

## **Report of the Subcommittee on General Education Area Requirements**

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The subcommittee discussed the issue raised by courses approved since 2005 by GEOC for Content Area 1 (Arts and Humanities). Until now, there has been no procedure for the C&C Committee to use in considering these courses for inclusion in one or more of CLAS general education areas A through E. The subcommittee makes the following recommendations:

(1) Future proposals to add or change undergraduate courses should specify which, if any, of the five general education areas A through E the course is to be considered for, and provide a brief justification. The C&C Committee will then use this justification, together with the proposal submitted to GEOC, in deciding whether the course fulfills the objectives of the area or areas in question. (Courses offered by departments or programs outside of CLAS will be brought to the attention of the C&C Committee by the Dean's Office.)

(2) In making this determination, the C&C Committee should consider guiding principles for each of the five areas. The subcommittee has drafted proposed guiding principles for the C&C committee's review (see below).

(3) The subcommittee should be tasked with reviewing each course that (a) was approved by GEOC since 2005 and (b) currently counts for any of the five areas, to determine whether it fulfills the objectives of that area. The basis for this review will be the proposal submitted to GEOC, together with the guiding principles for each area (as approved by the C&C Committee). The subcommittee will then make its recommendations to the C&C Committee.

(4) Should it be determined that a course does not meet the objectives of an area to which it is currently assigned, the department or program offering the course may, if it wishes, proceed in one of the following ways:

- propose that the course be assigned to a different area or areas
- submit a revised course description to GEOC to demonstrate that the course fulfills the objectives for the currently assigned area.

### **Proposed Guiding Principles:**

A. Courses that satisfy the requirements of Area A (Arts) engage students in the exploration of [visual arts, multimedia arts, the dramatic arts, music, and/or analytical and creative forms of writing](#). Moreover, these courses engage students in one or more of the following:

- Investigation of the conventions and aesthetics of a particular art form.
- Inquiries into aesthetic theory.
- Analysis of the historical and social significance of one or more art form.
- Analysis of the role that art plays in the formation, expression, and revision of human culture.
- Comparative analysis of cultures through their modes of artistic expression.

- Investigation of an art form through creative and practical engagement with that form (i.e. making art).

B. Courses that satisfy the requirements of Area B (Literature) 1) explore written texts or their dramatic performances in live theater, film, or video with respect to their aesthetic, philosophical or rhetorical qualities, 2) study historical, critical, and theoretical approaches to such texts, or 3) analyze texts of any description to illuminate the ways in which they produce meaning.

C. Courses that satisfy the requirements of Area C (History) aim to understand and reconstruct the human past with an emphasis on change over time through consideration of pertinent evidence, methods of documentation, interpretation, and explication.

D. Courses that satisfy the requirements of Area D (Philosophical/Ethical Analysis) introduce students to reasoning about fundamental questions of human existence and to critical reflection on the evidence for our most basic convictions. The skills to be cultivated include analyzing and evaluating arguments in defense of various positions. Such analysis is used to explore questions in one or both of the following broad categories: 1) the nature of reality together with the nature and extent of our capacity to represent and know about reality, and 2) which values and principles we ought to embrace in our lives, institutions, and communities.

E. Courses that satisfy the requirements of Area E (World Cultures) have two key components: 1) they examine one or more of the following: ethnic or cultural identity, cultural heritage and custom, the arts and other cultural expressions, cultural history, and cultural patterns and ways of life; and 2) while they may focus on individual ethnic, cultural, or national groups or particular cultural domains (e.g., film, literature, specific domains of social life), they do so in the context of a cross-group comparative and/or an historic/developmental perspective intended to convey global understandings.