

**Liberal Arts
Curriculum Committee Meeting Report
7 November 2008**

Members Present: Richard Cebula, Jose da Cruz, Mark Finlay, Beth Howells, Dick Nordquist, Jim Todesca, Teresa Winterhalter

I. Minutes of Friday, October 3, 2008 were approved

II. College of Liberal Arts

E.1-2 History (creation of two courses). Approved.

These two courses (History of the Ancient Near East and Topics in Middle Eastern History) were approved with limited discussion. One question was raised concerning the recently added, now eliminated Ancient Israel/Palestine. Dr. Todesca's explanation and rationale satisfied the committee.

E. 3 History (modification of HIST 3500). Remanded.

The committee had serious concerns about limiting the enrollment of the course to history majors. The course seems to have appeal to students outside of the major and it is felt that limited space for a popular class can be addressed through additional sections. The committee maintains that such an exclusionary move opposed the spirit of the liberal arts and market mechanisms and would like the history department to reconsider. Further, there is some concern about the punctuation following "Prerequisites." Is there a precedent that would be better than using two colons?

E. 4-8 History (modification of 5 courses). Approved.

The committee approved these modifications with limited discussion. The quotation parts around "first" in 4-6 were removed.

E. 9-10 History (deletion of historiography courses) Approved

While Dr. Finlay expressed reservations about the elimination of these courses, the committee accepted Dr. Todesca's explanation about historiography's inclusion in other courses.

E. 11-13 History (deletion of two courses and modification of BA in History) Approved.

These items were approved with limited discussion.

III. Discussion

1. As part of the E3 discussion described above, committee members discussed the value of these introduction to the discipline courses for students across the College of Liberal Arts. The theory introduced in these classes is interdisciplinary in nature and application. Therefore, the committee recommends a possible 2000 or 3000 level Introduction to Liberal Arts Theory course for possible inclusion in the Core or Area F perhaps. Furthermore, the committee recommends establishing a mechanism for such interdisciplinary courses in terms of load and compensation. Finally, the committee also recognizes the need to reconsider the first-year seminar and also for a course that prepares students to write and research across the disciplines.
2. Dr. Finlay will be submitting the names of the CLA Curriculum Committee members to Andy Clark and Brenda Forbis for a faculty focus group they are scheduling sometime Nov. 17-21st.

3. The Committee will hold its last meeting of the year (and Dick's last meeting ever) on the first Friday of December to review items forthcoming from English, GWST, and History, at the very least.