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CLE Decision: AFRO 1201

1 message

Berne Christiansen <chri2412@umn.edu>

Thu, Oct 31, 2024 at 1:41 PM

To: Rahsaan Mahadeo <maha0134@umn.edu>

Cc: Gabriel Bellamy <bell0297@umn.edu>, Lee-Ann Breuch <lkbreuch@umn.edu>, Nicola Imbracsio <imbra002@umn.edu>, Kyle Edwards <edwar288@umn.edu>, Kathryn Pearson <kpearson@umn.edu>, Leslie Schiff <schif002@umn.edu>, Katie Russell <russellk@umn.edu>, OUESTU <ouestu@umn.edu>

Dear Professor Mahadeo,

When there are plans for a course with Liberal Education cores, themes or a writing intensive designation to be reactivated after a period of 4-5 years or more since its last offering, the Council on Liberal Education reviews the course to ensure all criteria for the LE continue to be met. Accordingly, AFRO 1201 was recently reviewed for the Social Sciences core and Race, Power and Justice in the US (RPJ) theme. While the Council reaffirmed the RPJ theme designation, they ask that you revise and resubmit the proposal for the Social Sciences core.

Social Sciences core courses must meet the following criteria:

- The course demonstrates how social scientists describe and analyze human experiences and behavior.
- Students manipulate social science data (primary or secondary) using one or more of the primary quantitative or qualitative methods for collecting and/or analyzing these data.
- The course identifies key disciplinary resources and evaluates their quality.
- The course explores the interrelationships among individuals, institutions, structures, events and/or ideas.
- Students examine the roles that individuals play in their cultural, social, economic, and/or political worlds.
- The course promotes multidisciplinary ways of thinking that can be used to synthesize and analyze local, national, and global issues, and the connections among these.
- Students work collaboratively and individually to construct new knowledge.

Specifically, the reviewers noted that the course syllabus needs to more clearly evidence how students will engage with data specific to the discipline. How will the course meet the first criterion above? As one reviewer commented: "What data are students manipulating in the course, and how is manipulation assessed? How will students evaluate the quality of "key disciplinary resources"?"

If you have questions regarding the LE proposal process or the CLE's feedback, please review the [frequently asked questions](#) or email Berne Christiansen, chri2412@umn.edu. Kathryn Pearson, CLE Chair, is also willing to answer questions specific to your course.

Please submit a revised syllabus in Coursedog, and send a copy to chri2412@umn.edu with changes highlighted in a PDF or Word document to facilitate course re-review. Revised materials submitted by November 7th will be reviewed at the November CLE meeting. The CLE will [pause review](#) after the

November meeting except in situations of extenuating circumstances. You also are welcome to choose not to update the Social Science core certification, keeping the RPJ. Let us know if you prefer that at this time.

Best,
Berne

Berne G. Christiansen, M.A.

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I acknowledge that the University of Minnesota stands on *Miní Sóta Makhóche*, the homelands of the *Dakhóta Oyáte*