

DIVERSITY REQUIREMENT COMMITTEE

MINUTES

February 1, 2007

4:00-5:00 p.m.

WPH 204

I. Minutes of 11/16/06 DRC meeting

➤ **APPROVED**

DEFERRED ITEMS:

II. LAS: AMERICAN STUDIES AND ETHNICITY Req. by Ruth Wilson Gilmore

Add an "m" for Diversity status to the following existing course: Eff. Fall 2007

AMST 200 INTRODUCTION TO AMERICAN STUDIES AND ETHNICITY (4)

Introduction to American studies and ethnic studies. Provides and overview of major theories, concepts, and issues.

Attachment:

Syllabus for Fall 2006 (Rowe)

- **FROM THE 11/16/07 MTG: DEFERRED TO DRC.** Committee members noted that the syllabus lacks an explicit statement about how it fulfills the diversity requirement. The week-by-week breakdown does not include how diversity is covered in the course. The second dimension is not clearly defined; perhaps it is class. The syllabus could be revised to meet diversity, but it does not do so clearly at this time. To facilitate review by DRC, sample paper topics and exams should also be provided. Norm Hollyn indicated his intention to communicate directly with the faculty member to share the committee's feedback.
- **APPROVED, with one abstention from a faculty member from the department, with a suggestion** that the syllabus be amended to include a greater number of concrete examples of how specific topics of diversity will be more thoroughly explored. The committee reviewed a syllabus addendum, a midterm and a list of paper topics that the professor who prepared the syllabus submitted after the last meeting for the committee's review. They found this information helpful and considered the addendum a good source of the types of concrete examples that could be incorporated with good effect.

NEW DIVERSITY REQUIREMENT COURSE SUBMISSION:

III. MARSHALL SCHOOL OF BUSINESS: MARKETING AND ORGANIZATION Req. by Thomas Cummings

Add an "m" for Diversity status to the following new course

Eff. Fall 2007

MOR 385 Business in a Diverse Society (4, Fa Sp, Su)

Explores business in an increasingly diverse society. Examines how differences in social class, race, nationality, and gender affect how business is organized and managed.

NOTE: This course was approved by the Social Science subcommittee co-chair in December for approval at the January 2007 UCOC meeting.

- **DENIED.** The syllabus contains language about topics of diversity, but the subjects are explored superficially and some of the groups that are identified as oppressed (small business firms vs large ones) are arguable as such. The committee is concerned that if this course is the students' only concentrated exposure to the subject of diversity, that exposure would be very limited. Some of the lists of subjects to be covered in an individual class session are so long that the deep examination the topics merit would be impossible.

DIVERSITY COURSE REVIEWS:

IV. ANNENBERG SCHOOL FOR COMMUNICATION: COMMUNICATION Tom Hollihan, Assoc. Dean Eff: Fall 2007

COMM 324m Intercultural Communication (4)

Cultural variables and social psychological processes that influence intercultural interaction; relationship between communication and culture in diverse settings including business, medicine, and education.

Attachments:

- *Fall 2006 syllabus*
- *Spring 2007 syllabus*
- *Assignment 1-1*
- *Assignment 2*
- *Cover sheet*

(copies of midterm and final exam to be distributed at the meeting)

NOTE: When the request to add the Diversity designation 'm' to COMM 324, Intercultural Communication, was approved at the April 2006 meeting of the Diversity Requirement Committee, they voted to approve it for one year only. Shown below is an excerpt from the minutes of the meeting:

ANNENBERG SCHOOL FOR COMMUNICATION: COMMUNICATION Req. by Thomas A. Hollihan Eff. Fall 2006

- A. COMM 324 Intercultural Communication (4,Fa)
Cultural variables and social psychological processes that influence intercultural interaction; relationship between communication and culture in diverse settings including business, medicine, and education.

* 1/20/06 DRC MEETING: DEFERRED TO COMMITTEE. The paper topics and exam questions contain more issues related to diversity than are represented in the syllabus. More

detail is requested in the week-by-week breakdown of the syllabus in order to flesh out, for example, how intercultural differences have led to conflicts and misunderstandings.

* 2/17/06 DRC MEETING: DEFERRED. No response from department.

* 3/24/06 DRC MEETING: DEFERRED TO COMMITTEE by those present: A revised syllabus was provided for discussion. This syllabus was from a different faculty member than the one first received—someone who appeared to be an adjunct, so it is not clear if that person would teach the course again. The committee noted that the content seems to indirectly address issues of diversity, though there are very many subjects covered; and those members present were not completely convinced that it was satisfactory. In the second syllabus provided, none of the course objectives explicitly addressed diversity, although some readings and assignments were relevant. A statement that explicitly states which aspects of diversity are chosen, and readings and assignments that relate to the aspects of diversity identified in the statement, should be incorporated into the syllabus and it should be sent to the committee for their review.

* APPROVED for one year. A revised syllabus was provided. Some concern was expressed that the course may not be consistently taught with an emphasis on diversity topics if it is always taught by adjunct faculty; thus, the one-year approval.

- **DIVERSITY DESIGNATION WITHDRAWN.** The committee considered last year's one-year approval to be a deferral of the decision to assign the diversity designation. The materials provided for review did not address the conflict that arises from the subjects raised on the syllabus. The second paragraph of the diversity guidelines explains what the committee is looking for and, after reviewing the submitted materials, including the midterms and final exam that were distributed at the meeting, did not find that the course addressed those guidelines in sufficient depth.

V. COLLEGE OF LETTERS, ARTS AND SCIENCES: AMERICAN STUDIES AND ETHNICITY
Ruth Gilmore, Chair
Eff. Fall 2007

- A. AMST 101FM Race and Class in Los Angeles (4)
Analysis of race and the economic, political, gender, and social dimensions of contemporary Los Angeles, including topics such as residential segregation, economic inequality, and city politics.
Attachment:
- *Syllabus*
(copies of midterm and final exam to be distributed at the meeting)

➤ **APPROVED.**

- B. AMST 395m African American Humor and Culture (4)
Examination of one of several traditions of African American humor for insights into shifting notions of race, culture, language and identity in and beyond Black America.
Attachment:
- *Syllabus*

➤ **APPROVED: 5 in favor, 2 opposed, with a suggestion** that the syllabus more explicitly explain how the content of the class addresses racial and gender issues. The committee approved the request under the assumption that the central course content deals with the thesis that humor is a response to these issues, but would like it spelled out in more detail in the syllabus.

Members present

Lois Banner
Peter Barth (student)
Frances Fitzgerald (support staff)
Richard Fliegel (affiliated staff)
Norman Hollyn (chair)
Roberto Lint-Sagarena
Shirley Maxey
Cauligi Raghavendra
Edwenna Werner (ex officio)
Beverly Wood (via email)

Members absent

Eugene Bickers (ex officio)
Joanne Farver
Elizabeth Garrett (ex officio)
Hilary Schor (ex officio)
Lora Zane

Guests

Norman Hollyn, Chair
Diversity Requirement Committee

Date