

## **Minutes for the April 4, 2005 Curriculum Committee Meeting:**

Members present: Ken Rousslang, David Lupher, Suzanne Barnett, Christine Smith, Jim Jasinski, Lori Blake (representative for Brad Tomhave), Grace Livingston, Bill Barry, Carrie Washburn, Richard Anderson-Connolly (Chair), Carlo Bonura (Secretary)

### **Writing and Rhetoric sub-committee report:**

The sub-comm recommended that the full comm approve Exercise Science 123 Understanding High Risk Behavior proposed by Heidi Orloff.

Discussion surrounding approval emphasized the importance of having Writing and Rhetoric courses outside of English and Communications.

**The Committee unanimously approved this course.**

### **SCIS sub-committee report:**

Rousslang **moved** Curriculum Committee approval of the following courses for the Seminar in Scholarly and Creative Inquiry core category.

1. IPE 180, War and Peace in the Middle East, Bradford Dillman, Int'l Political Economy.
2. P&G 137, Politics of Terror, Seth Weinberger, Politics and Government.
3. ECON 104, Peasants, Commodity Markets and Starbucks: Coffee in the Global and Local Economies, Matt Warning, Economics.

Each course proposal meets both the learning objectives and guidelines for courses proposed in the core category of Scholarly and Creative Inquiry Seminar.

War and Peace in the Middle East will examine ongoing conflicts in the Middle East and North Africa, including the Arab-Israeli conflict, Iraq's Wars with Iran and the United States, the Algerian civil war, and the Western Saharan conflict. Goals include understanding of why these conflicts have occurred, and why conflict resolution processes have been illusive.

Politics of Terror examines the phenomenon of terrorism and addresses such topics as "Is one man's terrorist another man's freedom fighter?" The strategies and tools of the War on Terror are also assessed.

"Coffee," the short title of Warning's course, considers the global web of economic relations that govern the production and consumption of coffee. Topics include the economic circumstances of peasant coffee producers, as well as the dramatic expansion of specialty coffee such as Starbucks.

**The Committee unanimously approved these courses.**

Foreign Languages and Literature departmental review:

The Committee discussed staffing distribution across languages and departmental requirements for Asian languages.

It was emphasized that while good assessment is important in developing real learning objectives in addition to understandings student interests and needs there should not be direct connection between assessment and changes to departmental offerings or requirements. Assessment was discussed as part of a broader process.

**The Committee unanimously accepted the departmental review.**

**Continuation of the consideration of the question of transfer students and freshmen seminars:**

There was a general sentiment among members that the Committee should have a sense of how transfer students are affected by the core before any major changes are enacted. A straw poll showed little support for the original decision of the Committee (but there was some split between the current rules—no mixed seminars—and an option for students to petition).

In the general discussion members reaffirmed (as in previous meetings) the importance of the “first year experience” and discussed logistical questions relating to any possible changes to the seminar system.

A vote was taken to close discussion on this point that asked support for the current rules regarding seminars. **The question was worded as “no transfers allowed in any direction and no option for petitions.” The vote was 6 for, 1, against, and 2 abstentions.**