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. If you have questions, concerns, or comments please direct those to, Jake Held (jmheld@uca.edu)

Course Prefix and Number: GEOG 1300

Course Title: Geography of World Regions

**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/>

The course syllabus did not have the required language.

**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.)

GEOG 1300 is 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, this course 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. The committee found that GEOG 1300 offers students ample opportunity throughout the semester to be introduced to and develop these skills. However, the committee did have some observations and recommendations that we would like to offer.

The syllabus we were provided, which was from the course as offered by Ellen Hostetter, a member of the sub-committee, from 2015 was outdated and raised issues for the committee with respect to the frequency with which the course is offered. In conversation with Dr. Hostetter, it was clear that this course is infrequently offered, a result, we are sure, due to lack of resources in the Department of Geography and not interest of the student body. However, given that there is another course in the UCA Core in this same area (GEOG 1320) we were wondering as to why both courses would be offered in the area if only one were able to be regularly offered.

In addition, we were a bit confused as to why this course would assess under goal B, but GEOG 1320 would assess under Goal A. Both courses seem very similar in content, and although the material they cover does address outcomes in both Goals A and B, it would seem to be simpler from a course management perspective within your department to have them assess under the same rubric. If you are interested in switching GEOG 1320 to goal B, (a recommendation the committee offers in the report for 1320) please contact Dr. Held.

Regardless, the sub-committee was reassured from the material provided that GEOG 1300 is well-positioned in the UCA Core as a Diversity in World Cultures course assessing under Goal B (Other). We thank you and your faculty for providing all the requested materials and for assuring that the courses your department offers promote the learning outcomes of the UCA Core.

**Further Action:**

None

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