

AUC Curriculum Committee  
December 19, 2024  
3:30pm-5pm HAMM314

Members in attendance: Olivia Rossetti(Chair), David Svolba (Secretary), Barbara Cormier, Monica Maldari, Charles Roberts, Heather Urbanski, Elizabeth Gordon, Erin Rehrig, William Cortezia, Rachelle Dermer, Jannette McMenamy, Sara Levine, Sarah Wright

Absent: Laura Baker, Christine Dee, Hong Yu, Christine Devine, Natasha Kurtonina, Jacob Podsiadlo (student), Morgan Ruel (student)

Guests: Daneen Deptula, Zachary Miner, Jason Flynn, Zak Lee

Meeting called to order at 3:32 pm EST

Item 1: Motion to approve minutes from 11/21/24  
Motion: Will Cortezia  
Second: David Svolba  
Vote: 11/0/0

Item 2: Motion to table AUC 11  
Motion: Will Cortezia  
Second: David Svolba  
Vote: 11/0/0

Item 3: Motion to consider proposal AUC 8  
Motion: Will Cortezia  
Second: David Svolba  
Discussion: Daneen Deptula spoke on behalf of AUC 8, noting that it was her department's original intention to restrict PSY 2020 to majors. Olivia Rossetti asked about why the proposal also excluded minors. Daneen explained that the course is geared toward students seeking careers in psychology, and so primarily aimed at majors.  
Vote: 12/0/0

Item 4: Motion to consider AUC 19  
Motion: Will Cortezia  
Second: David Svolba  
Discussion: Jason Flynn spoke on behalf of AUC 19, noting that the course in question (Photography Portfolio Development) will replace Studio Management, which hasn't run in 10+ years. PPD prepares students for internships in the industry. Barbara Cormier noted that the course is currently running as COMM 3040 and inquired about the change in numbering. Jason Flynn explained that the purpose of the change is to bring the course into alignment with the new numbering system. Elizabeth Gordon noted that the accompanying syllabus calls for permission of the instructor, but this is not listed on the proposal. Olivia Rossetti called for a

friendly amendment: revise the proposal to indicate that the course may be taken concurrently with 3620 *or* with permission of the instructor.

Vote: 12/0/0

Item 5: Motion to consider AUC 17

Motion: Will Cortezia

Second: David Svolba

Discussion: Jason Flynn spoke on behalf of the proposal, which adds Photography Portfolio Development to the list of photography concentration electives.

Vote: 12/0/0

Item 6: Motion to consider AUC 18

Motion: Will Cortezia

Second: David Svolba

Discussion: Jason Flynn spoke on behalf of the proposal, which adds Photography Portfolio Development to the list of photography minor electives.

Vote: 12/0/0

Item 7: Motion to consider AUC 25

Motion: Will Cortezia

Second: David Svolba

Tabled for later in the meeting.

Item 8: Motion to consider AUC 15

Motion: Will Cortezia

Second: David Svolba

Discussion: Charlie Roberts spoke on behalf of the proposal, noting that the course has run twice as a 'topics' course and filled each time. Although a survey course, the workload is heavier than most freshmen can handle so it includes a prereq of sophomore status or above.

Vote: 12/0/0

Item 9: Motion to consider AUC 14

Motion: Will Cortezia

Second: David Svolba

Discussion: Zak Lee spoke on behalf of the motion, noting that since the content of this course changes dramatically from one iteration to the next the department would like to allow students to take the course more than once (up to 3x for credit). Barbara Cormier asked: if content changes based on the instructor, how do we ensure that the content is different for students taking the course more than once? Zak and Charlie said that this is very unlikely to be an issue as the content will never be the same across any 4-5 year period. Erin Rehrig asked for clarification: is the course required for film students? Zak answered: no, it's an elective. Barbara noted that as the course can be taken multiple times, the department should be aware that failed courses will not automatically be replaced.

Vote: 12/0/0

Item 10: Motion to consider AUC 24

Motion: Will Cortezia

Second: David Svolba

Discussion: Zak Lee spoke on behalf of the proposal, which removes COMM 3029 from the film/video concentration "Specialized Electives" requirement list and moves it into the general Comm Media enrichment electives list.

Vote: 12/0/0

Item 11: Motion to consider AUC 25

Motion: Will Cortezia

Second: David Svolba

Discussion: Zachary Miner spoke on behalf of the proposal, which moves Sociology of Firearms from a topics course to a regular offering. Olivia noted a change to the syllabus learning objectives and a change to the syllabus grading section, which now includes a paper assignment. Zachary distributed an attachment with specific amendments to the original proposal at the beginning of consideration, which he accepted as friendly amendments (see below):

1) *Change to syllabus learning objectives*

- *Change text of second learning objective from "Explore accounts of what firearms ownership means to different groups of people." to "Explore the differences among firearms (sub)cultures that exist within the United States (e.g., those centered around hunting; self-defense; competition; etc.) and internationally (e.g., Australia; Switzerland; etc.)"*

2) *Changes to "Grading" section of the syllabus*

- *Add section to grading summary entitled, "(Sub)cultural Paper" with a grading value of 12%*
- *Add an explanatory section below this entitled "(Sub)cultural Paper," with the following text: "For this paper you will form groups and either describe and explore a single major culture / subculture within the realm of firearms ownership, or compare and contrast two cultures / subcultures regarding their ownership and use of firearms. This can be within the United States (e.g., subcultures centered around hunting; self-defense; competition; etc.) or internationally (within any non-US nation where a recognizable subculture of firearms ownership exists)."*
- *Assorted changes to values in the "Grading" section to accommodate the above grading change*

Vote: 13/0/0

Item 12: Motion to consider Gen Ed designations for AUC 25

Motion: Will Cortezia

Second: David Svolba

Discussion: Zachary Miner spoke on behalf of the proposal, noting that sociology courses typically take the Civic Learning attribute and that this particular course meets the criteria for Diverse Perspectives insofar as it looks at firearm ownership across various subcultures. Liz Gordon asked Zachary to expand on how the course meets the Civic Learning and Diverse Perspective outcomes. As for DP, Zachary responded that the course will examine firearm subcultures and to what extent membership within these subcultures affects/influences members, as well as international differences in gun cultures, such as how different cultures regulate gun ownership, and how different cultures regulate gun ownership. As for CL, Zachary noted that gun ownership is an ongoing debate within our political history/tradition and an important aspect of our founding as a nation. Olivia proposed a friendly amendment, to revise wording on Q10, regarding the DP designation. {Proposed new wording}

3) *Change to the proposal wording in Question #10 ("Demonstration of Student Learning") of the "Exploration and Integration Proposal Form."*

- *Old wording: "Diverse Perspectives – The guidance document states that, "[c]ourses seeking the Diverse Perspectives designation should provide evidence that students will develop a nuanced understanding of how another cultural group's identity shapes their and our experiences of the world in local and global contexts." This is addressed in the unit of the course where we contrast United States gun laws and cultural traditions with those of Australia. In future years I also aim to expand the international comparisons to include nations such as Switzerland and Japan."*
- *Proposed new wording: "Diverse Perspectives – The guidance document states that, "[c]ourses seeking the Diverse Perspectives designation should provide evidence that students will develop a nuanced understanding of how another cultural group's identity shapes their and our experiences of the world in local and global contexts." This is addressed in the unit of the course where we contrast United States gun laws and cultural traditions with those of Australia, and assessed in the "(Sub)cultural Paper" writing assignment."*

Call for vote: 13/0/0

**Items from the floor:** Charlie Roberts congratulated Jannette on becoming the permanent Dean of Health and Natural Sciences. Sarah Wright passed around delicious cookies. The next meeting is slated for 2/27.

Call for adjournment.

Motion: Will Cortezia

Second: David Svolba

*Meeting adjourned.*