

GENERAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING (GEAC)
MINUTES
April 18, 2024

Participants: Denni Blum, Chris Francisco (chair), Cristina Gonzalez, Lane Greer, Haridas Heitz, Michael Holmes, Kelva Hunger, Amy Martindale, Tammy Mix, and Lex Washington.

1. General Education Designation Requests

CDIS 2013 - Facts and Fiction About Communication Disorders, requests the D designation, effective Fall 2024.

Description: Overview and examination of communication disorders as portrayed in media (movies, books, etc.), dispelling myths and misconceptions. Discussion and practice ways to be a respectful, successful communicator with people of different backgrounds, life experiences, and communication challenges. Members tabled the D designation pending receipt of a syllabus including more details about how the readings and writing assignments meet requirements 2a-c of the designation.

HIST 3890 - Advanced Honors Experience in History

Prerequisites: Honors Program participation and concurrent enrollment in a designated HIST course.

Description: A supplemental Honors experience in History to partner concurrently with designated upper-division HIST courses. This course adds a different intellectual dimension to the designated course(s).

- Oklahoma's Black Wall Street, requests the H and D designations, one-time only, effective Fall 2024.
Cr. Hrs. 3

Members approved the H and D designations, one-time only effective Fall 2024.

HONR 1000 - Introductory Honors Topics

Prerequisites: Introductory Honors Topics.

Description: Introduction to topics in various disciplines by faculty from the undergraduate colleges for freshman and sophomore students in the University Honors College.

- Science and Human Imagination, requests the H designation, one-time only, effective Fall 2024.
Credit hours: 3

Members approved the H designation, one-time only, effective Fall 2024.

LL 1123 – The Origins of Ukraine: Culture and State, requests the H designation, effective Fall 2024.

This course traces the multicultural origins of the modern Ukrainian state from the beginnings of Kyiv to the present day. Topics include Vikings, Cossacks, the Ukrainian nationalist idea, Soviet domination, and the post-1991 rise of independent Ukraine. It examines the struggles of the Ukrainian people to create a modern nation with challenges, including Russian political and economic interference, invasion, and war. Readings are selected from contemporary Ukrainian authors. Taught in English.

2/22/24 - Members tabled the H designation pending receipt of a syllabus clarifying the content for the H designation. The syllabus appears to refer to International subject matter.

3/13/24 - Received revised syllabus.

Members approved the H designation, effective Fall 2024.

PHIL 3933 - Creation and Evolution, requests the H designation, effective Fall 2024.

Description: Critical examination of claims that various Creationist/Intelligent Design models offer better scientific explanations for selected biological phenomena than does the current dominant view of Darwinian Evolution.

Member tabled the H designation pending receipt of a syllabus including a more detailed schedule of topics and explanation of the writing assignments.

PLNT 1213 - Introduction to Plant and Soil Systems, requests the N designation, effective Fall 2024.

Description: Introduction to the concepts of plant and soil systems including cropland, rangeland and pastureland. A systems approach to the importance of plant and soil resources to the producer, consumer and citizen; modern management and production practices; maintenance of natural resources. Previously offered as AGRN 1213.

Members tabled pending receipt of a detailed syllabus clarifying specifically how the course meets the requirements of the N designation, particularly requirements 2a-c.

PLNT 4470 - Problems and Special Study

Prerequisites: Consent of instructor.

Description: Problems in plant science selected from topics in range and turf, plant breeding and genetics, crop management and physiology, and weed control. Previously offered as AGRN 4470.

- Crops of the World, requests the I designation, one-time only, effective Fall 2024.
Cr. Hrs. 3

Members denied the I designation. The course doesn't appear to be a course focused on present-day international culture. One possible approach is to amplify the way crops have shaped current cultures of countries that grow and depend on the crops, similar to ANSI 3903.

RM 2403 - Recreation and Society, requests the S designation, effective Fall 2024. (Course presently carries the I designation)

Description: Exploration of the influence of recreation and leisure culture internationally to understand how society's view impacts individuals, families & communities, simultaneously. Students will engage multiple resources (readings, meetings, site visits, multidisciplinary discussions, critical reflections through written & video production) on the ways recreation and leisure practices are internationally influenced by economic, political & social drivers. Prev. offered as RMTR 2403 & RMRT 2403.

Members tabled the S designation as it is not clear from the information on the syllabus if the course meets the requirements for the S designation.

UNIV 1133 – Introduction to Leadership in Practice, requests the S designation, effective Fall 2024.

Description: This introductory course will explore the essence of leadership, delving into crucial concepts and best practices. Students will discover why leadership matters, learn effective leadership strategies, and understand the essential considerations for successful leadership in a global society. The course will teach practical skills to take initiative and lead, creating a meaningful difference. Finally, students will be introduced to the historical evolution of leadership and stay updated with current trends shaping modern leadership dynamics.

Members denied the S designation as the course does not appear to meet the requirements for the S designation.

2. General Education – Approved Pending

MC 2143- Media and Information Literacy, requests the S designation, effective, Fall 2024.

Students will be equipped with the competency, knowledge and skills to navigate, analyze, evaluate, and create media and digital content responsibly. Topics include the historical context, principles, and social implications of media, from traditional print media to contemporary digital/social media as well as critical thinking about the influence and impact of media on society, democracy, and personal decision-making. Issues will include misinformation, disinformation, digital citizenship, media ownership, representation, and bias in media.

2/22/24 - Members approved the S designation pending receipt of syllabus detailing how the course covers the empirical and quantitative areas for the S designation.

Chair to make final decision.

3/19/24 – Revised syllabus received.

3/19/24 – Chair approved the S designation, effective Fall 2024.

TH 3873 - History of Musical Theatre, requests the H designation, effective Fall 2024.

Description: Musical Theatre History is a survey course of the American musical theatre tradition, exploring representative shows, creators, and performers that trace the evolution of this unique American art form from its origins to contemporary Broadway and pop culture.

11/7/23 - Members approved the H designation pending receipt of a syllabus inclusive of a grading scale and evidence that students receive instructor feedback on writing assignments to be incorporated into subsequent writing.

4/17/24 – Revised syllabus received.

4/17/24 – Chair approved the H designation, effective Fall 2024.

3. Other

Tammy Mix has sent forward draft guidelines and learning outcomes for the D and G designations. Dr. Francisco noted that Instruction Council met this morning and went over some proposed revisions to the academic regulations associated with those designations and unanimously endorsed those revisions that would codify the trail structure.

Dr. Mix noted that the information in green on the draft learning outcome guidelines reflects the change to three hours from one course, and it also reflects the State Regents' requirement that the courses should meet OSRHE's interpretation of liberal arts and sciences courses, allowing them to be counted in the required 40 hours of general education classes.

Dr. Washington asked about the relationship between diversity and the Ethical Leadership trail, and Dr. Mix noted that Ethical Leadership and Engaged Citizenship is part of the University's Strategic Plan, contained in the Ideal Graduate portion. This is an effort to tie in ideal grad in with general education, giving foundational information to students that they can use later in life.

It was noted that Professional Preparedness and Personal Responsibility is also part of the Strategic Plan.

Dr. Francisco proposed a motion to approve the D and G general education designations and members endorsed the motion.

It was noted that the working group is looking at the writing requirements as well as the visual and communication competencies.

5- page for lower division and 10-page requirements for upper division courses.

It was noted by Kelva that review of the artifacts of 4-5 pages is considered enough for assessment.

It was asked if feedback could be required for lower division courses.

It was also asked if a single course can be included in two trails, and it was noted that it could be.

The new F designation is optional and can be used to build out the required 40 hours of general education credit through courses in foreign language, performing arts, liberal arts, and creative writing. This is designed for those students that need to complete their general education requirements.

At this time, State Regents requirements may not allow students to use courses with performing arts and studio arts components in general education. We are awaiting clarification.

Dr. Mix noted that the N, L and Q designations will not have specific writing, visual, or oral communication requirements but will require that the communication be appropriate to the discipline.