

Minutes of the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee
October 12, 2012
101A General Services Complex

Members present: Tim Scott (Chair), College of Science; Sarah Bednarz (Vice-Chair), College of Geosciences; Robert Knight, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences; Christine Bergeron, College of Education and Human Development; John Tyler, Dwight Look College of Engineering; Mike Stephenson, College of Liberal Arts; Marty Loudder, Mays Business School; Glenn Jones, Texas A&M University at Galveston; Jim Kracht (for Ann Kenimer), Undergraduate Studies; James Herman, College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences; Tyler Mandry, Student Representative.

Guests: Donna Adcock, Fred Boadu, Pam Vernon, Department of Agricultural Economics; Jonathan Howell, Landry Lockett, Tracy Rutherford, Department of Agricultural Leadership, Education, & Communications; Elisabeth Button, Sharon McCord, Curricular Services–Office of the Registrar; Philip Smith, Department of History; Robert Shandley, Department of International Studies; Paul Kellstedt, Department of Political Science.

The Undergraduate Curriculum Committee recommends approval of the following:

1. The minutes of the October 12, 2012 meeting.
2. New Courses

ARAB 222. Field Studies I: Language, Culture, and Society. (3-0). Credit 3. Arabic language and culture taught in an Arabic-speaking country; living with a host family; supervised travel of cultural interest; participation in activities of host institution. Prerequisite: ARAB 102 or equivalent.

ARAB 322. Field Studies II: Language, Culture, and Society. (3-0). Credit 3. Arabic language and culture taught in an Arabic-speaking country; living with a host family; supervised travel of cultural interest; participation in activities of host institution. Prerequisite: ARAB 202 or equivalent.

ECON 315. Sports Economics. (3-0). Credit 3. Application of economic concepts to the business and practice of sports; taxpayer funding of stadiums; applications of game theory to sports; impact of imperfect information; pricing strategies; testing models of discrimination in sports markets. Prerequisite: ECON 202.

ECON 328. Economics of Education. (3-0). Credit 3. Application of economic analysis to education policy; theoretical basis for private and public investment in education; returns to education; the importance of school resources, school financing, school choice, and accountability. Prerequisites: ECON 202; STAT 211, STAT 303 or equivalent.

INTS 407. Diversity in a Globalized World. (3-0). Credit 3. Examination of the cultural constructs that arise through the encounters with colonialism from the conquest of the Americas to the present; cultural studies and literary analysis to identify and interrogate the common principles of human interaction in the face of cultural diversity. Prerequisites: International studies major; junior or senior classification; INTS 201.

OCNG 425. Microbial Oceanography. (3-0). Credit 3. Diversity and ecology of microorganisms in the ocean; role in the Earth system both in the contemporary ocean and the geological past. Prerequisites: Junior or senior classification, OCNG 251, or OCNG 401, or approval of instructor.

3. Change in Courses

AGEC 314. Marketing Agricultural and Food Products.

Course description

- From: General introductory course covering operations involved in movement of agricultural commodities from farmer to consumer, essential marketing functions of buying, selling, transportation, storage, financing, standardization, pricing, and risk bearing.
- To: Operations involved in movement of agricultural commodities from farmer to consumer via several intermediaries; functions involve buying, selling, transportation, storage, financing, grading, pricing and risk bearing; agricultural supply chain or value chain is studied in detail; marketing aspects of commodities and differentiated goods.

AGEC 330. Financial Management in Agriculture.

Course description

- From: Principles of financial management of farms, ranches, livestock operations, and other agribusiness firms; financial statement analysis, investment analysis, firm growth, risk management, cost of capital, income taxes, business organization, estate planning, legal aspects of borrowing, and sources and terms of agricultural loans.
- To: Principles of financial management of farms, ranches, and other agribusiness firms; financial statements, financial statement analysis, time value of money, investment analysis, firm growth, risk management, credit analysis and best business management practices.

AGEC 340. Agribusiness Management.

Course description

- From: Systematic analysis of agribusiness firm-level decision making using a broad array of management, concepts, managing agribusiness firms and their unique problems and opportunities, and exposure to decision making in agribusiness environment.
- To: Survey of management practices throughout the food marketing chain; focuses on farm and ranch suppliers, farmers and ranchers, first handlers, food processors, food distributors, and restaurants, food retailers and institutions; use of case studies and models for the purpose of evaluating firm management success.

AGEC 344. Food and Agricultural Law.

Course description

- From: Legal problems relevant to agribusiness; torts, fencing laws, liability for agricultural pollution, irrigation water rights, corporations and partnerships.
- To: Legal principles relevant to the farm family and business; characteristics of legal decisions and rules on property rights, and fencing laws; analysis of global, national, state, and local legal issues in contracts, torts, water, pollution, and natural resources.

AGEC 430. Macroeconomics of Agriculture.

Course description

- From: Physical and financial linkages between agriculture and the rest of the economy; agriculture's importance to the economy; the determinants of aggregate supply of agricultural products; the organization and performance of financial intermediaries serving agriculture; and the differential effects of national economic policies on agriculture.
- To: Basic functioning of U.S. economy and relationship to agriculture; the differential effects of macroeconomic policy on disposable income, interest rates, unemployment, inflation and exchange rates; impact on agricultural commodity prices, farm input costs, net farm income, farmland values and key financial indicators.

AGEC 434. Rural Financial Markets and Financial Planning.

Course description

- From: Organization, structure, conduct, and regulation of lending institutions serving commercial agriculture and rural borrowers; financial statement analysis, cash management, investment planning and preparation of loan applications analysis, loan portfolio analysis, and management of the lending function of lenders serving rural businesses.
- To: Organization, structure, conduct and regulation of lending institutions serving commercial agriculture and rural borrowers; borrower financial statement analysis, business forecasting, investment analysis and loan application process; lender credit application underwriting standards, credit scoring and loan decision making process; agricultural loan portfolio analysis.

AGEC 440. Agribusiness Strategic Analysis.

Course description

- From: Economic features of the agribusiness system and related management problems; problem recognition and economic decision making in marketing, production, and finance for agribusiness firms.
- To: Strategic management and economic principles for the agribusiness system; problem recognition and applied managerial/economic decision making with related considerations in marketing, production, or finance for agribusiness firms.

AGEC 460. Cross-Cutting Issues Agricultural Economics.

Course description

- From: Economic concepts used in corporate presentations and decision-making from an agricultural perspective; includes finance, resource economics, policy, marketing, management and quantitative analysis.
- To: Examination of economic theory and its history; emphasis on the areas of agricultural business, finance, macroeconomics, management, marketing, microeconomics, quantitative analysis, resources, and economics policy; emphasis on the ability to properly analyze economic problems.

AGEC 481. Ethics in Agribusiness and Agricultural Economics.

Course description

- From: Ethical issues facing managers and policy-makers in the agribusiness sector; role of professionals in the agricultural food and resource industries; professional opportunities and responsibilities; individual investigations and reports; and discussions with prominent leaders in the field.
- To: Examination of the principals of ethical business behavior; context created through assigned readings, guest speakers from various law enforcement branches and private industry; student written reports about their own experiences relative to this context; attention given to establishing personal principles for an ethical business career.

CHEN 282. Engineering Biology.

Course title

- From: Engineering Biology.
- To: Bioprocess Engineering.

Course description

- From: Application of engineering principles to biological function at the molecular and cellular level.
- To: Application of engineering principles to design of biocatalysts and bioprocesses.

Course prerequisites

- From: Admitted to upper level CHEN.
- To: Grade of C or better in CHEN 204 and CHEN 205; junior or senior classification.

Cross listing

- From: Cross-listed with BMEN 282.
- To: None.

ENGL 203. Introduction to Literature.

Course title

- From: Introduction to Literature.
- To: Writing about Literature.

Course prerequisites

From: ENGL 104.
To: None.

POLS 309. Polimetrics.

Course prerequisites

From: POLS 209 or equivalent; 9 additional hours of political science; STAT 307 and STAT 301 or STAT 303 or equivalents or approval of instructor.
To: POLS 209 or equivalent and 9 additional hours of political science or approval of instructor.

POLS 352. Empirical Democratic Theory.

Course prerequisites

From: POLS 206 and POLS 207; junior or senior classification.
To: POLS 206, POLS 207, and POLS 209; junior or senior classification.

POLS 357. National Judicial Politics.

Course prerequisites

From: None.
To: POLS 206, POLS 209, and junior or senior classification or approval of department head.

POLS 412. International Political Economy.

Course prerequisites

From: POLS 206; junior or senior classification or approval of department head.
To: POLS 206, POLS 209, and junior or senior classification or approval of department head.

POLS 418. Theories of International Relations.

Course prerequisites

From: POLS 206; junior or senior classification or approval of department head.
To: POLS 206, POLS 209, and junior or senior classification or approval of department head.

POLS 439. Foreign Policy Decision Making.

Course prerequisites

From: POLS 206; junior or senior classification or approval of department head.
To: POLS 206, POLS 209, and junior or senior classification or approval of department head.

4. Change in Curricula

College of Education and Human Development

Department of Health and Kinesiology
B.S. in Health
School Health Track

College of Liberal Arts

Department of History
B.A. in History
and
Minor in History – requirement changes

Department of Political Science
B.S. in Political Science

5. Texas A&M University at Galveston

a. New Course

HIST 242. United States Maritime History. (3-0). Credit 3. Development of American maritime history from Colonial times to the present.

c. Change in Course

MARS 412. Remote Field Investigations in Marine Sciences.

Variable credit hours
From: Credit 6.
To: Credit 1 to 6.

6. Special Consideration

College of Liberal Arts

Department of English
Minor in English – requirement changes

7. Tabled Items

- New Course
 - ARCH 328 – (1) no representative present; (2) will needed travel time to Architecture Ranch be a note on Howdy when students register?; (3) minor: last sentence "will be recognized as a place..."; (4) it seems that a student would be unable to calculate his/her grade from the information given in the instructor grading policy. Although %'s are given, the student would also need absolute point value for Project 1, 2, Final, Attendance, and in-class participation.
- Change in Course
 - VIPB 408 – (1) Update ADA statement including website, Aggie Honor code needs website; (2) Rewrite syllabus, keep switching from "I, you, your" to "students, they, their." Several typos throughout. Need to be clear about optional final and the points assigned for final grade. Under

short Quizzes says "Each test is worth 10 pts". Change to quiz. Add website for Rule 7 in Course Policies #1. Typo "Luch Bunch" should be "Lunch Bunch". Is it appropriate to offer \$1.00?; (3) Short 1 week on syllabus, no makeup for pop bonus quiz for excused absence.

8. Tabled Items – *from September 2012 UCC meeting*

- New Course
 - BIOL 461 – (1) other than the requirement that grad students produce a written report, this "stacked" course is not clearly distinguished grad v. ungrad; (2) support letter from BIMS; (3) revise course description ("their") and prereqs on form.

9. Items Not Approved

- Special Consideration
 - College of Agriculture & Life Sciences
 - Department of Department of Agricultural Leadership, Education, & Communications
 - Minor in Leadership
 - Request for a new minor

10. Other Business

- In reference to the requirement changes for the Minor in English, the Chair asked that the concerns (i.e., grade of "C", college versus departmental, etc.) be referred to the AOC for further review.
- Discussion regarding equivalent exams for missed exams and the format of such. Chair will ask AOC to discuss and possibly appoint subcommittee (which will include members of UCC).
- Discussion on external approval for 3+2 and/or 4+1 programs. The Provost Office has indicated external approval is not required if hours don't exceed individual program hours. They are, however, concerned with learning outcomes for both undergraduate and graduate programs. More discussion to follow with AOC for a better understanding of programs.
- Going forward, as mentioned at the October Faculty Senate meeting, all syllabi posted on Howdy must have learning outcomes. Inform your constituents with respect to your departments and college committees of this new requirement.