Feedback Report

UCA Core Council Assessment sub-committee

December 2019

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 that assess under the Diversity Core competency in order 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, Jake Held (jmheld@uca.edu)

**Course Prefix and Number: ANTH 1302**

**Course Title: Introduction to Anthropology**

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

In general, the syllabus seems to indicate that the course aligns well to the UCA Core outcomes under Diversity Goal A (Own)

**Lower Division Core standards:** Does 50% of the course content directly align to the Core outcomes for the goal under with 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.)

ANTH 1302 is categorized under Goal A (Own) of the Diversity competency. The outcomes for Goal A are:

**Cultural Self-awareness**: Knowledge of how experiences have shaped one’s own cultural rules, and how to recognize and respond to cultural biases, resulting in a shift in self-description.

**Empathy**: The ability to imagine one’s self as another, with another’s interests and emotions, and within another’s cultural rules, biases, and perspectives.

**Openness**: Desire to interact with culturally different others. Interactions with culturally different others should be interpreted broadly, and can include experiences with texts, creative works, or individuals.

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 skills indicated by the outcomes under the rubric. In order to provide such an experience it is necessary that students be consistently exposed to these ideas and offered multiple opportunities to develop these skills.

The committee was unclear as to how the course, considered as a whole, engages the student learning outcomes under Goal A. Although the syllabus indicates exercises and readings that seem to, on their face, align well to the three learning outcomes under Goal A, we did not have an adequate sampling of exams, quizzes, or other student exercises to verify that these exercises are well-aligned to Core outcomes and thus provided the foundational experience an LD Core course is designed to offer.

The committee is aware that we have only been offered a limited view of the course and this may provide too narrow a window on which to base a definitive judgment. Thus, we are asking that, if possible and available, we be offered examples – assignments, quizzes, exams…- of how students engage the learning outcomes, specifically with respect to Empathy and Openness.

**Further Action:**

Please provide to the committee, by means of Dr. Held, relevant materials - such as discussion prompts, course activities, faculty narratives, in class exercises, quizzes, exams…- that demonstrate the scope and depth of student engagement with the student learning outcomes as explained above.

We would greatly appreciate receiving all relevant materials no later than February 1st, 2020.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact Jake Held (jmheld@uca.edu)