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GENERAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE

October 21, 2014
8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.
Old Main – Champ Hall

Agenda

Call to Order – Norm Jones

Approval of Minutes – September 16, 2014

Course Approvals

Course/Designation Removals

Syllabi Approvals

CMST 3700 (CI) Brock Dethier

CMST 4460 (CI) Brock Dethier

USU 1300 (BAI) Jeff Bateman Lawrence Culver

WILD 5700 (CI) Brock Dethier

Business

HONR 3070 (Change in required credits)

Below is a link to the recent article about our Gen Ed Program that appeared in the “campus model” section of an Assoc. of American Colleges and Universities publication.

<http://www.aacu.org/campus-model/aligning-general-education-and-major-utah-state-university>

USU was also recognized as having a model program in the text of the Degree Qualification Profile recently released by the Lumina Foundation and the Assoc. of American Colleges and Universities.

Proposal for a change to USU/HONR 3070 – Honors Interdisciplinary Depth (DHA/DSC/DSS)

The current course catalog copy with proposed changes in **RED**:

DHA, DSC, DSS Depth Humanities and Creative Arts, Depth Life and Physical Sciences, Depth Social Sciences
5 credits (change to 6 credits)

*Course **may** combines two ~~of the~~ **or** three depth categories (DHA, DSC, DSS) in a 5-(**change to 6**)-credit course. Usually team-taught and may include service learning, fieldwork, or undergraduate research. Course fulfills two depth requirements.*

***Prerequisite/Restriction:** Must meet breadth graduation requirements, QL, CL1, CL2. Honors Program students only.*

***Semester(s) Traditionally Offered:** Fall, Spring, Summer*

History: The University Honors Program is currently developing a General Education Depth Think Tank experience that focuses student attention local problems across disciplines. The first such Think Tank will run in Spring 2016 and will focus on the topic of “How to Create a Sustainable Logan City”; all future Think Tanks will focus on a Cache Valley issue or problem of some sort. The 2016 Think Tank will include three cross-listed depth courses -- HONR 3010 (DSC), HONR 3020 (DHA), and HONR 3030 (DSS) -- all scheduled at the same time. The idea is that each section will approach this problem from a different disciplinary perspective but also be able to meet together to share field trips, speakers, or projects; to exchange instructors at times; or to work in cross-disciplinary groups.

Proposed Change and Rationale: I propose a change in the existing HONR 3070 to make possible a year-long Honors Think Tank experience that would grant students credit for both of their depth requirements, one for each semester of the course. The course would need to be **six credits** (instead of the current five) so that Honors students would be completing the same number of Citizen Scholar Depth credits as all USU students. Because the course will meet for two full semesters, it makes sense to give students credit for two full courses; they could also opt to take only one of the two semesters, giving them three credits in the depth area of their choice. The reason for making it possible to cross-list **all three depth areas** is that students must complete depth courses outside their major, and the Honors Think Tank experience will be best if students from all disciplines can participate together in the Think Tanks for the full year. Leaving the cross-listing flexible (“two or three depth categories”) allows faculty to teach the class that best meets student needs.