeffrey Ricker

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes—April 26, 2011

The minutes were approved as written.

3. Announcements

Dr. El Hamel welcomed new and returning GSC members.

As the Global Awareness criteria checklist is updated and posted on the GSC website, Dr. El Hamel commented that perhaps this would be a good time to review/revise all general studies criteria checklists.

4. Old Business

None

5. New Business

6. Subcommittee Reports

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

Request to revise and resubmit for L designation (new):

FSE 194 Introduction to Sustainable Engineering: Technological, Social, and Sustainable Systems

Rationale: In order to meet criterion 3 clarification is needed as to how eight (8) 1 page essays each week contribute to substantial writing assignments. Description of how these might, in conjunction with term paper might satisfy this criterion.

SGS 294 The Dark Side of Globalization

Rationale: Written assignments constitute 80% of course grade, but it is unclear how ten (10) small (1 page response paper) and one (1) large written assignment contribute to substantive writing assignments. Clarification needed on how these writing assignments together might constitute substantive writing.

B) Mathematical Studies (MA)/(CS) (Joe Rody)
From ASU

Deny CS designation (new):

FMP 294 Media Authorship in the Information Age

Rationale: The course seems to us to be mostly about how to use the software rather than understanding the principles behind it.

We site the following phrase which is at the end of the computer applications section of the check sheet as the basis for our denial:

“Courses that emphasize the use of a computer software package or the learning of a computer programming language are acceptable, provided that students are required to understand, at an appropriate level, the theoretical principles embodied in the operation of the software and are required to construct, test, and implement procedures that use the software to accomplish tasks in the applicable problem domains.”

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

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

ART 194 Drawing as Seeing and Thinking
DSC 194/HON 194 Design Thinking
GER 494/SLC 494 Fairy Tales
TLC 490 Transborder Queer Performativity
TLC 194 Mexican Cinema in Transnational Perspective

APPROVED for HU designation effective Fall 2012 (new):

THE 422 Latina/o Chicana/o Theater and Performance

Request to revise and resubmit for HU designation (new):

FSE 194 Introduction to Sustainable Engineering

Rationale: Responses to #4 on cover sheet are not evident. Information on criteria 4a, 4b and 4d is not evident. As this is not self-evidently a HU course, it is imperative that we have as much information as possible.

HST 494, RUS 494, SLC 494 Slavophiles and Westerners

Rationale: Course combinations are not clear. Responses to #7 on cover sheet are not specific enough. Though the course appears to fulfill the HU requirement, we would like to see a clean and clear proposal.

D) Social and Behavioral Sciences (Rebecca Barry)
From ASU

Approved for SB designation effective Spring 2012 (new):

AFR 330 Survey of African American Politics

AFR 414 Black Political Movements

AFR 420 Race, Ethnicity and Politics

STS 260 Politics of Science and

WST 345 Gender, Religion and Global Violence

Request to revise & resubmit for SB designation (new):

AFS 325 Music as Political Discourse

Rationale: This course appears to emphasize music as an anthropological "document" in understanding politics and race. It is unclear what social science theories are elucidated. The course schedule is organized by music type and barely mentions any social/behavioral science content. This course might be more successful attempting an HU designation.

STS 202 Science, Technology and Diversity

Rationale: The committee needs more information before assigning an SB designation. Be more detailed in the “detailed check sheet.” Details about how criterion #4 will be met have been omitted. On the more general check sheet, submitters are encouraged not to fill in the check sheet with non-specific documentation such as “Syllabus, Table of Contents from Major Text.” Please be more specific. This course has good potential to be an SB course and we look forward to reviewing your revised application.

STS 235 Technology and Urban Systems

Rationale: The application lacks a clear explanation as to how sociological/ anthropological methodologies were being used to study the topic. While the topic of "urbanization" generally can be considered a social scientific endeavor, this seems to be assumed throughout the application rather than explicitly stating in what ways this course is utilizing the SB perspective/methodology to examine the topic. On the general check sheet, do not just write “Syllabus and text” to detail how criteria are met. Please be more specific. On the detailed check sheet, criterion #4 has been omitted. This course has good potential as an SB course with a more specific and detailed application.

Deny for SB designation (new):

DCE 394 The Body Condition

Rationale: This course is mainly about body conditioning. Yes, there is a social component, but according to the course description, the social perspective is only one of three (physical, social, and experiential). This course does not meet the requirements for an SB designation.

STS 250 Science, Society and Global Warming

Rationale: This course is mainly about the science of global warming and climate change. Only three out of the nine course learning outcomes have anything to do with social science (politics & economics). This might be a better candidate for SG designation.

- E) Natural Sciences (SQ/SG) (Ron Dorn)**
None

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

Approved for C designation, effective Spring 2012 (new):

TCL 490 Transborder Queer Performativity

Approved for C designation, effective Fall 2012 (new):

THE 422 Latina/o Chicana/o Theatre and Performance

Deny for C designation (new):

TCL 194 Mexican Cinema in Transnational Perspectives

Rationale: This is one of the courses that span C & G designations. As the syllabus is presented, 50% of the course does not deal with Cultural Diversity in the U.S. In order to get a C, the course needs to supplement the current readings with more U.S. reaction to Mexican cinema. This is the kind of course that will be dealt with in the joint C & G sub-committee.

- G) Global Awareness (Mike Tueller)**
From ASU

Approve for G designation, effective Spring 2012 (new):

AFR 414 Black Political Movements
AFR 420 Race, Ethnicity and Politics
AFS 325 Music As Political Discourse
GER/SLC 494 Fairy Tales
WST 345 Gender, Religion and Global Violence

Request to revise and resubmit for G designation (new):

AGB 454 International Trade

Rationale: The course probably could meet our criterion 2d—cultural significance of a global issue but no information regarding cultural significance was submitted. We suspect that, if we examined the case studies used in the course, cultural

significance would be clear. Requests for further information were not answered at the time of this report.

Deny for G designation (new):

NUR 495 Public and Global Health in Nursing

Rationale: A course of this sort must aim to qualify under our criterion 2d cultural significance of a global issue. While the issue clearly is global, we did not see any significant exploration of the effect of nursing on world culture, or vice-versa.

SGS 294 The Dark Side of Globalization

Rationale: The course examined a number of global problems, but none of them were cultural in nature; neither was any cultural impact of those problems demonstrated.

**H) Historical Awareness (Jeffrey Ricker)
From ASU**

Approve for H designation, effective Spring 2012 (new):

AFS 325 - Music as Political Discourse
AFR 330 - Survey of African American Politics
AFR 414 - Black Political Movements

Deny for H designation (new):

FSE 194 - Introduction to Sustainable Engineering

Rationale: History does not seem to be a major focus of this course. First, none of the course outcomes/goals included a historical component. Second, none of the homework assignments required that students perform an in-depth exploration of historical issues.

DECISION DEFERRED TO NEXT MEETING

HST 494/RUS 494/SLC 494 - Slavophiles & Westernizers

Rationale: We think this course probably meets the H criteria, but we first want to look at the textbook's Table of Contents.

6. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m.