

Historical Literacy Outcomes

Draft Document approved by ad hoc Historical Literacy Committee (Ron Morgan, Kelly Elliott, Doug Foster, Vernon Williams, and Matt Roberson) and presented to the UGEC at January 13, 2016 meeting

Together with the reduction of the General Education Social Science requirement from 6 hours to 3, a 3-hour Historical Literacy requirement has been added to University Requirements. Historical Literacy may be satisfied by a menu of courses that meet learning outcomes to be determined and approved by the UGEC in conjunction with the Department of History and Global Studies.

The Historical Literacy Requirement is designed to ensure that ACU students can demonstrate understanding of how historical events shape and influence the contemporary human condition. As determined by the Historical Literacy Committee (HLC), courses that satisfy the 3-hour Historical Literacy Requirement should demonstrate the following student learning outcomes:

- Outcome 1: Students will demonstrate broad knowledge of key historical events, personalities, movements, themes, patterns, and ideas that have influenced human civilizations, including issues of gender and social diversity.
- Outcome 2: Students will encounter and analyze primary sources in their historical context.
- Outcome 3: Students will discuss broad historical themes of causation, continuity, and change and apply these themes to significant turning points in history.
- Outcome 4: Students will recognize and critique the process of historical narrative creation in public memory (i.e. in museums, public memorials, canons, and historiography).

The Department of History and Global Studies envisions that these outcomes (especially Outcome 1), as well as the goals of General Education, will be best met by HIST 100-299 courses, which provide the most broad-based introduction to key events, themes, and patterns in human history. Other courses such as ART 221 and 222 (General Art History Survey I and II) may also be well suited to the Historical Literacy Menu.

Any course to be considered for the Historical Literacy Menu should first be submitted to the Historical Literacy Committee, which is comprised of historians from academic departments across the campus. After assessing whether the course under review meets the above outcomes, the Historical Literacy Committee will provide a memo with their recommendation for consideration by the UGEC and UUAC.

HIST courses in relation to Cultural Awareness and Social Science menus

The Department of History and Global Studies and ad hoc Historical Literacy Committee (College of Arts and Sciences), seeks clarification regarding the place of HIST courses in the **Cultural Awareness** and **Social Science** menus of the **University Requirements**.

The catalogs for those years show the following courses in the aforementioned menus:

Social Science/Fine Arts/Humanities (6 hours requirement)

HIST 117 Civilization I
HIST 118 Civilization II
HIST 131 World History: Cultures and Connections since 1400*
HIST 221 American History I
HIST 222 American History II
HIST 250 Introduction to American Ethnic and Women's Studies

Foreign Language and Cultural Awareness (3 hour requirement)

HIST 117 Civilization I
HIST 118 Civilization II
HIST 131 World History: Cultures and Connections since 1400*
HIST 250 Introduction to American Ethnic and Women's Studies

* HIST 131 entered these menus beginning with 2014-15 catalog year.

We propose that the status of HIST courses remain unchanged (from the catalogs for 2013-14, 2014-15, and 2015-16) in regards to the Cultural Awareness and newly configured Social Science menus. *Our Rationale:*

Flexibility for students: A guiding principle for curricular revisions of late, as well as ACU's more accepting approach to dual credit and AP hours, has been **greater flexibility for students**. By keeping HIST courses in the aforementioned menus (while adding a new Historical Literacy requirement), we allow students to utilize multiple History credits towards their degree. Moreover, students in a variety of majors will probably be able to fulfill the new Historical Literacy requirement by taking a course within their discipline (e.g., Art History). We should give those students the flexibility for counting additional History credits (whether an ACU HIST course, dual or AP credit), toward more than one menu in the Univ. Requirements.

Lack of clarity in the approved Gen. Ed. Curricular changes. The Fall 2015 faculty vote on the proposed General Education changes left some obvious ambiguities, caused in part by inconsistencies between the two documents presented to faculty prior to the vote. See the two annexed documents, both dated Sept. 2015, entitled "**General Education Proposal – Comparison Chart**" and "**General Education Review Proposal for Faculty Consideration.**"

Whereas the “Comparison Chart” seemed to eliminate HIST courses from the newly divided Social Science and Fine Arts/Humanities menus, the proposal approved by faculty vote reads as follows: “Maintain the English, Communication, Science, Math, Social Science, and Kinesiology menus as currently configured.” **Therefore, all HIST courses listed in the former Social Science/Fine Arts/Humanities menu should remain in the newly named “Social Science” menu.**

Next, the voted proposal says “Remove History from the Cultural Awareness Menu,” while the “Comparison Chart” proposes that “Cultural Awareness” include a line called “Foreign Language and Cultural Awareness: One from menu, including CORE 210.” Because of that ambiguity, **we propose that the four HIST courses remain within the new Cultural Awareness menu.** They were approved as such only a few years ago. Please note that U.S. History surveys were NOT included in that menu, while Western Civilization, Global Connections, and U.S. Women’s and Ethnic History were. All four of those courses engage students extensively in themes of cross-cultural and global understanding.

Thank you,

Dr. Ron Morgan
Chair, History and Global Studies
Chair, ad hoc Historical Literacy Committee, College of Arts and Sciences

General Education Proposal – Comparison Chart

September 2015

Note: General Education stays at 56 hours

Current Configuration			Proposed Configuration		
CORE	Course Number and Title	Hours	CORE	Course Number and Title	Hours
	CORE 110: Cornerstone	3		CORE 110: Cornerstone	3
	CORE 210: Human Identity and Community	3		<i>move CORE 210 Cultural Awareness menu</i>	
	BCOR 310: The Search for Meaning	(3) ¹			
Bible			Bible		
	BIBL 101: Jesus: His Life and Teachings	3		BIBL 101: Jesus: His Life and Teachings	3
	BIBL 102: Early Christians: Life, Literature and Community	3		BIBL 102: Early Christians: Life, Literature and Community	3
	BIBL 211: Message of the Old Testament	3		BIBL 211: Message of the Old Testament	3
	Choose One: Bible Selection	3		Choose One: Bible Selection	3
	BCOR 310: The Search for Meaning	3		See below for options ¹	3
English			English		
	ENGL 111: Composition and Rhetoric	3		ENGL 111: Composition and Rhetoric	3
	ENGL 112: Composition and Literature	3		ENGL 112: Composition and Literature	3
	Sophomore (200-299) Literature	3		Sophomore (200-299) Literature	3
Communication			Communication		
	COMS 211: Intermediate Speech and Rhetoric	3		COMS 211: Intermediate Speech and Rhetoric	3
Science			Science		
	Two sequential or two unconnected courses from menu	6		Two sequential or two unconnected courses from menu	6
Math			Math		
	MATH 120: Quantitative Reasoning (or higher)	3		MATH 120: Quantitative Reasoning (or higher)	3
Social Science/Fine Arts/Humanities			Social Science		
	One course from ECON, FAM, GEOG, GLST	6		One course from ECON, FAM, GEOG, GLST	3
	HIST, JMC, POLS, PSYC, SOCI			JMC, POLS, PSYC, SOCI	
Fine Arts/Humanities					
	One from SocSci or ART, MUSM, PHIL, THEA				
			History		
				HIST or Historical Literacy Course in major	3 ²
Kinesiology			Kinesiology		
	PEAC 100 or two PEAC activity	2		PEAC 100 or two PEAC activity	2
Foreign Language and Cultural Awareness			Cultural Humanities		
				Foreign Language and Cultural Awareness	
	One from menu	3		One from menu; including CORE 210	3
			Fine Arts/Humanities		
				One from ART, MUSM, PHIL, THEA	
General Education Selection			General Education Selection		
	One from any of the above menus	3		From any of the above menus	3
			Free Elective		3

TOTAL GENERAL EDUCATION HOURS 56

¹ BCOR 310 is a combined class for CORE and Bible; the hours for the class are counting in the total for the Bible requirement.

TOTAL GENERAL EDUCATION HOURS 56

¹ Several options are available to Bible, Missions and Ministry faculty to consider regarding BCOR and its three credit hours: keep it as intact as possible; include it in a selection of upper-level Bible courses; remove it from a selection of upper-level Bible courses; place it in the Cultural Awareness menu; create a "vocational formation" outcome that allows a selection from among a carefully chosen set of classes that intersect aspects of theology, ethics, church history, or missiology and the discipline. Other options are possible as well. This decision would be made by DBMM and approved by UGEC, UUAC, Provost and President.

² For any course(s) counting toward hours in the major, the equivalent credit hours must be added to the General Education Selection menu; not to exceed 3 hours in the Kinesiology menu. This keeps the baccalaureate degree at 128.

General Education Review
Proposal for Faculty Consideration
September 2015

Based on the findings of the General Education Review Committee (2014-15) and with the work done by Greg Straughn in conversation with the Registrar, Provost's Cabinet, and Chairs in Spring/Summer 2015, the following proposal is made for structural rearrangement of General Education at ACU.

Note: This proposal is the same one presented to the Faculty on September 1, with one exception: The proposal originally called to put three reclassified hours into the "General Education Selection" menu; the UUAC amended this to classify those hours as "free electives"

Structural Changes (see attached chart)

- This proposal would supersede the revisions of 2008 and 2010.
- Maintain a 56 hour General Education set of hours.
- Maintain a 128 hour baccalaureate degree.
- Remove the team-teaching component of CORE/BCOR classes.
- Maintain 15 hours (5 classes) of Bible
 - BCOR is currently in the Bible menu; several options are available and would be decided upon by the DBMM faculty. Changes would be approved by UGEC and UUAC as appropriate.
- Move CORE 210 to the Cultural Competencies Menu
- Add a 3-credit hour "Historical Literacy" requirement
 - Remove History from the Cultural Awareness Menu
- Move the Fine Arts and Humanities menu to the Cultural Awareness Menu
 - Note: there are already a number of Fine Arts/Humanities classes in the Cultural Awareness menu; this would better align Fine Arts/Humanities with like classes and would keep the Social Science menu more internally consistent and clear
- Maintain the English, Communication, Science, Math, Social Science, and Kinesiology menus as currently configured
- Maintain the General Education selection at 3 hours
- Put 3 hours into a category of Free Electives