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CLE Decision: AFRO 1201

1 message

Berne Christiansen <chri2412@umn.edu>

Tue, Nov 26, 2024 at 10:21 AM

To: Rahsaan Mahadeo <maha0134@umn.edu>

Cc: Gabriel Bellamy <bell0297@umn.edu>, Agnes Malika <mrtu002@umn.edu>, Lee-Ann Breuch <lkbreuch@umn.edu>, Nicola Imbraccio <imbra002@umn.edu>, Kyle Edwards <edwar288@umn.edu>, Kathryn Pearson <kpearson@umn.edu>, Leslie Schiff <schif002@umn.edu>, Katie Russell <russellk@umn.edu>, Sauman Chu <schu@umn.edu>, OUESTU <ouestu@umn.edu>

Dear Professor Mahadeo,

The Council on Liberal Education has reviewed the revised materials submitted for the recertification of AFRO 1201 to meet the Social Science (SOCS) core. After careful consideration, the Council asks that additional revisions be made in order to fully integrate all SOCS criteria into this iteration of the course.

The remaining concern of reviewers is how the course fulfills a key criterion for SOCS:

"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."

It is clear from the syllabus and Coursedog proposal that students are looking at data, but less so how they have opportunities to interact with it and understand how social scientists draw conclusions. The submitted materials state: "Students will also review a host of descriptive statistics related to race and racism." Will they collect and have the opportunity to analyze any qualitative or quantitative data independently? Will data analysis surface as part of the "How Race Takes Place at the University of Minnesota" and/or "Relational formations of racial biography" projects? If opportunities to work with data are not currently part of planned assignments, could a new assignment be incorporated that would meet this key aspect of the core? Please describe clearly in the syllabus the nature of the data analysis in the course and how it will take place.

Reviewers expressed concern that, if the interaction with data is not already part of the course, adding additional content to meet that SOCS criterion may detract from the strong RPJ focus. Please let me know if you prefer to move forward with the RPJ certification alone and remove SOCS.

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.

If you would like to proceed with a further SOCS revision, please submit a revised syllabus in Coursedog by December 4, and send a copy to chri2412@umn.edu with changes highlighted in a PDF or Word document to facilitate course re-review. CLE has paused its regular meetings, but reviewers will evaluate your revisions and we'll send you an update by mid-December.

Best,
Berne

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11/26/24, 10:48 AM

University of Minnesota Twin Cities Mail - CLE Decision: AFRO 1201

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