

University Senate Curricula and Courses Committee Minutes

Meeting Subtitles:

“Will Matt Vote His Conscience or His Constituency? Either Way, He Will Only Vote Once.”
or “The Committee Performed a ‘Colon-oscopy’” or “There was a Motion to Approve The Bible...”

September 21, 2021 from 2:00pm-3:30pm

Meeting in WebEx

I. Opening Business

Called to order at 2:02pm.

- A. Welcome
- B. Minutes of August 31, 2021 were eApproved.
- C. We will next convene in the electronic ether on October 5, 2021

II. Report of the Chair (S. Wilson)

- A. University Senate – Since it was the first Senate meeting of the year, there were a lot of introductions. The consent agenda passed. There was a report from Scholastic Standards and an interesting report about enrollments. Overall, enrollment is good and diversity is improving slowly, although we are still behind population averages.
- B. Senate Executive – The committee met, but there was not much business. M. Wagner will catch us up on Delta2GE news shortly.

III. Other Committee Reports

- A. UICC (M. Hatfield) – The first meeting is next week.
- B. Honors Board of Associate Directors (E. Schultz) – The committee meets this Thursday.
- C. Scholastic Standards (G. Michna) – The next meeting is in a couple weeks.
- D. GEOC (M. Wagner) – M. Wagner hosted a meeting to help develop the Call for Proposals for the Provost’s Office General Education Course Enhancement Grant Competition. Representatives in the fields of environmental literacy and diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice met to share ideas.
- E. Δ2GE Working Group (M. Wagner) – The special meeting to review the Delta2GE proposal was canceled. Delta2GE will draft and present a motion that will need to be approved by several committees. Senate C&C will discuss the motion in a future meeting. It should be an up-and-down vote. The motion will propose a change to the Senate by-laws. The task force’s web page has been updated with objectives. Members can view the website here: <https://delta.senate.uconn.edu/>. Once it is released, send proposed amendments to the motion ahead of time to the SEC if possible.

IV. New Business

- A. New 1000- and 2000-level courses:
 - 1. Motion to add (E. Schultz, J. Yakovich) ENGL 2107 The British Empire, Slavery, and Resistance (#4315) [Approved for CA1 by GEOC]
Proposed Catalog Copy
ENGL 2107. British Empire, Slavery, and Resistance

3.00 credits

Prerequisite: ENGL 1007 or 1010 or 1011 or 2011

Grading Basis: Graded

Literature and culture of the British empire from 1600-1830. Focus on conquest, colonization, the institution of slavery, and resistance to empire. CA 1.

Discussion

- Syllabus feedback:
 - There is a typo in the last sentence of the first paragraph in the syllabus.
 - Including decimals in the grading scale is recommended. (e.g. Is 89.5 a B+ or an A-?)
- One member highlighted a question about where the course is offered. If a course is offered online, isn't it able to be offered at all campuses? An instructor does not own a course; the department does. Is this a staffing issue or curricular one?
- Another member noted that this can be a sensitive and difficult issue. Regional campus students are interested in taking classes at Storrs, but this could drain enrollments at the regional campuses.
- It was noted that students would like more Gen Ed courses to be offered online.
- This is a complex question that needs to be discussed more fully, and the time is probably right for this now. S. Wilson can take this question to the SEC. P. Diplock will write up a document detailing the relevant points. Members can send notes/concerns if they have them.

Motion to add ENGL 2107 (#4315) was approved unanimously.

B. Revised 1000- and 2000-level courses:

1. Motion to revise (K. Fuller, D. Ouimette) GEOG 2505 Applications of Geographic Information Systems (#7380) [Revise credits]

Note: This course was declined in April 2021 and is being resubmitted.

Current Catalog Copy

GEOG 2505. Applications of Geographic Information Systems

4.00 credits

Prerequisites: GEOG 2500.

Grading Basis: Graded

Applications of geographic information systems. Particular attention to land use planning and resource management.

Revised Catalog Copy

GEOG 2505. Applications of Geographic Information Systems

3.00 credits

Prerequisites: GEOG 2500.

Grading Basis: Graded

Applications of geographic information systems. Particular attention to land use planning and resource management.

Discussion

- J. Yakovich would like to talk to the proposer about service learning.

Motion to revise GEOG 2505 (#7380) was approved unanimously.

2. Motion to revise (M. MacKenzie, D. Ouimette) HIST 1805 East Asian History Through Hanzi Characters (#6636) [Revise title]

Current Catalog Copy

HIST 1805. East Asian History Through Hanzi Characters

3.00 credits

Prerequisites: None.

Grading Basis: Graded

East Asian history taught through analysis of select "hanzi" (Chinese ideographic symbols), focusing on their changing meanings and institutional manifestations in different regions over time. CA 1. CA 4-INT.

Revised Catalog Copy

HIST 1805. Key Words in East Asian History and Culture

3.00 credits

Prerequisites: None.

Grading Basis: Graded

East Asian history ~~taught~~ through analysis of select "hanzi" (Chinese ideographic symbols), focusing on their changing meanings and institutional manifestations in different regions over time. CA 1. CA 4-INT.

Discussion

- One member suggested a minor catalog copy revision to keep the description in compliance with current standards. The word "taught" was struck.
- Syllabus feedback:
 - The learning outcomes should avoid verbs that cannot adequately be observed or measured, such as "understand" or "appreciate."
 - The syllabus looks incomplete. It appears to be missing topics.
 - There was also a concern about how to objectively observe "attentiveness and curiosity." The proposer should reconsider how this area is assessed.
- One member did not think the new title would improve enrollment, as hoped. They thought the title was far less interesting than the original.
- Another member noted that it sounds like the proposer has some evidence that the current title does not work.

- The first member understood the need to change the original title, but did not think a phrase such as “key words” in the newly proposed one would help.
- Another member agreed the title was not attention-grabbing and suggested the use of the term “Chinese Ideographic Characters.” S. Wilson will follow-up with the proposer.

M. MacKenzie motioned to table HIST 1805 (#6636) until the proposer could be consulted about the title. E. Schultz seconded. Motion to table was approved unanimously.

3. Motion to revise (E. Schultz, G. Michna) MARN 1002 Introduction to Oceanography (#15079/1892) [Revise description, add EL]

Current Catalog Copy

MARN 1002. Introduction to Oceanography

3.00 credits

Prerequisites: A background in secondary school physics, chemistry or biology is recommended.

Not open to students who have passed MARN 1003, 2002 or 3001.

Grading Basis: Graded

Processes governing the geology, circulation, chemistry and biological productivity of the world's oceans. Emphasis is placed on the interactions and interrelationships between physical, chemical, biological and geological processes that contribute to both the stability and the variability of the marine environment. First and second semester Storrs and Avery Point. Students who complete both MARN 1002 and 1004 will receive credit for a CA 3 laboratory course. CA 3.

Revised Catalog Copy

MARN 1002E. Introduction to Oceanography

3.00 credits

Recommended Preparation: A background in secondary school physics, chemistry or biology. Not open to students who have passed MARN 1003, 2002 or 3001.

Grading Basis: Graded

Processes governing the geology, circulation, chemistry, and biological productivity of the world's oceans. Emphasis on the interactions and interrelationships between humans and the physical, chemical, biological, and geological processes that contribute to both the stability and the variability of the marine environment. Students who complete both MARN 1002 and 1004 will receive credit for a CA 3 laboratory course. CA 3.

Discussion

- One member was concerned about the vagueness of what was meant by “A background in secondary school” in the recommended prep section.
- Syllabus feedback:
 - Including decimals in the grading scale is recommended. (e.g. Is 89.5 a B+ or an A-?)

Motion to revise MARN 1002 (#15079/1892) was approved with one Nay vote.

4. Motion to revise (M. Hatfield, J. Yakovich) MARN 1003 Introduction to Oceanography with Laboratory (#15078/1891) [Revise description, add EL]

Current Catalog Copy

MARN 1003. Introduction to Oceanography with Laboratory

4.00 credits

Prerequisites: Not open to students who have passed MARN 1002, 2002 or 3001.

Recommended preparation: A background in secondary school physics, chemistry or biology.

Grading Basis: Graded

Processes governing the geology, circulation, chemistry and biological productivity of the world's oceans. Emphasis is on the interactions and interrelationships of physical, chemical, biological and geological processes that contribute to both the stability and the variability of the marine environment. Laboratory experiments, hands-on exercises, and field observations including required cruise on research vessel. First semester (Avery Point). First and second semester (Storrs). CA 3-LAB.

Revised Catalog Copy

MARN 1003E. Introduction to Oceanography with Laboratory

4.00 credits

Recommended preparation: A background in secondary school physics, chemistry, or biology. Not open to students who have passed MARN 1002, 2002 or 3001.

Grading Basis: Graded

Processes governing the geology, circulation, chemistry, and biological productivity of the world's oceans. Emphasis on the interactions and interrelationships of humans and the physical, chemical, biological, and geological processes that contribute to both the stability and the variability of the marine environment. Laboratory experiments, hands-on exercises, and field observations. CA 3-LAB.

Discussion

- One member again noted concern about the recommended prep language in the catalog copy. Another member also noted some concern.
- J. Yakovich requested that the proposer contact her about service learning projects.

Motion to revise MARN 1003 (#15078/1891) was approved with one Nay vote.

- C. The General Education Oversight Committee addition of the following 3000-and 4000-level courses into General Education:

1. Motion to add (M. MacKenzie, J. Yakovich) URBN 3400E Urban Parks and Sustainable Cities (#6656) [Approved for CA2 and EL]

Proposed Catalog Copy

URBN 3400E. Urban Parks and Sustainability

3.00 Credits

Prerequisites: None

Grading Basis: Graded

Historical and contemporary analysis of park issues related to the social, ecological, and economic sustainability of cities, such as the racial politics of park advocacy, the changing social practices of park use, the privatization of public space, urban resilience and green infrastructure, and the relationship between parks, gentrification, and urban sustainability. CA 2.

Discussion

- One member suggested a minor catalog copy revision to keep the description in compliance with current standards. The words “is used to explore a variety” and a semi-colon were struck.
- It was noted that the course has fieldwork. Should this be mentioned in the catalog copy? There was some discussion of what was meant by “fieldwork.” One member wondered if noting the fieldwork would affect enrollment. S. Wilson will connect with the proposer to get more information.
- GEOG has a course on National Parks, but there does not appear to have been consultation. Members wondered about the differences.

Motion to add URBN 3400E (#6656) was approved unanimously.

2. Motion to add (A. Adams, T. Bontly) WGSS 3269W Gender, Sexuality and Social Movements (#6576) [Approved for W]

Proposed Catalog Copy

WGSS 3269W Gender, Sexuality, and Social Movements

3 credits

Prerequisite: ENGL 1007 or 1010 or 1011 or 2011

Recommended preparation: Any 1000 or 2000 level WGSS course

Grading Basis: Graded

Examination of social movements as related to intersections of gender, race, sexuality, disability, class, nationality, ethnicity. May include related topics such as capitalism, democracy, globalization, economic justice, the environment, health, sexual freedom.

Discussion

- Syllabus feedback:
 - The syllabus needs student learning outcomes.
 - Students would benefit from a rubric for participation.
 - The syllabus should include a grading scale on how points convert to letter grades.

Motion to add WGSS 3269W (#6656) was approved unanimously.

- D. The General Education Oversight Committee recommends revision of the following 3000-and 4000-level courses within or into General Education:

1. Motion to revise (E. Schultz, J. Yakovich) AFRA/HIST 3752 History of Pre-colonial Africa (#1991)
[Revise level, add CA1, CA4-Int]

Note: There was concern expressed in GEOC that the time period covered by the course should be noted in some way. The previous copy specified "pre-colonial." Does the course now cover history to the present? If not, can the catalog copy indicate a timeframe somehow? (e.g. "through 1900")

Current Catalog Copy

AFRA 3752. History of Pre-Colonial Africa

Also offered as: HIST 3752

3.00 credits

Prerequisites: None.

Grading Basis: Graded

The history of pre-colonial Africa with particular attention to the rise and fall of African Kingdoms, interaction between different ethnic groups, African trade with other continents, and the impact of foreigners on African societies.

HIST 3752. History of Pre-Colonial Africa

Also offered as: AFRA 3752

3.00 credits

Prerequisites: None.

Grading Basis: Graded

The history of pre-colonial Africa with particular attention to the rise and fall of African Kingdoms, interaction between different ethnic groups, African trade with other continents, and the impact of foreigners on African societies.

Revised Catalog Copy

AFRA 2752. Africa in Global History

Also offered as: HIST 2752

3.00 credits

Prerequisites: None

Grading Basis: Graded

Broad historical survey of civilizations in Africa, including origins of human life in Africa, economic livelihoods, socio-economic and political structures, state formation, trade, commerce, urbanization, and indigenous systems of belief and world religions. CA 1. CA 4-INT.

HIST 2752. Africa in Global History

Also offered as: AFRA 2752

3.00 credits

Prerequisites: None

Grading Basis: Graded

Broad historical survey of civilizations in Africa, including origins of human life in Africa, economic livelihoods, socio-economic and political structures, state formation, trade, commerce, urbanization, and indigenous systems of belief and world religions. CA 1. CA 4-INT.

Discussion

- S. Wilson noted that when contacted about this, the proposer was willing to add “to 1900” to either the title or the catalog copy.
- One Senate C&C member did not think that the addition was necessary, and another agreed. There were no arguments in favor of adding the date language, so it was not added.
- Syllabus feedback:
 - The assignment point values are in the section on university resources.
 - The syllabus should include a grading scale on how points convert to letter grades.

Motion to revise AFRA/HIST 3752 (#1991) was approved unanimously.

- One member asked in the chat, “If a syllabus is incomplete does that necessitate our also not approving the course?” This question was addressed to the group.
- Another member noted that most syllabus content is recommended. Typically we have recommended that proposers observe best practices, but we have not held up courses for incomplete syllabi.

2. Motion to revise (T. Bontly, M. Hatfield) INTD 3260 The Bible (#6938) [Revise title and description]

Current Catalog Copy

INTD 3260. The Bible

3.00 credits

Prerequisites: None.

Grading Basis: Graded

The literary, historical, and philosophical content, circumstances and problems of the Old and New Testaments. May be counted toward the related field requirement in History, Philosophy, or English. CA 1.

Revised Catalog Copy

INTD 3260. The Bible, the Holy Land, and History

3.00 credits

Prerequisites: None.

Grading Basis: Graded

The historical, literary and archaeological investigation of the Old and New Testaments. May be counted toward the related field requirement in History, Philosophy, or English. CA 1.

Discussion

- Syllabus feedback:
 - Including decimals in the grading scale is recommended. (e.g. Is 89.5 a B+ or an A-?)
 - The hard line on disallowing laptops may interfere with disability accommodations.
- There was a question about the “field requirement” language in the catalog. Such language is not usually in the course description.

- According to representative from the Office of the Registrar, the course does not have the authority to make this statement in any case. How the course can be used would be up to these departments.
- It was noted that the proposer hopes to convert the course to an HEJS, and one member felt the course should not go forward until it is redone as HEJS and the last line of the catalog copy is removed.
- There was discussion about what to do with the course. One or two members felt the course should be declined and sent back with the request for a CAR that revises the course to HEJS.
- One member suggested tabling the course first as a less extreme measure so as not to frustrate the proposer.
- Reps from History and Philosophy noted that these departments have not seen this course. Since they were the other departments that were originally part of the course, they would need to sign off on changes to it. Reps from those departments felt that they probably did not have staff to teach the course, so they would more-than-likely agree to let the course move to HEJS.

S. Stifano motioned to table INTD 3260 (#6938) pending consultation with the proposer. M. MacKenzie seconded. The motion to table was approved with two Nay votes.

Attendance (in bold): Suzanne Wilson (Chair), **Alana Adams**, **Mary Ann Amalaradjou**, **Tom Bontly**, Mark Brand, **Peter Diplock** (ex-officio), **Kate Fuller**, **Marc Hatfield**, Dalton Hawie (*student rep*), **Matt McKenzie**, **George Michna**, **David Ouimette**, **Sharyn Rusch**, **Eric Schultz**, **Steve Stifano**, **Manuela Wagner** (Ex-Officio), **Julia Yakovich**, *Cindy Zhang (sabbatical Fall '21)*, *Terra Zuidema (Registrar alternate)*

Respectfully submitted by Karen C. P. McDermott

Adjourned 3:30pm