

**GENERAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL (GEAC) ZOOM MEETING
MINUTES
2/21/25**

Participating: Kaitlynn Holcomb, Amy Martindale, Stacy Takas, Amy Malek, Michael Holmes, Tammy Mix, Lane Greer, Robert Emerson, Justin Rice, Kat Gardner-Vandy, Mike Yough, and Chris Francisco (chair).

**General Education Designations
(Review based on 2024 General Education Criteria)**

DM 4040 – International Studies in Design and Merchandising, requests the "I" designation one-time only, effective Summer 2025.

Selected areas of international study in Design and Merchandising. Offered for variable credit, 1-6 credit hours, maximum of 6 credit hours. Previously offered as DHM 4040.

- Three Scandinavian Green Capitals requests the I designation, one-time only, effective Summer 2025.

Members approved the I designation, pending receipt of a syllabus detailing how the course meets the writing requirements for an upper division course. Members also noted that the daily writing is not considered formal writing and does not count toward the required 8-page writing requirement. Members noted that it appeared from the information on the syllabus that feedback on writing assignments was only given on the daily writing, not the formal writing assignment.

EDHS 3080 - International Experience

Prerequisites: Consent of associate dean.

Description: Participation in a formal or informal educational experience outside of the USA. Previously offered as EDUC 3080, HES 3080 and HS 3080. Offered for variable credit, 1-18 credit hours, maximum of 36 credit hours.

11/18/2024-. Members tabled the I designation as the syllabus reflects a requirement of only 4 to 5 pages of formal writing. It was noted that journaling does not count towards the writing requirement. It was also asked if more information regarding the specifics of the location of the trip could be provided and how the assignments relate to student learning outcomes regarding present day international culture.

11/25/24 – Revised syllabus received.

- Service Learning in Africa, requests the I designation, one-time only, effective July 2025.

Members tabled the I designation, pending receipt of a revised syllabus specifying 10-pages of writing with instructor feedback on the writing assignment to be incorporated into subsequent writing.

Council also asked for a waiver of the prerequisite "Consent of Associate Dean" for this general education offering.

UNIV 3413 - International Perspective in Ethical Leadership for McKnight Scholars, requests the I/G designation, effective Spring 2025. (I for this summer's trip, G going forward)
Prerequisites: Selection to McKnight Scholars Leadership Program / Instructor Approval.
Description: International travel course that will study ethical leadership, culture, social change model of leadership, and leadership cultural competencies.

Members tabled the G designation as it was not clear from the syllabus if the information explained how the course meets the requirements for the G designation. More details are requested.

UNIV 3423 - International Perspective in Ethical Leadership for PLC, requests the I/G designation, effective Spring 2025. (I for this summer's trip, G going forward)
Prerequisites: Selection to President's Leadership Council (PLC) / Instructor Approval.
Description: International travel course that will study the social change model of leadership, the culturally relevant leadership learning model, ethics, culture, and activism.

Members approved the I designation pending clarification of how the paper demonstrates the competencies.

Members tabled the G designation pending receipt of a syllabus clarifying the G outcomes which need to better align with the G outcomes rather than the I outcomes.

General Education Designations (New) (Review based on 2025 General Education Criteria)

AMST 3683 (changing to AMST 2683) – Introduction to Digital Humanities, requests the H designation and visual and written competencies, effective Fall 2025.
Description: Introduction to issues and tools involved in digital knowledge production. Students will create hands-on projects using readily available digital tools. Basic familiarity with computers and word processing will be helpful, but no expertise is needed.

Members Approved the H designation and visual and written competencies, effective Fall 2025.

AMST/ENGL 3113 - Science, Literature, and Culture, requests the H designation and written competency, effective Fall 2025.
Description: This course provides students with opportunities for critical reading, thinking, discussion, and writing about the physical and life sciences, their history, and the cultural roles they play, especially in relation to literature. This course is structured as a general survey of the

social and cultural study of science, examining major works in the history, philosophy, and sociology of science in conjunction with major works of English-language literature that engage directly with the sciences. Same course as ENGL 3113.

Members approved the H designation and written competencies, effective Fall 2025.

ENGL 3083 - Global Approaches to Ecological Storytelling, requests the G designation and written competency, effective Fall 2025.

This writing course focuses on the development, practice, traditions, concerns, and characteristics of ecological writing through a collaboration of global scientific research, international observation, and respectful empathic cultural communication through narrative. With collaboration among critical thinkers and narrative writers, we can combine the power of storytelling with scientific rigor to convey complex ideas about global biodiversity loss.

Members tabled the G designation and written competency noting that it was not clear from the information on the syllabus if the writing addressed the requirements for the G designation. Members asked for more explanation in the schedule of how the course meets the general education requirements for the G designation.

ENGL 3200 - Special Problems in Language and Literature

Prerequisites: 9 credit hours of English.

Description: Specialized reading and independent study. Offered for variable credit, 1-3 credit hours, maximum of 3 credit hours.

Credit hours: 1-3.

- From the Beatles to Pink Floyd: Music, films, and Album Art of British Invasion, requests the H designation and written competency, one-time only, effective Fall 2025.

Members approved the H designation, one-time only, pending receipt of a syllabus detailing how the course and paper focuses on the H designation and explaining how students are to receive feedback on writing assignments to be incorporated in subsequent writing. The department is waiving the prerequisites, 9 credit hours of English, for general education credit.

ENGL 3040 - Poetry Writing

Description: Directed readings and practice in writing poetry with special attention to techniques. Offered for fixed credit, 3 credit hours, maximum of 6 credit hours.

- Poetry Writing, Free Verse/Formal, requests the F designation and written competency, permanent designation, effective Fall 2025.

Members approved the F designation and written competency, permanent designations, effective Fall 2025.

ENGL 3060 - Creative Nonfiction Writing

Description: Directed readings and practice in writing nonfiction with special attention to techniques. Offered for fixed credit, 3 credit hours, maximum of 6 credit hours.

- Writing Flash Nonfiction, requests the F designation and written competency, permanent designation, effective Fall 2025.

Members approved the F designation and written competency, permanent designations, effective Fall 2025.

AMST/ENGL 3413 – Science Fiction, requests the H designation and written competency, effective Fall 2025.

This course will survey the development of science fiction literature as a genre, focusing on major figures and important topics from its beginnings to the contemporary scene. In examining the evolution of science fiction storytelling, we will also investigate how science fiction both reflects and influences broader historical and cultural changes in the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries. Same course as ENGL 3413.

Prerequisite(s): None

Members approved the H designation and written competency, effective Fall 2025.

HIST 2353 - Environmental History, requests the H designation, effective Fall 2025.

A history of the environment that studies the changing relationships between humans and the natural world around them. It will explore both how people have thought about the environment and the role of science, economics, disease, and states in shaping how humans and non-human animals have lived on land.

Members approved the H designation, effective Fall 2025.

HIST 4053 – Historians and the Law, requests the H and D designations, and the written competency, effective Fall 2025.

Description: This upper-division course explores historians' current and historic role in shaping the creation, implementation, and interpretation of laws inside and outside the United States.

Members denied the H and D designations as well as the written competency, as the course doesn't appear to be a general course for the general student population.

SPM 2843 - Sports and the Media, requests the S designation and written competency, effective Fall 2025.

Prerequisites: Departmental majors only.

Description: The introductory course for sports media majors. Sports is a major industry in the United States today, and this course is designed to study that industry and the opportunities for and responsibilities of the journalists who cover it. Topics covered include the evolution of the sports media, sports media relations, ethics and the sports media, racial and gender issues in sports and the media, and multimedia sports journalism in the 21st century. Course previously offered as JB 2843.

The prerequisite is being removed Fall 2025, via course action form.

Members tabled the S designation and written competency pending receipt of a syllabus including information about grading assignments, writing assignments and evidence of feedback on writing assignments, as well as a grading scale.

Members also asked for more information regarding the social and behavioral sciences aspects of the course.

CDIS 2013 - Facts and Fiction About Communication Disorders, requests the D designation and written competency, effective Fall 2025.

Description: Overview and examination of communication disorders as portrayed in media (movies, books, etc.), dispelling myths and misconceptions. Discussion and practice with ways to be a respectful, successful communicator with people of different backgrounds, life experiences, and communication challenges.

11/18/24 - Members approved the D designation pending receipt of a syllabus reflecting the writing requirements and evidence of student receiving writing feedback to be incorporated in subsequent writing. Also, the narrative and tables need to match.

11/8/24 - Revised syllabus received.

Members approved the D designation and written competency, effective Fall 2025.

(General Education Designations – Existing (Review based on 2025 General Education Criteria)

MMJ 2773 – Censorship requests the S designation and written competency, effective Fall 2025.

A critical examination of historical and contemporary occurrences of censorship from legal, philosophical, political, religious and sociological perspectives. We will explore the definition of censorship, the common elements found in all forms of censorship, the rationalizations and justifications for censorship, and the consequences and unintended results of censorship. No credit for students with credit in MC 5773. Previously offered as JB 4773 and MMJ 4773.

Members tabled the S designation and written competency as the syllabus is lacking explanation of the social sciences methods and cultural diversity aspects as well as the quantitative element.

Information Only Items:

A&S 2000 - Special Topics

Description: Selected interdisciplinary topics presented in lecture or seminar format. Offered for variable credit, 1-7 credit hours, maximum of 10 credit hours.

- The Earth's Spectacular Phenomenon of New Zealand Geysers: Exploring the Scientific and Cultural D Dimensions requests the I designation, one-time only, effective Spring 2025. 3 cr. hrs.

10/14/24 - Members tabled pending receipt of a syllabus with a detailed travel itinerary and schedule. Members were also not clear as to why there was reference to graduate credit since this is a 2000-level general education course request. More clarity should be provided as to what graduate course graduate students would be taking and how the work would be substantially different.

10/28/24 – Revised syllabus received.

11/18/24 – Council noted that the syllabus tended to focus more on natural sciences rather than present day international culture. It was asked that the syllabus be revised to emphasize what students would learn regarding present-day international cultural aspects of the course.

11/18/2024 - Members approved the I designation pending receipt of a syllabus reflecting more present-day international emphasis.

Revised syllabus received.

Dr. Francisco approved the I designation, one-time only, effective Spring 2025.

✓ **GWST 3450 - Topics in Gender Studies**

Prerequisites: GWST 2113 or GWST 2123 or permission of instructor.

Description: Suggested topics include women and health, women and science, women and religion. Previously offered as WMST 3450. Offered for fixed credit, 3 credit hours, maximum of 12 credit hours.

- Women and Autobiography, requests the H and D designations, one-time only, effective Spring 2025 (one term).

10/14/2024 - Members approved pending the H and D designations pending receipt of a syllabus detailing how the autobiography fulfilled the requirement for the diversity designation and information on instructor feedback was not clear.

Revised syllabus received.

Dr. Francisco approved the H and D designations, one-time only, effective Spring 2025.

✓ **LL 1123 - The Origins of Modern Ukraine: Culture and State (H)**, requests the G designation and written competency, effective Fall 2025.

Description: 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.

The course presently carries the H designation.

Members approved the G designation and written competency, pending receipt of a syllabus clarifying how the course meets the requirements and learning outcomes of the G designation and written competencies.

Syllabus received.

Dr. Francisco approved the G designation and written competency attributes.

✓ **UNIV 2133 – Ethical Leadership Behavior in a Changing Society**, requests the S designation and written competency, effective Fall 2025.

This course equips students with the tools to integrate leadership theories and empirical methods to address complex societal issues through the lens of social and behavioral sciences.

Emphasizing the Social Change Model of Leadership Development, students will analyze and promote positive social change by fostering ethical behavior and collective action within communities. The course explores how leadership theories help interpret human behavior and societal dynamics, applying these concepts to real-world scenarios to enhance ethical and

engaged citizenship. Students will develop key leadership competencies tailored to social contexts, utilize both quantitative and qualitative methods to investigate leadership behaviors, and critically evaluate the impact of ethical leadership on shaping societal norms. Through this comprehensive approach, students will be prepared to lead responsibly and effectively, driving meaningful change in a constantly evolving society.

Members approved the S designation and written competency, effective Fall 2025.

✓ UNIV 2510 - Innovative Studies

Description: May be used for not more than two semesters for new or experimental topics or techniques. Offered for variable credit, 1-3 credit hours, maximum of 6 credit hours.

- Ethical Leadership Behavior in a Changing Society, request the S designation, one-time only, effective Fall 2025.

✓ 11/14/24 - Members approved ^S pending receipt of a syllabus clarifying the presentation lengths and resolving inconsistencies between the syllabus and paper descriptions. Revised syllabus received and Dr. Francisco approved the S designation, one-time only, effective Fall 2025.

