

Feedback Report

UCA Core Council Assessment sub-committee

December 2018

Re: Review of LD Core Responsible Living Course Offerings

Thank you for providing the information requested by the sub-committee. The assessment sub-committee is diligently reviewing all courses in the Lower Division Core Responsible Living area to assure that our students are receiving a shared, common experience across the university as regards this Core competency. Your participation is greatly appreciated in this endeavor. The sub-committee would like to provide you with this feedback report as an informational item. If you have questions, concerns, or comments please direct those to the Director of the UCA Core, Jake Held (jmheld@uca.edu)

Course Prefix and Number: EXSS 1320

Course Title: Foundations of Wellness

Syllabus: Any syllabus for a course in the UCA Core must include language indicating the courses relative position within the UCA Core. The required boilerplate language can be located here: <http://uca.edu/academicaffairs/publications-information/>

Lower Division Core standards: Does 50% of the course content directly align to the Core outcomes for the goal under which the course assesses? (NB: This is calculated by considering course objectives, readings, lecture/discussion, and assignments as indicated by the course syllabus and provided work.)

The material provided for EXSS 1320 was more than sufficient in order for the sub-committee to make an informed evaluation in this regard.

EXSS 1320 is categorized under Goal B (Well-Being) of the Responsible Living category. The outcomes for Goal B are:

Issue Recognition: Recognition of various issues that affect well-being and their interconnections in complex contexts. The interconnections of issues in complex contexts refers to the obvious and subtle connections between/among the sub-parts or situational conditions of a scenario that bring two or more dilemmas/issues into the problem (e.g., relationship of health screenings to increased health care costs).

Analysis of Knowledge: the ability to extend discipline based knowledge to decision making and/or develop a recommended course of action based on discipline specific knowledge.

Impact of Decisions: The consequences—positive or negative—of decisions on the well-being of self, others, society and/or environment(s).

The full rubric can be located here: <http://uca.edu/core/assessment/>

As a lower division Core course, this course ought to provide students with the foundational skills necessary to begin developing the outcomes indicated under the rubric. In order to provide such an experience it is necessary that students be routinely exposed to these ideas and offered multiple opportunities to develop these skills. We found that EXSS 1320 offers students

ample opportunity throughout the semester to be introduced to these skills and demonstrate their development. In addition, the assignment chosen for assessment purposes was well designed and provided good prompts for students thus assuring that the performance asked for was an accurate demonstration of the student's abilities as they related to these Core outcomes. Kim Eskola deserves commendation for her thoughtfulness in designing her assignment, and for the structure of her course as a whole. We would hope you would provide opportunities for her to share her experiences with her colleagues so that her experience could be leveraged maximally in your program and in terms of the way in which your program aligns to and delivers the Core curriculum.

Simply stated, in so far as we at UCA view responsible living (well-being) as a desirable educational goal of our Core curriculum, EXSS 1320 as presented to us, exemplifies this experience.

Alignment: Does the course as a whole align well to the Core outcomes for the goal under which it is assessed?

Yes, as noted in the comments above.

Improvement: Suggestions for how the course might optimize its role within the UCA Core.

We recommend providing opportunities for your instructors to discuss how courses and coursework are intentionally aligned to and designed to develop Core competencies in your students. Specifically, allow Dr. Eskola to share her experiences with faculty in EXSS in order to assure that all students in your program receive the level of instruction they apparently receive from EXSS 1320 as it was presented to us.

Questions/Concerns of the sub-committee:

N/A

If you have any questions or concerns please contact the Director of the UCA Core, Jake Held (jmhheld@uca.edu)