

Report of the Core Requirements Committee

Prepared for the Fall 2015 SAS Faculty and Affiliates Meeting

The Core Requirements Committee (CRC) engaged in three types of activities during Fall 2015:

1. Certification reviews of course proposals
2. Core maintenance reviews of infrequently offered Core courses
3. Core maintenance reviews of Core courses with grade distributions out of line with expectations given enrollment and target audience

1. Certification reviews of course proposals

The CRC reviewed 40 proposals for courses to be certified for the Core Curriculum. The CRC recommended for certification 25 courses, placed 12 on hold waiting for revisions from departments, rejected 1, and had 2 course proposals rescinded by departments after the initial review. The courses recommended for certification are listed in Appendix A. The distribution of recommended certifications by Core goals is presented in Table 1.

Table 1: Fall 2015 Certification Recommendations by Core Goal

Core Goal	Number of Certifications*
21C	9
NS	1
HST	2
SCL	1
AHo	4
AHp	7
AHq	2
AHr	0
WCr	4
WCd	4
QQ	1
QR	1
ITR	3

* Some courses certified for multiple goals.

2. Core maintenance reviews of infrequently offered Core courses

Courses certified for the Core are expected to be offered regularly, preferably once each academic year. Many students use the list of Core courses to plan their courses of study over several semesters. Retaining courses on this list that are never, or rarely, offered creates unnecessary confusion and frustration for student planning.

Based on enrollment data, the CRC identified 43 Core courses that had not been offered since prior to Fall 2013. Departments with courses on this list were contacted and asked whether they intended to offer these courses in the next academic year or whether they wanted these courses retired. Many of the contacted departments responded with specific plans to offer the targeted courses AY 2016-17 and even Spring 2016. Some departments expressed their desire to offer the targeted courses in AY 2016-17 but noted that doing so was contingent on coordinating faculty teaching schedules, hiring qualified instructors, and the like. In the end, eight courses were proposed for retirement by their offering departments. The most common reason given for proposing retirement was that the faculty member who had developed and taught the course was no longer at Rutgers.

The CRC decided to retain in the Core all courses for which departments had specific or tentative plans to offer in the next academic year. Next fall, the CRC will follow up with these departments to see if they were able to carry out their plans.

The courses recommended for retirement are listed in Appendix B. In addition to the eight courses that have not been offered since prior to Fall 2013, the retirement list includes three courses from the Department of Journal and Media Studies of the School of Communication and Information. JMS has changed the numbers and names of these courses and does not intend to have the new course numbers certified for the Core Curriculum.

3. Core maintenance reviews of Core courses with grade distributions out of line with expectations given enrollment and target audience

This past spring, in response to faculty concerns, the Core Requirements Committee established a policy for reviewing and re-certifying courses in the Core Curriculum. The policy is guided by a two-fold conviction. First, courses in the Core curriculum should be sufficiently challenging so that our students can develop their abilities. Second, these courses must also be accessible to a broad range of students.

To begin the review process, the CRC examined grade distributions in Core courses. The members of the CRC recognize that grade distributions are very noisy measures of course standards and used them only to identify courses to subject to further review.

The CRC decided to review courses falling at the two extremes of the grade distribution data. The first set of courses identified was large enrollment courses (100+ total enrollment per semester) with 70 percent or more grades of A for three or more semesters, including one semester during AY 2014-15. The second set was courses with multiple semesters with 50 percent or more grades of D, F, or W. The list of courses reviewed this semester can be found in Appendix C.

Subcommittees of the CRC membership met with the departments offering these courses. The goal of these meetings was to gather information on the structure and administration of the course, the expectations set for student performance, and the relationship between the course objectives and the Core goals for which it was certified. The offering department was then asked to prepare a short document (one to two pages) describing the course and how the standards for student performance are appropriate for a Core Curriculum course. Departments were also asked to describe any plans to revise the course going forward. At the final CRC meeting of the semester, committee members reviewed the submitted documents and heard reports from the subcommittees.

Based on these reviews, the CRC voted to recommend the retirement of two courses: 07:203:101 Dance Appreciation and 07:203:131 Dance Appreciation On-line. After reviewing past assessment reports and the materials submitted by the offering department, members of the CRC felt that these courses no longer met the Core goals of AHo and AHp.

The CRC also voted to conduct a further review in Spring 2016 of 07:700:133 Introduction of Music Theory On-line. Members of the committee felt that this course did meet the goal of AHr but had reservations about the assessment tool and rubric used to date to measure student achievement of this goal. MGSA has proposed to revise the assessment tool and rubric starting in the Spring 2016 semester. The CRC will follow-up to evaluate the success of this revision.

The CRC also decided to conduct a further review in Spring 2016 of 01:988:130 Knowledge and Power. Responsibility for this course is shared by the Department of Women and Gender Studies and Douglass Residential College. Scheduling problems prevented the CRC from meeting with representatives of both WGS and Douglass. The CRC will complete the review of this course next semester.

Submitted on behalf of the Core Requirements Committee, December 2015

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Sharon Stoerger, Information, Technology & Informatics, School of Communication & Information
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Appendix A:

CRC Recommendations for Courses to be Certified as Meeting the Core Curriculum Requirements

<u>Course No(s).</u>	<u>Course Title</u>	<u>Credits</u>	<u>Catalog Description</u>	<u>Core Curriculum REQUIREMENTS</u>
01:013:445	Storytelling in the Muslim World	3	Exploration of storytelling traditions from culturally diverse communities of the Muslim world, from medieval times to the present.	WCD - t + u + v
01:050:210	The American Dream	4	The change in the "American Dream" over time and the stories we tell about it. How our assumptions about American identity shape challenges on such broad issues as democracy, freedom, and social justice.	21C, AHp - a, p
01:050:327, 01:070:321, 01:595:307	Latino Ethnography	3	Cultural description of US Latinos and their communities; introduction to reading, writing, and theorizing ethnography; ethnographic film; ethnography of migration and diaspora; <i>testimonio</i> as ethnography; locating Anthropology within Latino Studies.	WCR, WCD - s-2 + t + v
01:070:201	Evolution and Human Behavior	3	An introduction to the evolutionary biological study of human behavior. Topics covered include basic evolutionary theory, cultural learning, mating, parenting, and cooperation.	NS - e + f
01:078:118	Intermediate Armenian II	3	Development of fluency in written and spoken modern Western Armenian.	AHq - q
01:190:211	Greek and Roman Religion	3	Study of pagan gods and goddesses, cults and practices of the classical Greek world, Roman Republic, and Roman Empire.	HST, AHo - (i) + k, o
01:190:213	Science and Technology in Ancient Greece and Rome	3	The primary focus of the course will be on the scientific knowledge and technological skills of the Ancient Greeks and Romans and their importance for the development of science and technology from the medieval period through to today.	HST - (i) + k
01:198:142, 01:960:142	Data 101	3	Topics in data literacy for students not majoring in Computer Science or Statistics.	21C, QQ, QR, ITR - c, w, x, z
01:354:210	Close Readings of Cinema	4	Close reading and formal analysis of film--visual track, sound track, and narrative construction	AHp - p

<u>Course No(s).</u>	<u>Course Title</u>	<u>Credits</u>	<u>Catalog Description</u>	<u>Core Curriculum REQUIREMENTS</u>
01:358:205	The Coming Apocalypse	4	An interdisciplinary introduction to narrative using novels, films, and other contemporary representations of the world's imminent destruction.	21C, AHp - b, p
01:358:244	Myth and Literature	3	Examines the relationships between myth and literature, myth and media, and myth and daily life; and explores myth as metaphor.	AHp - p
01:358:263	Civilization and its Discontents	3	"Introduction to texts of fundamental importance for the imagination of the individual in society, focusing on the forms through which a culture understands itself, including dialogue, tragedy, parable, and public address.	AHo, AHp - o, p
01:359:209	Introduction to Health, Medicine, and Literature	3	Examines how literature about disease, disability, or the body opens questions concerning language, metaphor, narrative traditions, and the shifting cultural meanings of health, medicine, and human experience.	AHp, WCR - p, s-1 + s-2 + v
01:420:251	France and the World - the World in France (Taught in English)	3	An exploration of the tensions at work in Fifth Republic France between abstract universal definitions of equality and lived social, economic, and juridical disparities, with emphasis on the experience of non-European populations labeled as "immigrant."	AHp - p <i>previously approved 21C - a, b</i>
01:694:316	Honors Introduction to Molecular Biology, Biochemistry, Genetics Research	4	Basic principles and methods of research in molecular biology, biochemistry and genetics, followed by a research project: isolation and analyses of transcriptional regulatory mutants in yeast. Description of research opportunities that are available to undergraduates at the university.	ITR - y, z
01:694:385	MBB Research & Writing	3 - 6	Undergraduate Laboratory Research. Research project in the laboratory of a faculty member. Seminar on science communication. Written and oral reports of research carried out during the semester required.	WCR, WCD - s-2, t + u + v
01:787:202	Intermediate Polish II	4	Intermediate Polish II is a course of the contemporary Polish language, intended for students who have completed Polish 201 or have placed into the course. Students will continue to develop proficiency in four skills: listening, reading, speaking, and writing.	AHq - q

<u>Course No(s).</u>	<u>Course Title</u>	<u>Credits</u>	<u>Catalog Description</u>	<u>Core Curriculum REQUIREMENTS</u>
01:790:318	Comparative Public Policy	3	Theoretical overview of the policy process and inquiry into major areas of public policy across multiple countries. Policy areas covered may vary from year to year.	21C - d
01:840:101	Gods, Myths, and Religions in a Secular Age {WAS: <i>Introduction to Religion: Social Patterns</i> }	3	An introduction to the study of religion that focuses on myth; religious authority; purity and sacred space; ritual practices; and major theories of religion.	21C, AHo - b, o
01:840:105	Religion and Current Events	3	Analyzes hot-button topics on the contemporary religious scene. How is religion shaping major trends in the 21st century, especially as they relate to issues of social justice? How is religion changing in response to contemporary events and developments?	21C, AHo - a, o
01:840:311	Christians, "the Other", and Violence	3	History and analysis of Christians as victims and perpetrators of violence, from early Christianity to the early modern period. Includes the study of martyrdom, imperial and medieval Christianity, crusades, and the European Wars of Religion.	WCR - s-1 + s-2 + v
01:860:334, 01:195:334	Russia: Between Empire and Nation	3	Study of Russia's imperial culture, history, and politics from the 19th to the 21st century, as a window onto geopolitical shifts in contemporary Russia's relations to the wider world.	21C - b
04:189:251	Strategic Presentation Methods in Digital Media	3	Examines theories and techniques for analyzing, producing, and disseminating messages. Students will learn how to use web-based and multimedia presentation tools to connect with a variety of audiences and convey a desired message. Each student will craft a message to support some social change by developing and shaping the message into compelling digital media presentations in a range of formats.	ITR - aa

<u>Course No(s).</u>	<u>Course Title</u>	<u>Credits</u>	<u>Catalog Description</u>	<u>Core Curriculum REQUIREMENTS</u>
11:216:317	Conservation Ecology	3	Effects of technology and population growth on species, ecosystems, and human communities. Environmental impact of agricultural and industrial systems. Global environmental change. Biological and social underpinnings of conservation.	21C, WCD - c, t + u + v
11:374:175	Energy and Society	3	Main sources, transfers, and losses of energy in the biosphere; how they relate to human resources and enter the immediate environments of humans and other organisms.	21C, SCL - b, (h) + n

New Permanent Cross-Listings for Previously-Certified Courses:

<u>New Course No(s).</u>	<u>Course Title</u>	<u>Credits</u>	<u>Catalog Description</u>	<u>Core Curriculum REQUIREMENTS</u>
01:195:348	Stories of Russian Life: Memory, Invention, Experience <i>Previously-certified - 01:860:348</i>	3	Examination of how Russian writers have imagined and represented the self in various kinds of life narratives (such as autobiography, diary, memoir, and semi-fiction). Memory and invention, history and personality, genre and technique, from the medieval era to the present, with emphasis on the 20th century.	AHo, AHp, WCD- o, p, s-1 + t + v

Appendix B:

CRC Recommendations for Courses to be Retired from the Core Curriculum

<u>Course No(s).</u>	<u>Course Title</u>	<u>Credits</u>	<u>Catalog Description</u>	<u>Core Curriculum REQUIREMENTS</u>
01:013:325	Persian Epic Literature	3	Introduction to Persian epic through poetry and prose texts, from ancient to classical. Students read original sources in translation and learn history of scholarship on Persian literature.	AHp - p
01:119:152	Biomedical Issues of AIDS	3	Fundamentals of infectious disease, immunology, and virology as they apply to the HIV disease. The impact of this epidemic examined in a variety of psychological and social arenas.	21C - c
01:506:114	World Civilizations: Europe, Africa, and America	3	Family, economy, government, and religion in major civilizations of West Africa, Europe, and North America. Interaction of these geographical areas through the slave trade, colonialism, and the movement of ideas and culture.	HST, SCL - (h) + (j) + l, m
01:508:260	Colonial Latin America	3	Study of formation of culture and society in Latin America through intermingling and merger of Native Americans, Iberians, and Africans.	HST - (h) + (j) + k
01:510:265, 01:563:240	Jewish-Christian Relations through the Ages	3	Jewish-Christian relations from the 1st century CE to the start of the 21st century. Focuses both on the history of interactions between Jews and Christians - persecutions, collaborations, conversions...	HST - (i) + k
01:512:121	Health and Environment in America	3	Changing manner in which Americans perceived and responded to health-related problems involving both the individual and the physical and social environment from the seventeenth to the twentieth century.	HST - (h) + (j) + k + l
01:560:260	From Literary Text to Film: An Introduction	3	An introduction to the cinematic adaptation of literary texts within the Italian context, through the analysis and discussion of pivotal narratives and their cinematic counterparts. No knowledge of Italian is required.	AHo, AHp - o, p

<u>Course No(s).</u>	<u>Course Title</u>	<u>Credits</u>	<u>Catalog Description</u>	<u>Core Curriculum REQUIREMENTS</u>
01:988:160	Women Working in the Global Economy: Feminist Perspectives	3	Examines issues related to women's paid and unpaid work as world markets integrate. Analyzes actions of governments, unions, women's movements, employers, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to promote equality and women's well-being.	21C – a, b, d
04:567:310	Broadcast News Writing and Reporting	3	News writing for radio, with review of television news writing approaches for comparison.	WCR, WCD - s-1 + s-2, t + u + v
04:567:324	News Reporting and Writing	3	This course teaches the fundamentals of gathering information and journalistic writing.	WCR, WCD - s-1 + s-2, t + u + v
04:567:330	Exploring New Media	3	Open only to journalism and media studies majors. Examines the nature and impact of emerging media technology. Students learn the primary ways new technology influences media and study the five forms...	21C - b, c
07:203:101	Dance Appreciation	3	An introduction to dance as an art form, including the study of the historical, cultural, social and performative contexts of diverse dance forms. Students will develop an appreciation of dance as a form of communication and personal expression.	AHo, AHp - o, p
07:203:131	Dance Appreciation Online	3	An introduction to dance as an art form, including the study of the historical, cultural, social and performative contexts of diverse dance forms. Students will develop an appreciation of dance as a form of communication and personal expression...	AHo, AHp - o, p

Appendix C:

List of Core Certified Courses Reviewed by the CRC Fall 2015

Courses with 70 percent or more grades of A

<u>Course No(s).</u>	<u>Course Title</u>	<u>Core Curriculum REQUIREMENTS</u>	<u>Outcome of Review</u>
01:351:211, 01:351: 212	Introduction to Creative Writing	AHr - r	Retain
01:988:130	Knowledge and Power: Issues in Women's Leadership	21c- a, c	Further review Spring 2016
05:300:350	Education and Computers	ITR - y	Retain
07:203:101	Dance Appreciation	AHo, AHp - o, p	Retire
07:203:131	Dance Appreciation Online	AHo, AHp - o, p	Retire
07:700:133	Introduction to Music Theory On-line	AHr - r	Further review Spring 2016

Courses with 50 percent or more grades of D, F, and W

<u>Course No(s).</u>	<u>Course Title</u>	<u>Core Curriculum REQUIREMENTS</u>	<u>Outcome of Review</u>
01:119:100	Concepts in Biology	NS – e, f, g	Retain
01:640:112	Precalculus II	QQ, QR - w, x	Retain
01:640:115	Precalculus College Mathematics	QQ, QR - w, x	Retain