

UGC Review of Group-satisfying Courses Offered Fall 2002

Procedure

- Fall 2002: Decided what we wanted to know
 Bkg: no previous regular review of General Education.
 Gen Ed perceived to have become diffuse and in need of
 examination.
 To begin, focus on Group-satisfying courses offered
 Fall Term, 2002. Compare each course with
 university criteria for Group status.
 Collected course information (syllabi, final exams, other)
- Winter 2003: Designed course review form (Sample attached)
 Tested scoring method and consistency of half-Council review
- Spring 2003: Reviewed courses systematically
- Compiled data for individual courses (2 examples attached)
 - Criteria for discussion by full Council
 More than 2 "no" votes on Content Questions 1 or 2
 Concerns suggested by "Other" comments

Results

- **Quantitative Summary**

	Offered	Reviewed (i.e. syllabi available)	Discussed by full Council
Total courses (Minus Math & Language)	163	157 (96%)	30
Lower division	106	106	30
Upper division (300-level)	57	51	- (deferred to Fall, 2003)

Results, cont'd

- **General Conclusions**

1. Most courses are appropriate
2. Only ~10 courses out of 106 were thought inappropriate – all because of narrowness or professional focus.

- **UGC Recommendations (adopted by University Senate)**

1. Group-satisfying courses must be offered in time periods that are standard for UO academic terms: 10 weeks for Fall, Winter, or Spring Term courses, and not less than 4 weeks for Summer Term courses.
2. The syllabus for each group-satisfying course must state the fundamental question(s) addressed by the course, and must indicate how the course meets the criteria for group status.
3. For all group-satisfying courses to be offered during a particular term, faculty or departments are required to post electronic syllabi or course descriptions that are expanded over those provided in the catalog. This course information should be understandable to someone unfamiliar with the field and should include the information in Point 2. To help students make informed choices of courses, the web postings should be made prior to the start of the registration period for the term in question, and should be directly accessible from Duck Web. Links to Duck Web are easily established, and can be made by individual faculty or by department staff.
4. Proposed Group-satisfying courses that are to be offered in an on-line format should be reviewed for instructional design and delivery method, in addition to being reviewed for content through the regular approval process for new courses. This is to ensure that technology is used appropriately and that students are offered an educational experience similar to that in a classroom. The same procedure should be used during the cyclical 5-year review of established General Education courses, if they are offered on-line. An appropriate committee will be designated or created to carry out the extra review of on-line courses.

Survey of Group-Satisfying Courses
Undergraduate Council Spring, 2003

I. Course Content

Course: Name _____ Number _____

Group: A&L SS S

Reviewer: _____

1. Does the course focus on something that a broadly-educated person should know?
YES NO

Comments:

2. Does the course meet the legislated guidelines for a General Education course in its field? (Please see Defining Characteristics of Group-Satisfying Courses.)
YES NO

Comments:

3. Does it require specialized prior knowledge (pre-requisite course work)?
YES NO

If so, what specialized knowledge?

4. For 300-level courses,
a. What is the rationale for offering this as a General Education course at the 300 level?

- b. Could this course be offered at the 100 or 200 level? (Please see Defining Characteristics of Group-Satisfying Courses, 2.4)
YES NO

Survey of Group-Satisfying Courses

Undergraduate Council Spring, 2003

II. Course Organization

Course: Name _____ Number _____

Group: A&L SS S

Reviewer: _____

1. What kind(s) of materials does the course use?
 - _____ original sources (e.g.: books, articles, plays, poems, data sets)
 - _____ text books
 - _____ popular articles
 - _____ art work
 - _____ other _____

2. What is expected of students and/or used to determine grades?
 - _____ analytical papers or essays
 - _____ journals or reflections
 - _____ lab reports
 - _____ problem sets
 - _____ performance attendance
 - _____ papers
 - _____ exams
 - _____ essay
 - _____ short answer
 - _____ problem-solving
 - _____ multiple choice
 - _____ ? (can't determine)
 - _____ quizzes
 - _____ class attendance
 - _____ counts positively toward grade
 - _____ does not contribute positively, but absence lowers grade

3. What is the format of the course?
 - _____ direct classroom
 - _____ on-line

4. Does the course have a final examination that is given during Finals Week? YES NO

**Compiled Descriptions
Group-Satisfying Courses**
Undergraduate Council
Spring 2003

Group	Social Science	HIST 250: African American History	Format: Direct
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COURSE CONTENT

Question 1: Does Course focus on something a broadly educated person should know?

Yes	No	Other	If not, why not?
8	0	0	This course is particularly important for the educated American Very good course description

Question 2: Does course meet legislated guidelines for General Education course in its field?

Yes	No	Other	If not, why not?
8	0	0	The course examines several different threads: economic, cultural, religious

Question 3: Does course require specialized prior knowledge/pre-requisites?

Yes	No	Other	If so, what prior knowledge?
0	8	0	

Question 4a: For 300-level courses:

What is the rationale for offering this as a General Education course at the 300 level?

Clear	Unclear	Comments

Question 4b: Could this course be offered at the 100 or 200 level?

Yes	No	Comments

COURSE ORGANIZATION

Question 1: What kinds of materials does the course use?

Materials	Comments
Original sources Textbooks	

Question 2: What is expected of students and/or used to determine grades?

Expected of Student	Comments
Analytical papers or essays Exams: essay	No exam

Question 4: Does the course have a final examination that is given during Finals Week?

Yes	No	Other	Comments
1	0	0	

Syllabus needs discussion:

**Compiled Descriptions
Group-Satisfying Courses**
Undergraduate Council
Spring 2003

Group A	Social Science	ANTH 329: Immigration & Farmworkers Political Culture	Format: Direct
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COURSE CONTENT

Question 1: Does Course focus on something a broadly educated person should know?

Yes	No	Other	If not, why not?
4	2	0	Seems specialized Not sure it is essential

Question 2: Does course meet legislated guidelines for General Education course in its field?

Yes	No	Other	If not, why not?
3	3	0	Too specific Good outline

Question 3: Does course require specialized prior knowledge/pre-requisites?

Yes	No	Other	If so, what prior knowledge?
0	5	1	

Question 4a: For 300-level courses:

What is the rationale for offering this as a General Education course at the 300 level?

Clear	Unclear	Comments
		Very specialized. Not appropriate, though not too difficult for naïve students. None, provided, not clear Examines labor relations with an in-depth focus. Substantial work load Group work and writing requirements provide rigor

Question 4b: Could this course be offered at the 100 or 200 level?

Yes	No	Unclear	Comments
2	4	0	Yes, perhaps. Looks like a pretty big workload

COURSE ORGANIZATION

Question 1: What kinds of materials does the course use?

Materials	Comments
Original sources Popular articles	

Question 2: What is expected of students and/or used to determine grades?

Expected of Student	Comments
Analytical papers or essays Exams Class attendance counts positively toward grade	Guest speakers and films

Question 4: Does the course have a final examination that is given during Finals Week?

Yes	No	Other	Comments
0	1	0	Take home final

Syllabus needs discussion: