

GENERAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL (GEAC) ZOOM MEETING MINUTES

April 8, 2026, 9:30 – 11:00

Resubmissions will need to be received by 4/22/26.

Dr. Francisco opened the meeting by thanking the Council members for their work over the last year, noting that it was a uniquely challenging year as they applied the new learning outcomes for the first time. The Council worked extremely diligently in reading syllabi carefully, evaluating fulfillment of learning outcomes, and providing helpful feedback for instructors to revise syllabi and courses accordingly. He also reminded the Council that they will be resuming the five-year reviews of general education designations next year, ending the pause that has been in place since the development of the new Cowboy Compass framework and the introduction of trails. The Council believes they are in a good position to evaluate a larger number of courses now that they have a year's worth of experience with the new approach and that the quantity of trail course submissions has slowed.

Dr. Francisco also announced that because he expects to have a low volume of course requests for the scheduled May meeting, which would occur after commencement, he does not plan to have a synchronous meeting but will instead ask Council members to send feedback in writing, which he will compile.

~~~~~

**LL 1253 - Bread & Circuses: Sport and Festivals in Greece and Rome**, requests the H designation with written competency, effective Fall 2026.

From the Olympics to Gladiator, from college sports to the WWE, our culture contains echoes of the ancient world. This course explores the range and role of sport and festivals in Greece and Rome, their origins in the ancient Mediterranean, and their relevance to our modern world. While learning about these practices, displays, and competitions, students will also learn about their importance to the politics, religions, and daily life of these ancient cultures. Taught in English.

3/11/26 - Members tabled the H designation with written competency. If a student skips any of the five in-class writing assignments, they would not meet the 1,000-word threshold, and this would not have a major impact on the student's grade. The assignments should be structured to ensure that students are very likely to complete all of them.

3/18/26 – revised syllabus received.

4/8/26 – Members approved the H designation with written competency pending receiving a syllabus that describes the assignments more completely. Namely, how are sources used in the reflections, and how do the assignments enhance critical thinking?

**LL 1603- Love and Ethics in the Middle Ages**, requests the H designation with written competency, effective Fall 2026.

Why did medieval writers think love could save your soul—or ruin your life? This course dives into the world of troubadours, poets, and storytellers who shaped Europe’s first great love literature and explores how ideas about romance, desire, and power shaped medieval culture and still influence us today. Taught in English.

3/11/26 - Members tabled the H designation with written competency pending receiving a syllabus including evidence that the course meets the fourth learning objective for the H designation: “Enhance critical thinking, connect sources, and apply disciplinary concepts to generate coherent arguments related to the human experience.”

3/18/26 – revised syllabus received.

4/8/26 – Members approved the H designation with written competency, effective Fall 2026.

**LL 1703 - From Dragons to Dumplings: China’s Cultural DNA**, requests the H designation with written competency, effective Fall 2026.

This course explores the foundations of Chinese culture with traditional and contemporary examples. Students will analyze the cultural elements that are widely considered to constitute “Chinese culture” historically and today, including historical, literary, and artistic traditions, philosophical and religious ideas, political institutions, the common writing system, and food. The influence and presence of Chinese cultural expressions in the U.S. are also considered. Taught in English.

Members approved the H designation with written competency, effective Fall 2026.

**MUSI 2722 - Introduction to Music Education**, requests the S designation with Oral Competency, effective Fall 2026.

An entry level course designed to socialize the music education major to the role of the music education teacher within U.S. schools. Topics include motivation and management, learning theories, micro teaching, music advocacy, portfolio introduction, and early field experience. Previously offered as MUSI 1723.

Members denied the S designation with Oral Competency, as the course is for a very specific and not general audience, and the syllabus did not appear to meet the requirements for the S designation.

**UNIV 2010 – Students and the Struggle for Democracy in China**, requests the G and S designations with written competency, effective Fall 2026.

Seminar for Horizon Scholars in Social Science Disciplines. Offered for variable credit, 1-3 credit hours, maximum of 9.

Creating a topics course to accommodate the courses for the new Horizons Scholars program, which requires students to take special courses in social sciences, STEM, and arts and humanities.

9 credit hours.

Prerequisite(s) Horizon Scholars student

Members approved the G and S designation with written competency, effective Fall 2026.

### **Information Only:**

**AFAM 3523 – Language and Identity in the African Diaspora**, requests the H and D designations with written Competency, effective Fall 2026.

This course will take an interdisciplinary approach to the study of the relationship between language, culture, and identity, primarily focusing on the Black and African Diasporic communities in the United States. Drawing on sociolinguistics, literature, film, critical theory, history, and anthropology, we will examine how language is not only a means of communication, but also a powerful symbol of identity, cultural preservation, and a tool of resistance.

Prerequisite: None

Members approved pending the H and D designations with written competency, pending receiving a syllabus describing how the course relates to 25% present day and evidence of students receiving feedback on writing assignments and how the discussions are related to the H and D designations.

2/11/26 - Members approved the H and D designations with written competency, pending receiving more detail on the syllabus describing how the course meets the 25% threshold for present-day diversity content. Identifying the specific weeks/assignments would help, as might an explanation of the Afropop assignments.

Chair will make the final decision.

2/24/26 – Revised syllabus received, chair approved the H and D designations with written competency, effective Fall 2026.

**HONR 1030 Introductory Honors Seminar in Arts and Humanities**

**Prerequisites:** Honors College participation.

**Description:** Introduction to topics in arts and humanities disciplines. Offered for variable credit, 1-3 credit hours, maximum of 12 credit hours.

**Credit hours:** 1-3, offered for 3 credit hours.

- **Tattoos As Text** – requests the H and D designations with written competency, one-time only effective Fall 2026.

Members approved the H and D designations with written competency, one-time only, effective Fall 2026 pending receiving a syllabus that includes more information regarding how students receive feedback on writing assignments and how the course addresses present-day subject matter for the D designation, meeting the required 25% threshold. (Delineating which content meets that designation would be helpful; “present-day” is defined as approximately the last five years, so when texts are older than that, the Council will often ask for additional justification.)

Chair will make final decision.

3/17/26 – Revised syllabus received and chair approved the H and D designations with written competency, one-time only, effective Fall 2026.

**MICR 1213 – Biology of Health**, requests the N designation with written competency, effective Spring 2027.

An introduction to the biology of human health and factors that impact health including infectious and genetic diseases and contributions from the environment. Students will learn about the role of microbes in our health and the cellular and molecular processes associated with diseases. The course will also introduce challenges associated with treating diseases and maintaining health. Student knowledge will be assessed through quizzes, exams and writing projects that explore related topics.

2/10/26 – Received revised syllabus and chair approved the N designation with written competency, effective Spring 2027.

**UNIV 2030 - Horizon Scholars Seminar in Arts and Humanities: Religion, Food, and Farming** request the H designation with written competency, effective Fall 2026.

Proposed new course to accommodate the curses for the new Horizons Scholars program, which requires students to take special courses I social sciences, STEM, and arts and humanities.

3 cr. hrs.

Members approved pending the H designation and written competency, effective Fall 2026 pending receiving a syllabus with additional information explaining how the second H

learning objective is met (Assess how ideas, events, texts, artifacts or arts shape diverse individual identities) and how religion, food, and farming are synthesized in the course.  
4/8/26 – Revised syllabus received and chair approved the N designation with written competency, effective Fall 2026.