

**GENERAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING (GEAC)**  
**MINUTES**  
**March 14, 2024**

**Participating:**

**Chris Francisco (Chair), Sarah Johnson, Cristina Gonzales, Haridas Heitz, Lane Greer, Michael Holmes, Amy Martindale, Kaitlynn Holcomb**

**1. General Education Designation Requests**

**AMST 2523** – Dust Bowl, request the H and D designations, effective Fall 2024.

(Crosslisted with HIST 2523)

Examination of the Dust Bowl as: an ecological, economic, and human tragedy; cultural representations in film, literature, art, photography, and music; and a comparative example to study modern issues of ecology, water rights, and environmental justice in the southern plains and around the world.

Same course as HIST 2523.

2/9/24 - Members approved H designation pending receipt of a syllabus including more specific writing assignment information (lengths and topics).

2/9/24 - Members denied the D designation as it was not clear from the information on the syllabus if students would learn to be prepared for engaged citizenship in present-day diverse, multicultural society of the United States.

3/9/24 – Revised syllabus received.

3/14/24 - Members approved the H designation, effective Fall 2024.

Members denied the D designation as it was still not visible from the information on the syllabus if the course content and writing requirements focused on pre-day diversity issues.

3/14/24 - Members denied the D designation, feeling that the course content and writing requirements did not sufficiently focus on present-day diversity issues listed in the general education requirements.

**Requirements:**

Students will reflect on identity through the examination of one or more underrepresented groups (e.g. racial, ethnic, religious, social class, gender, age, disability, sexual orientation) in present day United States.

a. Students will examine the ways underrepresented groups define and express themselves and the context in which these definitions are constructed.

b. Students will critically analyze theories and systems of cultural, societal, political, or economic power.

c. Students will demonstrate their understanding through written work that provides them the opportunity to enhance their writing skills; upper division “D” courses will include extensive written work.

**AMST 3313-** Science, Technology, and American Cultures, requests the H designation, effective Fall 2024.

American Science and technology as systems of cultural representation, as communities of cultural practices, as mutually determined by other forms of cultural representation such as religion, social thought, art, architecture, literature, and music.

Course was deactivated in 2013 with the H designation and is being reactivated requesting renewal of the H designation, effective Fall 2024.

Members approved the H designation, effective Fall 2024.

**HIST 2313** – Heroes and Wonders of the Ancient World, requests the H designation, effective Fall 2024. Highlights of ancient history, especially from Egypt, Mesopotamia, and Greece. Examines the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World and heroes such as Gilgamesh, Achilles, Sappho, and Heracles. Other major historical and archaeological discoveries are also featured.

2/9/24 - Members tabled the H designation pending receipt of a syllabus describing more clearly how the course meets the objectives/requirements for the H designation.

2/23/24 – Received revised syllabus.

3/14/24 - Members approved the H designation, effective Fall 2024.

**HIST 2523** – Dust Bowl, request the H and D designations, effective Fall 2024.

(Crosslisted with AMST 2523)

Examination of the Dust Bowl as: an ecological, economic, and human tragedy; cultural representations in film, literature, art, photography, and music; and a comparative example to study modern issues of ecology, water rights, and environmental justice in the southern plains and around the world.

Same course as AMST 2523.

2/9/24 - Members approved the H designation pending receipt of a syllabus including more specific writing assignment information (lengths and topics).

2/9/24 - Members denied the D designation as there were no specifics on the syllabus related to the D designation; in particular, it seems difficult for this class to meet the requirement of examining “one or more underrepresented groups in present-day United States.”

3/9/24 – Revised syllabus received.

3/14/24 - Members approved the H designation, effective Fall 2024.

3/14/24 - Members denied the D designation, feeling that the course content and writing requirements did not sufficiently focus on present-day diversity issues listed in the general education requirements.

**Requirements:**

Students will reflect on identity through the examination of one or more underrepresented groups (e.g. racial, ethnic, religious, social class, gender, age, disability, sexual orientation) in present day United States.

a. Students will examine the ways underrepresented groups define and express themselves and the context in which these definitions are constructed.

b. Students will critically analyze theories and systems of cultural, societal, political, or economic power.

c. Students will demonstrate their understanding through written work that provides them the opportunity to enhance their writing skills; upper division “D” courses will include extensive written work.

**MGMT 4233** – Legal and Ethical Issues in a Diverse Workplace, requests the D designation, effective Fall 2024.

Explores legal and ethical issues related to managing a diverse workplace. Students will learn about the impact of discrimination and apply concepts of diversity and inclusion. Regulatory environment will be explored as well as employment practices, prohibitions of discrimination and harassment based upon race, national origin, gender, age, disability, and sexual orientation, and will focus on the link between issues of racism/diversity and ethical behavior.

Prerequisite: MGMT 3013 (prerequisite being waived by college)

Members denied the D designation as the syllabus did not appear to reflect present-day focus on underrepresented groups.

**SMED 1012** - Inquiry Approaches to Teaching, requests the S designation, effective Fall 2024.

Prerequisites: Interest in exploring teaching as a career.

Description: Master teachers introduce students to examples of high-quality inquiry-based lessons and model the educational concepts to which they are being introduced. Students prepare and participate in the teaching of multiple lessons in elementary classrooms. Previously offered as SMED 1011.

Members denied the S designation as it didn't appear from information on the syllabus that the course met the requirements for the S designation and the course didn't appear to be a general education course for the general student body.

### **General Education Designation - Deletion:**

**SPED 3202** - Educating Exceptional Learners, requests deletion of the D designation, effective the end of January 2025.

Description: Learning characteristics, needs and problems of educating the exceptional learner in the public schools. Implications of the learning, environmental and cultural characteristics; planning and program assistance available for accommodating the exceptional learner in regular and special education programs; observation of exceptional learners. Previously offered as ABSE 3202.

Members approved deletion of the D designation, effective the end of January 2025.

## **2. Other**

Dr. Mix noted that the committee is working on the D and G general education designations as well as the guidelines for the trails which may be ready the end of March.

Dr. Francisco noted that there will be a request asking faculty to build trails and ask that the first set of trails for Fall 2025 be ready by end of summer. Dr. Francisco also noted that he will be requesting ideas for another round of trails in the Fall for Fall 2025.

