

University General Education Council
November 8, 2017 - Electronic Vote

The single agenda item was posted to the UGEC blog on November 7 and considered by council electronically.

Action Item:

I. ART 325 – Add Course to Historical Literacy Menu

K. Pybus – The course looks good, though am I overlooking the assessment method that's part of the Criteria for the Historical Literacy Menu? Otherwise, it looks to satisfy other criteria. K. Tippens - I went back and looked at the precedents for approval for the Historical Literacy menu. On 3/23/16, the UGEC approved THEA 490 for the menu. My reading of that proposal was that it was very similar to the one we have to consider here, in that the "Part B" of the "UGEC Criteria for the Historical Literacy Menu" was met in depth, but the "Part C" (dealing with SLOs/Assessment) was not addressed much. On 4/12/17, the UGEC discussed the addition of HIST 280 to the Historical Literacy menu. When I review that proposal, I would say that "Part B" of the UGEC Criteria was effectively missing (at least the explanation of how those criteria were to be met by the course), while "Part C" of the UGEC Criteria were addressed in the proposal, at least partially. (The UGEC approved that proposal also.) I know Dan, and I too would like to sign up for the course, and I have no doubt that it will be an excellent course and the SLOs will be great and assessment will be wonderful. I have no problem agreeing to this course being added to the Historical Literacy menu. But I suggest that either the UGEC takes their "UGEC Criteria for the Historical Literacy Menu" seriously (and more literally), or we approve courses with the understanding that they appear to meet the spirit of the criteria. The precedent to date suggests that the UGEC has taken the latter approach. I think we should attempt to be consistent. One more thing — I wondered if there were any prerequisites for the course? That is not an issue if there were (since this is part of the "University Requirements" part of the catalog), but I just wondered about that.

E. Gumm - To Kyle's question regarding prerequisites – there are no prerequisites for this course which puts it in line with one of the necessary criteria for items in the general education menus. I agree with Kyle that we need to be consistent and follow our stated expectations with regard to providing the information needed in sections B AND C of the Criteria for adding a course to the Historical Literacy menu. We have been rather lax in capturing the information from section C previously which can present a challenge when our SACSCOC accreditation team asks for the evidence to show that we are doing the assessment we indicate that we are. In that context, I would advocate for tabling this proposal to provide time for Dan and Mike to pull together those additional pieces and then we can add this back on to an agenda in the spring semester. Since this is a fall only course that provides plenty of time.

D. McGregor - In the absence of knowing exactly what's wanted for section C, here's a chart adaptation of some of the materials in the document. Would this suffice for the assessment piece?

Gen Ed Competency: #2 Deep understanding of and hands-on experience with the inquiry practices of disciplines that explore the natural, socio-cultural, aesthetic, and religious (or theological or spiritual) realms – achieved and demonstrated through studies that build conceptual knowledge by engaging learners in concepts and modes of inquiry that are basic to the natural sciences, social sciences, humanities, arts, and Christian faith (or theology). Assessment Method #1: Quiz and Exam questions (objective and short answer) that ask students to identify the historical and theological contexts that drove the emergence of major themes of Christian art. Acceptable Goal: 70% of the students answer the objective questions correctly or receive full credit on short-answer responses. Ideal Goal: 95% of the students answer the objective questions correctly or receive full credit on short-answer responses. Assessment Method #2: Students present a research project on a given saint, analyzing primary sources and visual symbols used to represent the saint. Acceptable Goal: 70% of the students make a B or better on their project. Ideal Goal: 95% of the students make a B or better on their project. Gen Ed Competency: #4 Social Issues: Recognize social issues when issues are presented in complex contexts. Assessment Method: Quiz and Exam questions (objective and short answer) that ask students to identify the historical and theological contexts that drove the emergence of major themes of Christian art. Acceptable Goal: 70% of the students answer the objective questions correctly or receive full credit on short-answer responses. Ideal Goal: 95% of the students answer the objective questions correctly or receive full credit on short-answer responses.

E. Gumm - This is exactly the type of additional information we needed, Dan. Thanks so much for pulling it together and providing it for the Council.

K. Pybus made a motion to approve the addition of ART 325 to the Historical Literacy menu. M. Lynn seconded. 9 in favor. Motion passes.

Online meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m. on November 16, 2017.