

Core Curriculum Courses for 2015-16 Academic Year

{ Faculty Senate Curriculum Committee

The Faculty Senate Curriculum Committee received the request to evaluate 10 courses to be included as part of the 2015-16 Core Curriculum. These proposals were assigned to individual committee members for specific review and recommendations. Those reviews were used to guide the committee's final recommendations.

Background

- Course was submitted as part of the Social and Behavioral Sciences Component.
- The Faculty Senate Curriculum Committee is NOT recommending the inclusion of this course in the 2015-16 Core Curriculum.
 - Proposal and assessment plan fail to address the mandated component objectives. Both the syllabus and assessment plan are very vague in describing the measures that will be used to evaluate the required components.

BIO 1033 – Drugs and Society

- No attempt is made to address the critical thinking component objective; it fails to address creativity and innovation.
- The visual communication requirement is not addressed.
- The empirical and quantitative skills component is vaguely described. “It appears to require only the ‘plotting’ of tabular information on a graph, something that falls short of the required ‘manipulation and analysis’.”
- The required component objective of social responsibility is equally vague. It fails to address intercultural competence. Assessment plan does not present adequate methods to evaluate this component.

BIO 1033 – Drugs and Society

- Course was submitted as part of the Social and Behavioral Sciences Component.
- The Faculty Senate Curriculum Committee is NOT recommending the inclusion of this course in the 2015-16 Core Curriculum.
 - Proposal and assessment plan fail to address all the mandated component objectives.

EGR 2803 – Project Economics

- In the required component objective of Social Responsibility, intercultural competence is not addressed. The assessment plan does not adequately describes how these objectives will be measured.
- This component requires a “focus on the application of empirical and scientific methods that contribute to the understanding of what makes us human”, and this is absent in the proposal.
- “Syllabus gives a different justification for inclusion of the course in this component.” “It simply repeats the language of the component requirements without showing how this course might actually fulfill them.”

EGR 2803 – Project Economics

- Course was submitted as part of the Social and Behavioral Sciences Component.
- The Faculty Senate Curriculum Committee is NOT recommending the inclusion of this course in the 2015-16 Core Curriculum.
 - Proposal and assessment plan fail to address all the mandated component objectives in ways that are clearly measurable.

CS 1023 – Cultural Implications of the Information Society

- Concern: Qualifications of Computer Science faculty to teach a Social Sciences course, and how that could be addressed by an accreditation body like SACCS.
- Assessment plan is vague. The use of the word sample “provides the instructor with far too much opportunity to abuse an otherwise straightforward process. What is meant by a sample? Will this sample be random, systematic, stratified?”
- In the Communication Skills required component objective there is a mismatch between the methods used in the assessment and the learning outcomes.

CS 1023 – Cultural Implications of the
Information Society

The Faculty Senate Curriculum Committee does not recommend the inclusion of BIO 1033, EGR 2803, and CS 1023 as courses that can fulfill the Core Curriculum in the Social and Behavioral Component Area.

Recommendation

- Course was submitted as part of the Creative Arts Component.
- The Faculty Senate Curriculum Committee recommends the inclusion of this course in the 2015-16 Core Curriculum.
 - Specific recommendation: Assessment plan should include other methods of assessment besides multiple choice questions (overly used, in particular not clear for the social responsibility required component objective). Syllabus must clearly incorporate language that addresses the specific component objectives which are described in the proposal. Communication skills required objective is oral, not aural.

DAN 2103 – Introduction to Dance

The Faculty Senate Curriculum Committee recommends the inclusion of DAN 2103 as a course that can fulfill the Core Curriculum in the Creative Arts Component Area.

Recommendation

- Course was submitted as part of the Life and Physical Sciences Component.
- The Faculty Senate Curriculum Committee recommends the inclusion of this course in the 2015-16 Core Curriculum.
 - No recommendations were provided.

CHE 1073 – Basic Chemistry

- Course was submitted as part of the Life and Physical Sciences Component.
- The Faculty Senate Curriculum Committee recommends the inclusion of this course in the 2015-16 Core Curriculum.
 - No recommendations were provided.

CHE 1103 – General Chemistry I

- Course was submitted as part of the Life and Physical Sciences Component.
- The Faculty Senate Curriculum Committee recommends the inclusion of this course in the 2015-16 Core Curriculum.
 - No recommendations were provided.

ES 1113 – Environmental Botany

- Course was submitted as part of the Life and Physical Sciences Component.
- The Faculty Senate Curriculum Committee recommends the inclusion of this course in the 2015-16 Core Curriculum.
 - No recommendations were provided.

ES 1123 – Environmental Zoology

The Faculty Senate Curriculum Committee recommends the inclusions of CHE 1073, CHE 1103, ES 1113, and ES 1123 as courses that can fulfill the Core Curriculum in the Life and Physical Sciences Component Area.

Recommendation

- Course was submitted as part of the Government and Political Sciences Component.
- The Faculty Senate Curriculum Committee does not recommend the inclusion of this course in the 2015-16 Core Curriculum.
 - Lack of uniform criteria between the syllabus, the proposal, and the assessment plan. Syllabus is extremely vague in what the students will learn, what the students will do, and how their work will be assessed.

POL 1223 – States, Communities and Public Policies

- Course was submitted as part of the Government and Political Sciences Component.
- The Faculty Senate Curriculum Committee recommends the inclusion of this course in the 2015-16 Core Curriculum.
 - Specific Recommendation: Correlation between assignments and mandated learning objectives needs to be more specific in the course syllabus.

POL 1213 – Civil Rights in Texas and America

The Faculty Senate Curriculum Committee recommends the inclusion of POL 1213 as a course that can fulfill the Core Curriculum in the Government and Political Sciences Component Area. The committee does not recommend the inclusion of POL 1223 as a core course in the same component area.

Recommendation