

GENERAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL (GEAC) ZOOM MEETING

MINUTES

11/7/2025

Friday, November 7, 2025, 1:30 – 3:00

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

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Meeting ID: 986 7591 2172

Passcode: 399294

Participants: Sarah Johnson, Brandt Gardner, Stacy Takas, Lisa Slevitch, Howard Sanborn, Michael Holmes, Amy Martindale, and Chris Francisco (Chair)

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.

- **Spectacular Phenomenon of Iceland Geysers: Science and Culture**, request the G designation with written competency, one-time only, effective Spring 2026. Offered for three credit hours.

Members approved the G designation and written competency pending receipt of a syllabus to include information about the feedback students will receive on a draft of their writing assignment(s). The chair will make the final decision.

11/13/25 – Revised syllabus received and the Chair approved the G designation with written competency, effective Spring 2026.

- **Wonders of New Zealand: Geysers, Energy and Culture**, requests the G designation with written competency, one-time only, effective Summer 2026. Offered for three credit hours.

Members approved the G designation and written competency pending receipt of a syllabus to include information about the feedback students will receive on a draft of their writing assignment(s). The chair will make the final decision.

11/13/25 – Revised syllabus received and the Chair approved the G designation with written competency, effective Summer 2026.

[ASL 2723 American Deaf Culture](#), requests the D designation with written competency, effective Fall 2026.

Prerequisites: [ASL 1813](#) or equivalent proficiency.

Description: 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 Stillwater/Tulsa Deaf community. This course is taught in ASL.

Members approved the D designation with written competency, effective Fall 2026.

[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.

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 and 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.

[BIOL 2003 Biology for the Informed Citizen \(N\)](#), requests the addition of the L designation, effective Fall 2026.

Description: 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.20th.

BIOL 3700 Readings and Special Studies in Integrative Biology

Prerequisites: [BIOL 1604](#) and consent of instructor.

Waving prerequisites.

Description: Discussion of selected readings. Previously offered as ZOO 3700. Offered for variable credit, 1-3 credit hours, maximum of 6 credit hours.

- **Tropical Field Biology: Costa Rica**, requests the N designation, one-time only, effective Spring 2026.
Offered for three credit hours.

Members approved the N designation, one-time only, effective Spring 2026.

CS 1003 Computer Proficiency, requests the Q designation, effective Spring 2026.

Description: For students with minimal personal computer skills. Use of Internet and productivity software such as word processing, spreadsheets, databases, and presentation software. The ability to log on to a personal computer, access the OSU network, and access OSU Web sites is assumed. Previously offered as CS 1002.

New description in course action requests. Hold until course modification is approved in Instruction Council on Nov. 20th. There is minimal information on the syllabus explaining how the course meets the Q learning outcomes.

ENGL 3083 Global Approaches to Ecological Storytelling (G), requests the addition of the H designation, effective Fall 2026.

Description: 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 approved the H designation effective Fall 2026.

ENGL 3200 Special Problems in Language and Literature, requests the H designation with written competency one-time only, effective Spring 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.

- **Critical AI Literacy**, requests the H designation with written competency, one-time only, effective Spring 2026. Offered for three credit hours.

Members approved the H designation with written competency pending clarification of the required minimum of four pages of writing to meet the upper-division requirements.

Chair will make final decision.

GEOL 4030 Geologic Field Investigation

Prerequisites: [GEOL 1013](#), [GEOL 1014](#), [GEOL 1114](#) or [GEOL 1224](#).

Description: One to three weeks of required field study at sites of geological interest and significance. Field trip charges apply. Does not substitute for [GEOL 3546](#). Offered for variable credit, 1-3 credit hours, maximum of 6 credit hours.

- **Climate, Hazards, and Civilization: A Mexico Experience**, requests L and N designations with written competency, one-time only, effective Winter Intersession, December 2025. Offering for 3 credit hours.

10/10/25 - Members tabled the L and N designations pending receipt of a syllabus describing specifics on how the course meets the requirements for both designations.

Department is waiving prerequisites.

Members denied the L and N designations as the course doesn't appear to be for the general student body.

HONR 1010 Introductory Honors Seminar in Social Sciences

Prerequisites: Honors College participation.

Description: Introduction to topics in social science disciplines by faculty from the undergraduate colleges for freshman and sophomore students in the University Honors College. Offered for variable credit, 1-3 credit hours, maximum of 12 credit hours.

- **Cults and Society**, requests the G and S designations and written competency, one-time only, effective Spring 2026. Offered for 3 credit hours.

10/10/25 - Members noted that the application doesn't meet the writing requirements, and the G content doesn't appear to be present.

Members approved pending the S designation with written competency, one-time only, and tabled the G designation pending receipt of a syllabus detailing more information regarding the international aspects of the course and the writing requirement.

11/7/25 - Members approved the S designation and written competency one-time only, effective Spring 2026 and tabled the G designation as the current syllabus does not appear to meet the criteria for the international designation. In particular, members wondered if one can fulfill the writing requirements by writing about American cults. Additional information about how the writing requirements ensure the students have sufficient writing meeting the global outcomes is needed.

HONR 3010 Advanced Honors Seminar in Social Sciences

Prerequisites: Honors College participation.

Description: Advanced investigation of topics in social science disciplines for the Honors College. Offered for variable credit, 1-3 credit hours, maximum of 15 credit hours.

- **Oxford Scholarly Expedition**, requests the G designation with written competency, one-time only, effective Spring 2026.
Offered for 3 credit hours.

Members approved the G with written competency, one-time only, effective Spring 2026.

POLS 2023 The Individual and The Law (name changing to: Introduction to Law and Legal Studies), requests the S designation and written competency, effective Fall 2026.

Description: Introduction to the U.S. Constitution, legal reasoning, legal research techniques, and topical issues of U.S. public law.

Members approved the S designation with written competency, 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.

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.

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.

11/24/25 – revised syllabus received and the Chair approved the H designation with written competency, effective Spring 2026.

SC 4053 - Study Abroad: Strategic Messaging, requests the G designation and visual competency, effective Spring 2026.

Description: Course involves participation in an international experience facilitated by Strategic Communication faculty. This course will involve the integrated study of a country or region regarding relevant cultural, commercial, historical, technological, political or economic issues. Students will develop global cultural competencies and professional preparedness through travel and engagement with the destination's citizens. Course assignments and discussions will focus on strategic messaging with focus on the perspective of the location and its social, cultural and/or political perspectives.

Members tabled the G designation and visual competency pending receipt of a syllabus with more specifics regarding how the course meets the criteria and outcome requirements for the G designation.

TH 1223 - Acting Fundamentals for Non-Majors, requests the F designation and oral competency, effective Spring 2026.

Description: This acting course introduces students to fundamental acting techniques. Through lecture and application, students will focus on observation, improvisation, and

performances, learning to effectively express themselves orally and physically, develop empathy, enhance communication skills, nurture creativity, and build leadership and teamwork abilities.

Members tabled the F designation and oral competency, as the application needs to include explicit explanation of how the course satisfies the F designation learning outcomes instead of copying and pasting outcomes. Please clarify how students achieve the learning outcomes for the F designation.

General Education Designation Deletions: (Information Only)

POLS 3983 Courts and Judicial Process (S), requests deletion of the S designation, effective Fall 2026.

Description: The American judiciary and legal process from a political perspective with particular emphasis on judicial organization and powers, recruitment, fact-finding, decision-making, impact of decisions, the legal profession and relations among courts. Oklahoma judicial organization.

SOC 2113 Introduction to Criminal Justice (S), requests deletion of the S designation, effective Fall 2026.

Description: This introductory course provides an overview of the U.S. criminal justice system. Some of the topics covered include police and corrections officers, prosecutors, defense attorneys, and judges. While a variety of societal responses to adult and juvenile crimes are discussed, this course primarily focuses on the formal responses of law enforcement, the courts, and corrections. Societal goals of punishment are covered as well.

SOC 4333 Criminology (S), requests deletion of the S designation, effective Fall 2026.

Description: Summary of sociological and psychological research pertaining to crime causation and crime trends. Modern trends in control and treatment.

Information Only:

HONR 1030 Introductory Honors Seminar in Arts and Humanities

Prerequisites: Honors College participation.

Description: Introduction to topics in arts and humanities disciplines. Offered for variable credit, 1-3 credit hours, maximum of 12 credit hours.

- **Tattoos as Text**, requests the H and D designations with written competency, one-time only, effective Spring 2026. Offered for 3 credit hours.

10/10/25 - Members approved pending the H and D designations with written competency pending receipt of a syllabus clarifying specifics regarding how the course meets the requirements for both designations and the written competency.

10/30/25 – Revised syllabus received and the H and D designations with written competency was approved by the Chair, effective Spring 2026.

MGMT 4053 - Study Abroad: Contemporary Global Impacts in Marketing & International Business, requests the G designation and written competency, effective Spring 2026.

Description: A study of business in a country and region that will provide an integrated approach to the rich cultural, commercial, historical, technological, political, economic, and religious issues. The country's role as a political and economic power will be examined. Comparisons of technology, policies, and economies will be made, as well as investigating hurdles and synergies to doing business between that country and the U.S.

Members approved the G designation and written competency pending receipt of a syllabus with clarification of the dates of the assignments.

Chair will make the final decision.

10/31/25 – Revised syllabus received, and the G designation and written competency was approved by the Chair, effective Spring 2026.

MKTG 4053 - Study Abroad: Contemporary Global Impacts in Marketing & International Business, requests the G designation and written competency, effective Spring 2026.

Description: A study of business in a country and region that will provide an integrated approach to the rich cultural, commercial, historical, technological, political, economic, and religious issues. The country's role as a political and economic power will be examined. Comparisons of technology, policies, and economies will be made, as well as investigating hurdles and synergies to doing business between that country and the U.S.

Members approved the G designation and written competency pending receipt of a syllabus with clarification of the dates of the assignments.

Chair will make the final decision.

10/31/25 – Revised syllabus received, and the G designation and written competency was approved by the Chair, effective Spring 2026.