Feedback Report

UCA Core Council Assessment sub-committee

December 2019

Re: Review of LD Core Diversity 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. If you have questions, concerns, or comments please direct those to, Jake Held (jmheld@uca.edu)

*Dr. Hawkins: I am providing you with a single report for both ENGL 2305 and 2306 since both courses had similar issues and thus, for efficiency’s sake, may be addressed together.*

**Course Prefix and Number: ENGL 2305 and 2306**

**Course Title: World Literature I and II**

**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/>

Neither course’s syllabi had the required UCA Core language included.

**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.)

ENGL 2305 and 2306 both are categorized under Goal B (Other) of the Diversity competency. The outcomes for Goal B are:

**Cultural Worldview Frameworks**: The history, values, politics, communication styles, economics, or beliefs and practices by which people construe their experiences and make sense of the world around them.

**Curiosity**: Willingness to understand and engage with other worldview frameworks.

**Application**: Ability to engage and learn from different perspectives and experiences; to understand how one’s place in the world both informs and limits one’s knowledge.

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

As a lower division Core course, these courses ought to provide students with a foundational experience 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.

For both courses, ENGL 2305 and 2306, we were provided with few examples of course work and thus were not afforded a complete picture of these courses. We had very few, if any, examples of course assignments, and when they were indicated, little insight into how the assignments aligned to the Core outcomes, or provided student learning experiences consistent with, and supportive of, the Diversity Goal B rubric and its affiliated student learning outcomes.

For example, although one example of course work provided for ENGL 2305 deals with violence and gender, there is little in what was provided to explain how it is dealt with, how the assignment or student exercise promotes learning along the rubric, or how students are engaging diversity by means of the literature referenced.

In general, the committee, in considering the courses as diversity courses struggled with how the courses as a whole address the world’s diverse culture systems and various cultural and historical contexts when some iterations seemed narrowly focused, for example, on Ancient Greek drama. We recognize that this may invite future conversations within your department, and simply wanted to raise it as a general observation moving forward.

**Committee Recommendation**: We request an assurance argument for both ENGL 2305 and ENGL 2306 from the Department of English demonstrating a firm commitment to the student learning outcomes of the Diversity Goal B rubric. Things to consider:

 Specific recommendations:

1. Greater that 50% of course content needs to explicitly align to the outcomes under Diversity (Goal B – Other). Use the table in Curriculum Attachment A here:<http://uca.edu/core/forms/> as a guide. In addition, provide course materials such as copies of assignments, quizzes, tests, writing assignment prompts, and/or detailed syllabus.
2. Revise the course materials (syllabus) to demonstrate how the course aligns to and addresses the Core outcomes under which it assesses.
3. Course assignments needs to align to Core outcomes, and specifically prompt and require that students engage in activities that assist in developing these competencies.
4. In order to better understand Core requirements and respond to the sub-committee’s requests it is recommended that the department consult with a member of the sub-committee in regard to this report before, or while, revising its submission. Your college representative on the sub-committee is Zach Smith. Of course, Dr. Held, Assistant Provost for Academic Assessment and General Education, is always readily available as well.

Should you choose to submit revised materials for ENGL 2305 and 2306, those materials should be collected into a single pdf file and submitted directly to Jacob Held. The course materials will be evaluated by the UCA Core Council curriculum review sub-committee. The sub-committee will review the materials and make a recommendation to the UCA Core Council as to whether or not they are adequate in addressing the concerns noted above. Should the sub-committee affirm that they are adequate and the Core Council affirm that assessment, no further action will be necessary. Should, however, the sub-committee deem the revised materials to be insufficient and the Core Council affirm this evaluation, or the sub-committee deem the materials sufficient yet the UCA Core Council reject this assessment, the Core Council’s decision will be guiding. In the event of either of these previous two outcomes, you will have one semester to revisit the issues and revise the course materials. The same process will then be followed with the subsequent decision of the Core Council being final.

If you should fail to act on this recommendation by May 15, 2020, ENGL 2305 and 2306 will be placed on probationary status for Fall 2020. If no progress is made in rectifying matters by the close of Fall 2020, ENGL 2305 and 2306 will be removed from the LD Core beginning Spring 2021.

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