

University General Education Council
October 12, 2022, 3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Zoom Meeting

Present: K. Witemeyer, J. Smith, R. Brown, R. Rama, S. Talley, T. Naldoza, L. Sharp-Penya, J. Jones, S. Sanders, R. Ashlock

Absent: K. Carroll, M. Atkinson

Ex-officio: B. Reeves, E. Gumm, G. Mihills, C. Riley (M. Allen was absent)

Guests: J. Stephenson, J. Homer, J. Schroeder, C. Flanders, C. Archer, L. Reed, P. Roggendorff, S. Moore, K. Elliott, D. Kennamer, R. Green, J. Camp, J. Elliott

The meeting began at 3:31 p.m.

- Call to order by J. Smith
- Minutes from 9/28/22

Motion to approve the minutes by R. Brown; seconded by S. Talley. All in favor. Minutes approved.

Action Items

1. Add EDUC 221 to Social & Behavioral Sciences Menu

S. Talley – There are both formative and summative assessments included. I will revise to only one. R. Brown – There is a rubric on p. 4 that needs to be completed. S. Talley – I will get that sent in.

Motion to approve by R. Brown, seconded by J. Jones. All in favor; motion passes.

2. Add GEOG 235 to Social & Behavioral Sciences Menu

J. Jones – What is J term? J. Smith – January short course.

3. Add GEOG 354 to Social & Behavioral Sciences Menu

No discussion.

4. Add HIST 250 to Social & Behavioral Sciences Menu

L. Sharp-Penya – Regarding the rubric, A2 on the "meets expectations" column seems to be written incorrectly. That might need to be revised for assessment.

Motion to approve items 2-4 by R. Brown, seconded by R. Ashlock. All in favor; motion passes.

5. ITC 125 to Social & Behavioral Sciences Menu

J. Jones – This course doesn't look like the others, but that is not a bad thing. However, when you look across different schools, the closest thing I could find was cognitive science. I don't understand precisely how it fits. J. Homer – We are dealing with an increasingly digital world. We pull from psychology, sociology, and other areas to learn how people interact with the system and the impact these systems have on behavior. J. Smith – This content is sometimes presented in Communication departments. If it looks like it fits the outcomes, that is the most important element. L. Sharp-Penya – I liked this as a fit for social science. I see the overlap. I didn't have that same issue. But the one question I had was with A2, communicate clearly. J. Homer – Within the course we have students reading from different sources and conducting experiments. We are trying to explain why people do things and how cognition works. It becomes an interpretation in that area. Being able to read and assess a source is key. L. Sharp-Penya – Then how is that assessed with a multiple-choice test? I didn't see the fit there. I think this is a difficulty with including A2 as an outcome for SBS. J. Homer – We are asking them to interpret but at a level appropriate for an introductory course. R. Brown – I think the root issue might be a mismatch of the artifact and the rubric. L. Sharp-Penya – You clearly address C1 and C2. It's just the A2 issue that causes difficulty.

Motion to approve by J. Jones, seconded by S. Talley. All in favor; motion passes.

6. Add BIBM 434 to Cultural Literacy Menu

R. Brown – There is some content that targets intercultural topics, but it seems to be a much smaller portion of the course based on the syllabus. J. Schroeder – Spiritual formation from diverse perspectives permeate every element of this course. We do this from an anthropological place. It is the foundation of the course.

7. Add BIBM 492 to Cultural Literacy Menu

J. Jones – It's a little conspicuous that this is a 400-level course with prerequisites. How does that fit our gen ed parameters? R. Ashlock – The prerequisites are standard undergrad Bible that are required by the gen ed. There are no additional prerequisites. Every student on campus has to take these. R. Brown -With both of these courses - if we do choose to approve these, I think we need to clarify the assessment. There is a lot of overlap in the artifacts and assessment. J. Schroeder – We can narrow that down. The final project ultimately expresses all that is being asked.

Motion to approve items 6-7 with changes outlined for revised assessment by R. Brown, seconded by S. Talley. All in favor; motion passes.

8. Add BMIS 345 to Cultural Literacy Menu

R. Brown – I'd like to see the number of assessments reduced per outcome for both of these courses.

9. Add BMIS 371 to Cultural Literacy Menu

See above.

Motion to approve items 8-9 by J. Jones, seconded by R. Brown. All in favor; motion passes.

10. Add EDUC 211 to Cultural Literacy Menu

S. Talley – I will be reducing the assessments. The prerequisite in the past has been on the pathway to certification. We are planning to remove that and broaden the scope of the course, opening it up to a broader range of students.

Motion to approve by R. Brown, seconded by R. Ashlock. All in favor; motion passes.

11. Add ENGL 285 to Cultural Literacy Menu

K. Carroll submitted a comment – Wondering about the fit of a sophomore literature course being included on this menu. R. Brown – Outcome B2 talks about participation, and I don't think that measures what students are learning. Perhaps a response/reflection assignment would be better. J. Elliott – I think a professor can determine if a student is engaging with the content seriously. It is difficult to quantify. It is like an oral exam. J. Smith – From an assessment of a binary - did you participate or did you not - is not a good assessment. If we can clarify how you are evaluating that level of participation, that might be helpful. J. Jones – I think the journal reflection would capture this better. It would be more tangible and might be a better artifact for B2. J. Elliott – I have a rubric for oral participation in the syllabus. R. Brown – Perhaps if you define "discussion graded on this rubric" instead of simply participation. Also this content seems to focus very much on place and not as much on the people side. R. Ashlock – People and places are very connected. Place shapes people.

12. Add ENGL 470 to Cultural Literacy Menu

No discussion.

Motion to approve items 11-12 by R. Ashlock, seconded by S. Sanders. All in favor; motion passes.

13. Add GEOG 235 to Cultural Literacy Menu

No discussion.

14. Add GEOG 354 to Cultural Literacy Menu

R. Brown – Reduce the number of artifacts.

Motion to approve items 13-14 with the reduction of artifacts by J. Jones, seconded by L. Sharp-Penya. All in favor; motion passes.

15. Add GER 111 to Cultural Literacy Menu

J. Jones – This concerns all the foreign language courses together. We are trying to engage students from a diverse, global perspective. I have a great appreciation for foreign language. I think these belong in the Humanities menu. I don't think a pure language course where students are learning vocabulary and grammar belongs on the Cultural Literacy menu. C. Archer – If we are looking at language teaching from the past, that might be true, but our language courses are not taught solely to learn grammar. Culture is a part of every single class period. Culture and language cannot be separated. We give historical background and cultural meaning. We are using a curriculum that is created around cultural aspects of language. Students interact once a week with a native speaker from another country. J. Jones – Something that is more immersive seems a better fit. From the syllabus that we have it feels very formative. I'm not sure it meets the guidelines for the menu.

Motion - See item 19 below.

16. Add GLST 120 to Cultural Literacy Menu

R. Brown – There is a lack of clarity of what is being assessed. There is an either/or situation that is troubling. R. Ashlock – I agree clarity would be helpful. R. Brown – Any of the options are great, so I would be fine to approve with a later update to assessment.

Motion to approve by S. Talley, seconded by R. Brown. All in favor; motion passes.

17. Add SPAN 111 to Cultural Literacy Menu

See item 15 above.

18. Add SPAN 112 to Cultural Literacy Menu

See item 15 above.

19. Add SPAN 301 to Cultural Literacy Menu

P. Roggendorff – This emphasizes language, culture, and literature. We are learning to engage the technical side as well as looking at diversity across different languages. To get to higher level of discussion, the cultural basis must be set in the lower-level courses. Culture is involved at all levels. R. Brown – It seems redundant to have 111, 112, and 301 on the same menu since those are all prerequisites. J. Smith – Testing does present options for students to place directly into a higher course.

Motion to approve items 15, 17-19 by L. Sharp-Penya, seconded by R. Rama. 6 in favor; 2 opposed; motion passes.

20. Add ART 101 to Arts & Humanities Selection Menu

No discussion.

Motion to approve by S. Talley, seconded by R. Ashlock. All in favor; motion passes.

21. Add ENGL 373 to Arts & Humanities Selection Menu

No discussion.

22. Add ENGL 483 to Arts & Humanities Selection Menu

R. Brown – Reduce the number of artifacts. I would like to see a revised version.

Motion to approve items 21-22 with the revisions noted by R. Brown, seconded by S. Talley. All in favor; motion passes.

23. Add GER 111 to Arts & Humanities Selection Menu

J. Smith – Regarding GER and SPAN course applications for A&H menu – SACS does not consider skills-based courses (such as introductory foreign language) as a fit for the Humanities menu. However, we do have some flexibility since there are other humanities courses already required regarding literature and history.

L. Sharp-Penya – In my reading of the syllabus, I would want to know whether the artifacts for A2 would adequately assess that outcome. L. Reed – I think the essay might be a better fit. I could update that artifact.

24. Add GER 341 to Arts & Humanities Selection Menu

No discussion.

Motion to approve items 23-24, 28 by J. Jones, seconded by S. Sanders. All in favor; motion passes.

25. Add GLST 120 to Arts & Humanities Selection Menu

R. Brown – There's another either/or situation. I would like to see a specific item.

26. Add HIST 330 to Arts & Humanities Selection Menu

No discussion.

27. Add HIST 332 to Arts & Humanities Selection Menu

No discussion.

Motion to approve items 25-27 with revision to GLST 120 by R. Brown, seconded by R. Ashlock. All in favor; motion passes.

28. Add SPAN 301

R. Brown – All three of the outcomes are using the same artifact. I think that might be appropriate, but I would like to see some more specifics. P. Roggendorff – I can make some adjustments.

Motion - See item 24 above.

The meeting adjourned at 4:58 p.m.