

# GENERAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL (GEAC) ZOOM MEETING

## MINUTES 02/11/2026

**February 11, 2026, 9:30 – 11:00**

OSU Academic Affairs is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://okstate-edu.zoom.us/j/93253356095>

Meeting ID: 932 5335 6095

**AFAM 3523** – Language and Identity in the African Diaspora, requests the H and D designations with written Competency, effective Fall 2026.

This course will take an interdisciplinary approach to the study of the relationship between language, culture, and identity, primarily focusing on the Black and African Diasporic communities in the United States. Drawing on sociolinguistics, literature, film, critical theory, history, and anthropology, we will examine how language is not only a means of communication, but also a powerful symbol of identity, cultural preservation, and a tool of resistance.

Prerequisite: None

Members approved pending the H and D designations with written competency, pending receiving a syllabus describing how the course relates to 25% present day and evidence of students receiving feedback on writing assignments and how the discussions are related to the H and D designations.

2/11/26 - Members approved pending the H and D designations with written competency pending receiving more details on the syllabus describing how the course meets the 25% threshold for **present-day** diversity content. Identifying the specific weeks/assignments would help, as might an explanation of the Afropop assignments.

Chair will make the final decision.

**ASL 2723** - American Deaf Culture, requests the D designation with written competency, effective Fall 2026.

This course provides an analysis of the development and historical overview of Deaf culture in the United States. Topics include education of the D/deaf; Deaf Films, theaters, arts, and clubs; preservation of American Sign Language; technology and services in the Deaf

community. The student's acculturation process is facilitated by active participation in the Oklahoma Deaf community. This course will be voiced/taught in English.

Prerequisite: None, Equivalency: LL 2723

2/11/26 - Members approved the D designation and written competency pending receiving a syllabus that clarifies how the course meets present-day general education expectations. (The textbooks are 9-15 years old, so it would help to explain how 25% of the course is still present-day; is that material still current, or is there other material to make up the required 25%?)

Chair will make the final decision.

**ASTR 2123- Observational Astronomy**, request the N designation, effective Jan. 1, 2026.

**Prerequisites:** PHYS 1023, [PHYS 1214](#)

**Description:** This course provides an overview of fundamental techniques and key findings in modern observational astronomy, with a focus on telescopes, detectors, imaging, and spectroscopy. Special attention is given to discoveries across various wavelengths, including radio, optical, infrared, X-ray, and gamma-ray astronomy with explanations of theoretical models behind these discoveries. Additionally, the course covers methods for analyzing contemporary astronomical data from James Webb Space Telescope, Hubble Space Telescope, Chandra X-ray Observatory, and Fermi Large Area Telescope.

2/11/26 - Members tabled the N designation pending receipt of a syllabus to include clarification about the intended audience for the course and on learning outcome 4 regarding human involvement in science. Members asked that more information regarding the length of the writing assignments and evidence that students receive feedback on the written draft. Members also wondered what the prerequisites are for the course, particularly with PHYS 1023 not in the catalog.

11/14/26 – Revised syllabus received.

2/11/26 - Members denied the N designation. The Council felt that there was not a sufficiently broad audience for this course, particularly given the two recommended ASTR courses. It is unclear who would actually take this course for general education credit.

**BIOL 2003- Biology for the Informed Citizen (N)**, requests the addition of the L designation, effective Fall 2026.

**Description:** Learn how to find reliable answers to biological questions and arrive at informed decisions in everyday life. The course uses current issues (e.g., cancer, pollution) to convey fundamental biological concepts through lectures, discussion, and independent

research. Students will complete a research project for a hands-on experience of the scientific process (study design to presentation). Not an alternative to Introductory Biology. This course teaches students how to find reliable answers to biological questions and arrive at informed decisions in their everyday lives. The course will use current issues (e.g., cancer, pollution) to convey fundamental biological concepts. Performance will be assessed via exams, and students will complete a small independent research project on a topic of their choice for a hands-on experience of the scientific process (study design to presentation). Brief lectures interspersed with short discussions or documentaries encompass a typical class meeting. Not an alternative to Intro Biology.

Hold until course modification goes through Instruction Council on Nov.20<sup>th</sup>.

**Updated description:** Learn how to find reliable answers to biological questions and arrive at informed decisions in everyday life. The course uses current issues (e.g., cancer, pollution) to convey fundamental biological concepts through lectures, discussion, and independent research. Students will complete a research project for a hands-on experience of the scientific process (study design to presentation). Not an alternative to Introductory Biology.

2/11/26 – Members approved the addition of the L designation.

**CS 1003- Computer Proficiency**, requests the Q designation, effective Spring 2026. Updated description: This course is being modernized to reflect the needs of current and future students. Given society's dependence of computer systems, it is important for OSU students to be educated in their fundamental operation.

There is minimal information on the syllabus explaining how the course meets the Q learning outcomes.

New description in course action request. Hold until course modification is approved in Instruction Council on Nov. 20<sup>th</sup>. Course was approved.

Updated description: Introduces students to the fundamental concepts of computing in a way that is accessible and engaging for non-computer science majors. The course explores key topics such as computer architecture, networking, data and its importance, computational thinking, programming logic, and emerging technologies. Previously offered as CS 1002.

2/11/26 – Members denied the addition of the Q designation as there is a lack of information in the syllabus of an explanation of how the course meets the learning outcomes for the Q designation. What will students do in the assignments? It is hard to map each of the Q learning outcomes to student activities in the course. Some of the five learning outcomes are clear, but several are not, and the connections need to be more explicit.

**ENGL 1143, Talking Tech: Language, AI, and the Digital World**, requests the S designation and visual competency, effective Fall 2026.

How do voice assistants, chatbots, and translation apps work? This course explores the fascinating world of talking tech—the intersection of language and technology. Students will learn how the study of language fuels breakthroughs in tech and how computational challenges reshape how language is studied. By examining real-world applications, the course introduces key concepts in language and computation while highlighting their impact on communication in a digital age.

2/11/26 – Members tabled pending a revised syllabus to include more details on how the assessments meet the “S” learning objectives. The Council found it difficult to match some of the learning objectives to the assignments.

### **Information Only:**

**ENGL 3200 Special Problems in Language and Literature**, requests the H designation, and Written competency, one-time only effective, Summer 2026.

**Prerequisites:** 9 credit hours of English.

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

Members approved pending receiving a syllabus that clarifies the two options for assignments (do students do both?) and more detail about connections to the shaping individual identities learning outcome. Chair will make the final decision.

1/29/26 revised syllabus received - Chair approved the H designation and written competency, one-time only, effective Fall 2026.

**REL 2213 - Ghosts, Gods, and Monsters**, requests the H designation and written competency, effective Spring 2026.

Description: Ghosts, Gods and Monsters all have something in common. They are not just an element of a given culture, but is a cipher for, or boundary markers for what is sacred and profane, monstrous and heroic, or life and death. And while all three can be found across history (depending on the lens used), how they are understood and what purposes they serve, changes depending on the time and place.

Members approved pending the H designation and written competency, requesting that students receive feedback on a draft of a paper and not just an outline. It would help to have more information about the second humanities learning outcome as well. Chair will make the final decision.

1/30/26 – Revised syllabus received. Chair approved the H designation and written competency, effective Fall 2026.

**REL 2313 - Religious Violence, Wild Weather, and Ancient Prophecy**, requests the H designation and written competency, effective Spring 2026.

**Description:** This course will introduce students to religions that were in existence during ancient times. The course will focus on religions that have had an impact on cultures that may now be extinct as well as religions that developed into modern systems of belief.

Students will read primary sources indigenous to these religions. We will explore aspects of religions that include violence, weather phenomena and mythology and prophetic ideas.

1/30/26 – Revised syllabus received. Chair approved the H designation and written competency, effective Fall 2026.