

Mason Core Meeting

Thursday, January 25, 2024, from 1:30-3:30pm via Zoom

In Attendance: Laura Poms (Mason Core Director), Keith Renshaw (Associate Provost, Mason Core Co-Chair), Abena Aidoo Hewton, Ana Stoehr, Courtney Wooten, Jamie Clark, Jason Kinser, Lauren Cattaneo, Liz White, Samaine Lockwood, Shun Ye, Thomas Polk (ex-officio), Shelley Reid (ex-officio), Gina Polychronopoulos (ex-officio), Tricia Wilson (recording secretary)

Guests: Kristen Wright, Ryan Braun, Liz Bartles, Bobbi Nelson

Welcome

Announcements

- Meeting management
- Member updates
- Just Societies update
- Schedule update

Proposals

Category	Title	Note
Global Contexts	HIST 271: Survey of Latin American History	The committee felt this course was a natural fit for the category. The rationale was clear, and the assignments were assessable and mapped thoughtfully to the learning outcomes. Vote: Approved as is
SBS	INTS 337: Social Justice Consciousness and Action	This course was met with enthusiasm, but overall, there was expressed concern regarding how the provided assignments mapped to the learning outcomes. The provided rationale did not clearly articulate how this course fit within the category. Vote: Rollback with revisions
Just Societies	INTS 337: Social Justice Consciousness and Action	While the assignments do seem to match the learning outcomes, they do not appear to be clearly assessable and lead to an individual student artifact. How students will show mastery of the learning outcomes could be more clearly articulated. Vote: Rollback with revisions
Global Contexts	INTS 406: Global Leadership	While the course seems to fit within the realm of this category, the assignment mapped to LO1 does not adequately show how it will demonstrate students' ability to identify the global patterns. The connections between the assignments and the learning outcomes could be strengthened.

		Vote: Rollback with revisions
Just Societies	INTS 406: Global Leadership	<p>The committee provided positive feedback on the connections to learning outcomes. However, the course relies on a group project that does not seem to provide individual student artifacts for assessment purposes. Dr. Poms will be available to meet with the faculty member(s).</p> <p>Vote: Approved, pending Global Contexts and group assignment revisions</p>
Global Contexts	ANTH 320: Global Africa	<p>The course seems like a natural fit within the category. However, the assignment mapped to LO2 is a group assignment, which complicates the assessable nature of this outcome. Dr. Poms will be available to meet with the faculty member(s).</p> <p>Vote: Rollback with revisions</p>
Literature	ENGH 206: Literature in the Creation of Just Societies	<p>Positive feedback overall on the course development and detailed course management plan. The committee discussed the complicated nature of a special topics course, but ultimately determined the course management plan considered this well. The learning outcomes shown on the syllabus do not match the proposal, but this is an administrative issue that can be addressed without rollback.</p> <p>Vote: Approve, pending update to syllabus</p>
Just Societies	ENGH 206: Literature in the Creation of Just Societies	<p>While the assignments matched to the Literature outcomes seemed to translate well across course iterations, there was a concern related to the Just Societies outcomes. For example, LO1a and b are met very differently in the two iterations provided, which could be problematic for assessment. Suggestion to include a common frame for the assignments to better encourage accessibility in each iteration.</p> <p>Vote: Rollback with revisions</p>
Just Societies	ENGH 315: Folklore and Folklife	<p>While the course seems like a natural fit for the category, assignment guidelines could include wording more specific to the learning outcomes. For example, the discussion assignment instructions for LO1B could include more specific parameters to foster meaningful engagement about course issues related to the key terms.</p> <p>Vote: Rollback with revisions</p>
Global Contexts	RELI 212: Introduction to Religions of Asia	<p>The committee felt this course was a natural fit for the category. The rationale was clear, and the assignments were assessable and mapped thoughtfully to the learning outcomes.</p> <p>Vote: Approve as is</p>
Just Societies	RELI 212: Introduction to Religions of Asia	<p>This course seems to be a strong candidate for this designation, but there are some issues with how the learning outcomes will be met and whether the assignments will lead to individual student artifacts for</p>

		<p>assessment. For example, LO1a does not seem to be rooted in course content, and LO1b's assignment prompt could be strengthened to better address the meaningful engagement piece.</p> <p>Vote: Rollback with revisions</p>
Arts	THR 195: Play Production Technical Practicum	<p>As written, this proposal lacks clarity on how the course assignments included will meet the learning outcomes and lead to assessable student artifacts. More details requested within the rationale, the assignment map, and the course management plan. Dr. Poms will be available to meet with the faculty member(s).</p> <p>Vote: Rollback with revisions</p>
Global Contexts	HIST 377: The Vietnam War	<p>The committee felt this course was a natural fit for the category. The rationale was clear, and the assignments were assessable and mapped thoughtfully to the learning outcomes.</p> <p>Vote: Approve as is</p>
Just Societies	INTS 331: The Nonprofit Sector	<p>Ultimately, the committee felt this course does not align with the intention of the Just Societies flag. As a result, the committee voted to rollback without encouragement to resubmit. Dr. Poms is available to meet with the faculty member(s) as needed.</p> <p>Vote: Rollback without encouragement to resubmit</p>
Global Contexts	RELI 100: The Human Religious Experience	<p>The course seems to fit well within this category, but the provided assignments could better connect to assessment. For example, the assignment for LO1 does not seem to lead to an individual student artifact that could be submitted for assessment purposes. Suggestion to include an added element such as a reflection to better illustrate how students will meet that LO.</p> <p>Vote: Rollback with revisions</p>
Just Societies	RELI 100: The Human Religious Experience	<p>Similar to the feedback for Global Contexts, the course seems to be a clear fit within this category, but the assignments could better match the outcomes for assessment purposes. For example, the assignment for LO2 seems to be a verb mismatch, as there isn't a clear aspect of this assignment in which students are given the opportunity to analyze or reflect how language choices can be a strategy for addressing justice. LO1b also seems to be lacking a clear artifact illustrating that students "engaged meaningfully with peers", as stated in the LO.</p> <p>Vote: Rollback with revisions</p>
Global Contexts	RELI 310: Judaism	<p>The committee felt this is a strong proposal overall, but there were a few suggestions to more clearly connect the assignments for LO1 and 3 to the outcomes. For example, the family assignment for LO1 received a positive response but there was a suggestion to add an additional aspect that asks students to put that experience into the larger social context. For LO3, the emphasis on "analyzing solutions to global problems" could also be clearer in the assignment instructions that this is required of students.</p>

		Vote: Rollback with revisions
Just Societies	RELI 310: Judaism	<p>Similarly, it's clear that this course will support the topics and intention of the Just Societies outcomes well. However, as written there is no assessable student artifact for LO1b. Suggestion to add something more focused to the learning outcome language (specifically that "meaningful engagement piece") to illustrate that the LO is being met for each student.</p> <p>Vote: Rollback with revisions</p>
Global Contexts	NEUR 355: Cross-Cultural Studies in Scientific Inquiry	<p>This course was met with enthusiasm as an added option for students participating in study abroad to also achieve Mason Core credits, but there are some administrative questions the committee needs to answer before approving this course. Dr. Poms will meet with the faculty member(s) to discuss.</p> <p>Vote: Rollback with revisions</p>
Just Societies	GLOA 101: Introduction to Global Affairs	<p>The committee felt this course reflected the recommendations from the previous submission. The rationale was clear, and the assignments were assessable and mapped thoughtfully to the learning outcomes.</p> <p>Vote: Approve as is</p>
Just Societies	GOVT 103: Introduction to American Government	<p>The committee felt this course reflected the recommendations from the previous submission. The rationale was clear, and the assignments were assessable and mapped thoughtfully to the learning outcomes.</p> <p>Vote: Approve as is</p>
Global Contexts	EVPP 336: Tackling Wicked Problems in Society & the Environment	<p>The committee felt this course reflected the recommendations from the previous submission. The rationale was clear, and the assignments were assessable and mapped thoughtfully to the learning outcomes.</p> <p>Vote: Approve as is</p>
Just Societies	EVPP 336: Tackling Wicked Problems in Society & the Environment	<p>The committee felt this course reflected the recommendations from the previous submission. The rationale was clear, and the assignments were assessable and mapped thoughtfully to the learning outcomes.</p> <p>Vote: Approve as is</p>

Due to time constraints, the following courses were not discussed. These will be at the top of the agenda for February's Mason Core committee meeting.

Global Contexts	RELI 211: Introduction to Religions of the "West"
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Just Societies	RELI 211: Introduction to Religions of the "West"
Global Contexts	FOLK 100: Global Folklore
Global Contexts	HIST 364: Revolution in Latin America
Just Societies	HIST 364: Revolution in Latin America
Literature	HIST 381: Remembering Histories of Violence: Narrative Engagements with Difficult Pasts
Just Societies	HIST 381: Remembering Histories of Violence: Narrative Engagements with Difficult Pasts
Global Contexts	HIST 384: Global History of Christianity
Just Societies	HIST 384: Global History of Christianity
Just Societies	INTS 336: Poverty, Wealth and Inequality in the US
Global Contexts	RELI 240: Death and the Afterlife in Religion
Just Societies	RELI 240: Death and the Afterlife in Religion
Global Contexts	RELI 313: Hinduism
Just Societies	RELI 313: Hinduism
Global Contexts	COMM 305: Foundations of Intercultural Communication
Just Societies	COMM 305: Foundations of Intercultural Communication
Global Contexts	INTS 416: Refugee and Internal Displacement
Global Contexts	SPAN 212: Intermediate Spanish II: Local and Global Contexts
Global Contexts	ARAB 385: Migrating Voices in Arabic Literature
Global Contexts	INTS 315: Spirituality and Conflict Transformation
Global Contexts	BUS 200: Global Environment of Business
Just Societies	BUS 100: Business and Society