

Core Curriculum Committee
Meeting Minutes
March 27, 2015

Present: Sandra Sgoutas-Emch (Chair), Briana Capuchino, Debbie Tahmassebi, Tom Dalton, Kathleen Kramer, Jenn Gorksy, David Sullivan, Koonyong Kim, Sylvie Ngilla, Emily Reimer-Barry

The meeting was called to order at 10:15am by chairperson Sandra Sgoutas-Emch.

I. Minutes

The minutes of the February 25 meeting were approved by a vote of 9-0-1.

II. Invited Guest

Sandra welcomed Karen Shelby, from POLS, to discuss POLS 309 for “D” consideration. This course was formerly taught as POLS 316D by Noelle Norton. Sandra invited Karen to explain the modifications made to the syllabus since the last CCC review, in which there was some concern that a course focusing exclusively on gender issues does not meet the “D” criteria for the core.

Karen thanked the committee for the opportunity to explain the course and to offer a rationale for accepting the course as a “D” course. First she began by explaining that in her field, a gender analysis meets the “D” expectations because women are underrepresented in politics. Citizenship in the US is based on a Western model that privileges a white, male, heterosexual norm; this course explores and interrogates that model of citizenship while also seeing how it remains embedded in politics today. Nevertheless, Karen has modified the course to more explicitly include analysis not only of gender injustice but the interlocking oppressions of race, class, and sexual orientation. She pointed out specific examples on the “Draft 3.20.2015” document made available to the committee, showing us readings that focus on same sex marriage, miscegenation, and a focus within the reproductive rights unit that focuses on Mexican Americans and Indian women with regard to questions of forced sterilizations and surrogacy, respectively. Karen explained that the course title (Sex, Power, and Politics) is probably too narrow because her pedagogy really does include more of an intersectionality approach now. For example, the course does not just focus on women. The underrepresented groups under discussion include women in political history broadly speaking, as well as gay and lesbian couples, women of color, men of color, and immigrant families.

There was an open discussion between Karen and the members of the CCC in attendance. After some time, Karen thanked the committee and left the meeting.

III. Vote on POLS 309 for “D”

Discussion continued among the CCC members. The following recommendations were agreed upon:

1. The CCC should continue to evaluate courses on a case-by-case basis to determine whether the course meets the “D” criteria. In the case of POLS 309, we conclude that this course, with slight modifications, will meet the criteria. In some fields of study, women remain underrepresented. But we do not thereby claim that all courses focusing on women’s issues should be automatically assumed to meet the “D” criteria.

2. We recommend that Karen add the list of underrepresented groups to the course description so that students know the course will include an intersectionality analysis that goes beyond simply ‘women’s issues.’ (those named in our discussion included women of color, men of color, gay and lesbian couples, Mexican Americans, and immigrants families).

3. The same could be added to the Diversity Learning Outcomes analysis, especially question #4 which needs elaboration to explain that the course addresses concerns of a broader range of underrepresented groups.

4. Consider adding “racial justice” as lens for analysis in the “News Presentation” (POLS 309 syllabus). Consider adding a reading pertaining to the experiences of Transgendered US residents. [These two items in #4 are simply suggestions and not requirements]

The CCC concluded the discussion of POLS 309. A motion was made to approve Karen Shelby’s POLS 309 for “D” designation, pending the above modifications (#2 & #3, which we believe are relatively minor). Motion was seconded. **Vote: 10-0-0**

III. Discussion of Psychology Syllabus: Should we review again?

This “D” proposal was rejected in previous meeting because it deals with gender/women without a focus on underrepresented groups as 33% of syllabus. We will consider again if the faculty member revises and resubmits, but we will not look at the same proposal again.

IV. HNRS 316 Sacred Things (Kirkley & Cartwright)

Course Outline of Record Form was completed, signed by both dept. chairs. Course was previously approved for THRS core credit. Now under consideration for Fine Arts core credit. There was a motion to approve HNRS 316 Sacred Things for Fine Arts core credit. The motion was seconded. **Vote: 10-0-0.**

V. HNRS Music Borders and Identity Course under review for “D” designation

Sandra did not receive the Course Outline of Record form signed by dept. chairs (Ethnic Studies & Music), so if we receive the form by the next meeting we will review then.

VI. PHIL 102 for Logic core credit.

This course is being taught now and students believe the course satisfies the core Logic requirement. Why are we only looking at this now? What happens if we do not vote to approve? Answer: The Dean's office would need to complete the waiver form for students if we think the course does not complete the Logic requirement. Is that the case? Discussion of the merits of the course continued. Upon review, it was determined that the course does meet the Logic requirements. There was a motion to approve PHIL 102 for the Logic requirement of the core. The motion was seconded. **Vote to approve PHIL 102 for Logic: 9-0-0** (Briana left)

VII. Three PHIL 494 courses currently being taught are in need of PHIL approval for core credit.

There was some discussion about the flaws in the process. The CCC should not be getting this proposals so late in the semester. It is not fair to students if the course is not approved. Nevertheless, the CCC reviewed each course and voted to approve as noted below.

PHIL 494 Latin America

After some discussion of the syllabus and forms, a motion to approve was made and seconded. **Vote to approve for PHIL core: 9-0-0**

PHIL 494 Sex Equality

After some discussion of the syllabus and forms, a motion to approve was made and seconded. **Vote to approve for PHIL core: 9-0-0**

PHIL 494 Sustainability

After some discussion of the syllabus and forms, a motion to approve was made and seconded. **Vote to approve for PHIL core: 9-0-0**

VIII. Updates

Sandra reported on the progress made by the Core Revision Conference Committee and told CCC members to look for the core proposal in our email boxes after spring break.

Updates on Fred Robinson's proposal

Students were not promised that it would meet Fine Arts. Students were taking it for Literature core credit.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:05am.

Respectfully submitted,
Emily Reimer-Barry
April 8, 2015