

**GENERAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING (GEAC)**  
**MINUTES**  
**November 20, 2020**

**Present: Deni Blum, Jovette Dew, Cristina Gonzalez, Kaitlyn Holcomb, Michael Holmes, Amy Martindale, Mindy McCann, Tammy Mix, Haley Murphy, Marianna Patrauchan, and Jeanette Mendez, Chair**

- Any resubmissions submitted should include highlighting or track changes to emphasize the revised information.
- A sample syllabus is included with the email as well as the Purpose and Requirements and Checklist.

**1. New General Education Designation Requests**

**AMST 3303** – Nations on the Move, requests the H and D designations, effective Fall 2021.  
(Same course as HIST 3303)  
Members approved the H and D designations, effective Fall 2021.

**AMST 3843** – War and Memory in America, requests the H designation, effective Fall 2021.  
(Same course as HIST 3843)  
Members approved the H designation, effective Fall 2021.

**AMST 3863** – Disability in America, requests the H and D designations, effective Fall 2021.  
(Same course as HIST 3863)  
Members approved H and D designations pending receipt of a syllabus inclusive of a detailed daily/weekly schedule that explains how the course content address the requirement that 50% or more of the course content should focus on current/present day underrepresented groups for the diversity credit.

**ART 2563** – Social Dance and Visual Culture, requests the H designation, effective Fall 2021.  
(Same course as DANC 2563)  
Members denied the H designation as it appeared from the syllabus that the goals of the class focused primarily on fitness rather than humanities.

- Courses designated "H" concentrate on the expression, analysis, and interpretation of ideas and the aesthetics or values that have formed and informed individuals and societies.

**BIOC 1113** – Drugs, Medications and Human Well-Being, requests the N designation, effective Fall 2021.  
Members approved the N designation, effective Fall 2021.

**BIOC 4990** – Drugs, Medications and Human Well-Being, requests the N designation, one-time only, effective Spring 2021.  
Members approved the N designation, effective Spring 2021.

**BIOL 1111** – Introductory Biology Laboratory, requests the L and N designations, effective Fall 2021.  
Members approved the L designation, effective Fall 2021.  
Members denied the N designation as it did not appear from the information provided on the syllabus that the course met the requirements for the N designation. It was noted that the syllabus needs to reflect the systematic study of a particular topic, recommendations of core research expectations and a detailed description of the research activities.

- Courses designated “N” feature the systematic study of physical or biological processes and the mechanisms and consequences of human intervention in those processes.

**BIOL 1113** – Introductory Biology, requests the N designation, effective Fall 2021.

Members tabled the N designation pending receipt of a syllabus which provides a list of biological concepts and lecture descriptions reflecting how these activities merge together to meet the requirements of the natural science designation.

- Courses designated “N” feature the systematic study of physical or biological processes and the mechanisms and consequences of human intervention in those processes.

**BIOL 2003** – Biology for the Informed Citizen, requests the N designation, effective Fall 2021.

Members approved the N designation, effective Fall 2021.

**DANC 2563**– Social Dance and Visual Culture, requests the H designation, effective Fall 2021.

(Same course as ART 2563)

Members denied the H designation as it appeared from the syllabus that the goals of the class focused primarily on fitness rather than humanities.

- Courses designated "H" concentrate on the expression, analysis, and interpretation of ideas and the aesthetics or values that have formed and informed individuals and societies.

**DANC 3703** – Competition Dance, Through an Ethnographic Lens, requests the H designation, effective Fall 2021.

Members denied the H designation as it appeared from the information provided on the syllabus that the course did not meet the requirements of the humanities designation.

- Courses designated "H" concentrate on the expression, analysis, and interpretation of ideas and the aesthetics or values that have formed and informed individuals and societies.

**ENGL 4093** – Language in America, requests the S and D designation, effective Spring 2021.

Members tabled the S and D designations as it did not appear from the course content in the syllabus that the course articulates requirements of the S and D designations and that the course content focuses 50% on underrepresented groups in the US for the D designation.

- Courses designated “D” prepare students for engaged citizenship in the diverse, multicultural society of the United States.
- Courses designated "S" propose theoretical constructs based on empirical observation (including quantitative or qualitative methods) to explain human behavior and society in social and/or physical environments.

**GEOG 3910** – Geopolitics and Pandemic, requests S and I designations, one-time only, effective Spring 2021.

Members approved the S designation pending receipt of a syllabus clarifying the 10 page-writing requirement where the writing requirement is referenced on the syllabus.

Members denied the I designation as it is not clear from the information on the syllabus that the course meets the requirements for the I designation in that 50% or more of the course content focuses on international cultural perspectives outside the United States in both the syllabus and writing requirements.

Courses designated “I” prepare students for engaged citizenship in today’s global society through understanding of cultural perspectives outside the United States. Courses concerning ethnic and cultural minorities within the U.S. do not qualify.

**GEOG 3910** – Global Water Resources and Sustainability, requests the S and I designations, one-time only, effective Spring 2021.

Members tabled the S designation pending receipt of the syllabus which clearly articulates the direct connection of how the course meets the S designation through theory, methods, social dynamics and social connections with the human dimension. Add more clarification about the designations to the course description at the beginning of the syllabus.

Members denied the I designation as the course content doesn’t appear to meet the criteria for the I designation in that 50% or more of the content is related to international cultures outside of the US.

**HIST 3303** – Nations on the Move, requests the H and D designations, effective Fall 2021.  
(Same course as AMST 3303)

Members approved the H and D designations, effective Fall 2021.

**HIST 3843** - War and Memory in America, requests the H designation, effective Fall 2021.  
(Same course as AMST 3843)

Members approved the H designation, effective Fall 2021.

**HIST 3863** – Disability in America, requests the H and D designations, effective Fall 2021.  
(Same course as AMST 3863)

Members approved H and D designations pending receipt of a syllabus inclusive of a detailed daily/weekly schedule that explains how the course content address the requirement that 50% or more of the course content should focus on current/present day underrepresented groups for the diversity credit.

**HIST 4433** – Assassin’s Creed to Witcher: Medievalism in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century World, requests the H designation, effective Summer 2021.

Members approved the H designation, effective Summer 2021.

**MICR 3133** – My Genome, requests the N designation, effective Spring 2022.

Members approved the N designation pending receipt of a detailed schedule in the syllabus and removal of the listing of overlapping course information, effective Spring 2022.

**MICR 4153** – Emerging Infectious Agents, requests the N designations, effective Fall 2021.

Members approved the N designation, effective Fall 2021.

**MUSI 3572** – History of Opera, requests the H designation, effective Spring 2021.

Members approved the H designation, effective Spring 2021.

**PHIL 2003** – Ethical Issues and Local Controversies, requests the H designation, effective Fall 2021.

Members approved the H designation, effective Fall 2021.

**PHIL 2573** – Drugs, Philosophy and Society, requests the H designation, effective Fall 2021.

Members approved the H designation, effective Fall 2021.

**REL 2113** – Religion and Film, requests the H designation, effective Fall 2021.

Members approved the H designation, effective Fall 2021.

**REL 2413** – Religion and the Body, requests the H designation, effective Fall 2021.  
Members approved the H designation, effective Fall 2021.

**REL 3113** – Asian Religions, requests the H designation, effective Fall 2021.  
Members approved the H designation, effective Fall 2021.

**REL 3213** – Judaism: History, Culture and Beliefs, requests the H designation, effective Fall 2021.  
Members approved the H designation, effective Fall 2021.

**REL 3313** – Islam: History, Culture and Beliefs, requests the H designation, effective Fall 2021.  
Members approved the H designation, effective Fall 2021.

**REL 3513** – Islam: Religious Experience, requests the H designation, effective Fall 2021.  
Members approved the H designation, effective Fall 2021.

**REL 3543** – Religion, Race and Social Justice, requests the H and D designations, effective Fall 2021.  
Members approved the H and D designations, effective Fall 2021.

**REL 4050** – Persian Religion, requests the H and I designations, one-time only, effective Spring 2021.  
Members approved the H and I designations, effective Spring 2021.

**REL 4423** - Islam: Death and the Afterlife, requests the H designation, effective Fall 2021.  
Members approved the H designation, effective Fall 2021.

**RMRT 2403** – Leisure and Society, requests the S and I designations, effective Spring 2021.  
Members tabled both the S and I designations pending receipt of a syllabus specifically articulating the requirements for the S and I designations within the course objectives and assignments.  
If approved in a resubmission, a course action should be processed to change the title and catalog description to reflect both the behavioral and social sciences focus and the international component.

## 2. Review of the “H” General Education Designations – Tabled

**LA 3673** – History and Theory of Landscape Architecture, requests continuation of the H designation, effective Fall 2020.

2/14/19 - Members approved continuation of the H designation pending receipt of a syllabus with evidence that the 10 pages of writing requirement consists of unique work.

9/5/19 - Received updated syllabus.

9/27/19 - Members tabled continuation of the designation pending clarification of the formal, out-of-class writing with feedback and a course syllabus reflecting that the writing is based on the H designation.

10/23/20 – Received revised syllabus.

11/20/20 - Members approved continuation of the H designation, effective Fall 2020.

**MUSI 3543** – Music and Culture of Italy, requests continuation of the H and I designations, effective Fall 2020.

4/11/19 - Members tabled the “H and I” designations as it was unclear if the course content met the requirements for the designations. It is also asked that the writing requirements contain more detailed to reflect a due date and if the required instructor feedback is provided on the writing assignments.

10/1/20 – Received revised syllabus.

10/19/20 - Members tabled continuation of the H and I designations, as it is unclear if the course content met the requirements for the H and I designations. Members asked that the course syllabus include

details/illustration on the syllabus schedule of how the course meets the 50% requirement for the international requirements and what would be related to present day/current international culture. Members also asked that the syllabus reflect emphasis on both the H and I designations in the writing assignments.

10/30/20 - Received revised syllabus.

11/20/20 – Members approved continuation of the H designation, effective Fall 2020.

Members denied continuation of the I designation, effective Fall 2021. It wasn't clear from the information reflected on the syllabus that the content and writing requirements met the intent of the international designation.

**PHIL 3933** - Creation and Evolution, requests continuation of the H designation, effective Fall 2020.

4/11/19 - Members tabled pending clarification that the course requires a minimum of 10 pages of writing with instructor feedback on writing assignments.

9/21/20 - Members tabled pending receipt of a syllabus clarifying the requirements for the H designation by providing lecture topics or a class schedule with descriptive. In-class writing does not count toward the writing requirements. (Please highlight or show track changes on additions or revisions to the resubmitted syllabus.)

11/2/20 – Received revised syllabus.

11/20/20 – Members denied continuation of the H designation, effective Fall 2021. The information provided on the course syllabus did not appear to meet the requirements for the H designation.

### **3. OKState Stand United and General Education Advisory Council**

Dr. Mendez noted that she would like members to share comments regarding the meeting with the OKState Stand United group to decide if we are going to have Faculty Council review these changes and/or make recommendations to Faculty Council for consideration. It was suggested in previous discussions with the General Education Advisory Council (GEAC), to add D and I representatives to the General Education Advisory Council.

Discussions with the OkState Stand United group centered around an effort to increase the educational exposure of diversity education. Some suggestions included: increase the D requirement to a minimum of three credit hours, only upper division courses would carry the D designation, and infusing the D designation into all disciplines. Members noted that some faculty expressed that maybe we don't want to wait until the student's junior year to confront diversity topics. It was also suggested to consider a requirement of an upper and lower division diversity course in the degree curriculum.

Members stated that GEAC should have more discussions regarding the topics before moving forward.

Members agreed that it would be beneficial to meet to discuss this in January. It was asked if a D and I faculty representatives should be appointed to the Council before continuing with the discussions and it was decided to go ahead and schedule the meeting.

Anti-racist training surfaced in the conversations with the OKState Stand United group and members pointed out that perhaps there should be a larger philosophical discussion about the distinction between the diversity requirements for General Education and diversity racial injustice and social inequities brought up by the students.

Consideration of the consequences of adding three more diversity hours in the degree requirements need to be discussed. If this is a recommendation, it will need input from the Directors of Student Academic Services and Instruction Council. It was also noted that many degrees cannot add any more credit hours to their degree plans.

Other discussions should include eliminating waivers of the D and I designations for students with an associate's degree and no longer waiving the international designation for international students and students with experience overseas.

### **4. Other**

Members noted that it would be beneficial to offer periodic general education workshops for faculty.