

Mason Core Meeting

Thursday, November 30, 2023, from 1:30-3:30pm via [Zoom](#)

Welcome

Attendees: Laura Poms (Mason Core Director), Debra Stroiney (Co-Chair), Keith Renshaw (Associate Provost, Mason Core Co-Chair), Matthew Dievendorf, Jamie Clark, Liz White, Shun Ye, Jason Kinser, Courtney Wooten, Samaine Lockwood, Jason Kinser, Lauren Cattaneo, Aarush Jambunathan, Gina Polychronopoulos (ex-officio), Shelley Reid (ex-officio), Tom Polk (ex-officio), Tricia Wilson (recording secretary)

Guests: Kristen Wright, Liz Bartles, Bobbi Nelson

Announcements

- Meeting management
- Removal of Mason Core Arts designation effective Fall 2024:
 - DANC 325: Modern/Contemporary Dance III
 - DANC 345: Ballet III

Proposals

Category	Title	Notes
Just Societies	INTS 319: Contemporary Youth Studies	The committee feels this course is a good fit for Just Societies, but the worksheet needs to be revised for clarity. It seems the content is there, but the assignment map is not clear as to how those assignments will most clearly lead to mastery of the LOs, particularly with the peer engagement piece in LO1b. As written, there is no assessable artifact for meaningful

		<p>engagement with peers. Invitation to meet with Laura Poms to assist with revisions.</p> <p>Vote: Rollback with revisions and resubmit</p>
Just Societies	WMST 200: Introduction to Women and Gender Studies	<p>The committee feels this course is a good fit for Just Societies, but the worksheet needs to be revised for clarity. It seems the content is there, but the assignment map is not clear as to how those assignments will most clearly lead to mastery of the LOs, particularly with the peer engagement piece in LO1b. As written, there is no assessable artifact for meaningful engagement with peers. Invitation to meet with Laura Poms to assist with revisions.</p> <p>Vote: Rollback with revisions and resubmit</p>
Just Societies	WMST 208: Introduction to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Studies	<p>The committee feels this course is a good fit for Just Societies, but the worksheet needs to be revised for clarity. It seems the content is there, but the assignment map is not clear as to how those assignments will most clearly lead to mastery of the LOs, particularly with the peer engagement piece in LO1b. As written, there is no assessable artifact for meaningful engagement with peers. Invitation to meet with Laura Poms to assist with revisions.</p> <p>Vote: Rollback with revisions and resubmit</p>
Just Societies	INTS 363: Social Justice Narratives	<p>Overall, the committee feels this course is a strong fit for Just Societies. However, there should be more evidence of a singular, assessable student artifact for meeting LO1b. For example, the prompt provided for the fast-write does not meet LO1b, as the assignment should illustrate how students meaningfully engaged with peers. Strong proposal otherwise.</p> <p>Vote: Rollback with revisions and resubmit</p>

Global Contexts	SOCI 332: The Urban World	<p>The committee agreed that this course seemed like a clear fit for the category. Limited discussion as a result, and the committee voted to approve.</p> <p>Vote: Approve as is</p>
Just Societies	SOCI 352: Social Problems and Solutions	<p>Positive feedback provided overall, but the assignment map could be strengthened to better defend how LO1b is being addressed. For example, the UnEssay assignment might include meaningful engagement with peers, but as written the assignment doesn't seem to lead to an assessable student artifact that illustrates students meet that outcome. Suggestion to add an additional element, such as a reflection, to meet that.</p> <p>Vote: Rollback with revisions and resubmit</p>
Global Contexts	INYO 261: Mentoring Multilingual Learners	<p>Positive feedback from the committee. One suggestion provided about management plan, but this did not interfere with the course's approval.</p> <p>Vote: Approve as is</p>
Just Societies	INYO 261: Mentoring Multilingual Learners	<p>Positive feedback from the committee. Outcomes are clearly met, and the course clearly maintains a global perspective. Committee voted to approve.</p> <p>Vote: Approve as is</p>
Just Societies	GOVT 103: Introduction to American Government	<p>Positive feedback on the course, but some issues with how LO2b is being evaluated – as written, the committee can't see clearly that strategies for addressing obstacles to justice are being discussed and considered. The CEA assignments are great, for example, but how they will be evaluated to support mastery of the LOs should be better articulated. Invitation to meet with Laura Poms to assist with revisions.</p> <p>Vote: Rollback with revisions and resubmit</p>

Just Societies	GOVT 134: Grand Challenges to Human Security	<p>Very positive feedback on how the course assignments reflect the LOS. Great use of peer review for meeting LO1B.</p> <p>Vote: Approve as is</p>
Just Societies	HIST 272: Survey of Latin American History	<p>Positive feedback on the revisions. One main issue is that the syllabus does not mention the meaningful engagement aspect of the prompt. Course will be approved once updated syllabus is received with correct language.</p> <p>Vote: Approve as is, pending minor revisions (syllabus language)</p>
Global Contexts	INTS 417: Human Trafficking and Smuggling	<p>While the course seems like a natural fit for this category, more details are needed on the assignment map. More articulation is needed on the proposal to clarify how the assignments meet the LOs and how they will be assessed. There was additional discussion about the two syllabi (one lists 3 credits, one lists 6). The course management plan could also be further revised. Invitation to meet with Laura Poms to assist with revisions.</p> <p>Vote: Rollback with revisions and resubmit</p>
Mason Apex	GOVT 492: Computing Ethics, Law and Policy Seminar	<p>Overall, the course seems applicable as a Mason Apex course. However, there is no course management plan included. The committee will need to see and review this plan prior to approval, but the Mason Apex elements are approved.</p> <p>Vote: Approve as is, pending the sustainability plan</p>
Writing Intensive	GOVT 492: Computing Ethics, Law and Policy Seminar	<p>Overall, the committee would like to see more attention in the proposal to show "significant instruction". Additional issues with the LO "writing as a process," as there might not be enough time for drafting purpose. The committee also discussed the importance of incorporating peer review for a WI course, and that could be more clearly supported in the proposal. Invitation to meet with Tom Polk for assistance with revisions.</p>

		Vote: Rollback with revisions and resubmit
Mason Apex	NEUR 422: Glutamatergic Systems	<p>The committee had some issue with how the learning outcomes have been rephrased. For example, the rephrasing of LO1 seem to be missing the major concept of “exploring complex issues in an original way.” As written then, the LOs do not meet category expectations. Additional issues present regarding the course management plan, as it doesn’t seem feasible to change out the course in the event a specific instructor will be unable to teach. Should consider how this might impact students in the event that happen, as it would require another course to be developed and approved. Invitation to meet with Laura Poms to assist with revisions.</p> <p>Vote: Rollback with revisions and resubmit</p>
Global Contexts	CRIM 308: Human Rights and Justice	<p>Positive feedback around the intentionality to develop a framework assignment for multiple modalities/instructors, but as written it remains problematic because it allows for too much flexibility. Content is a good match for both categories, but the proposal needs to more clearly identify how LOs will be met. Additional concerns provided regarding how well the sustainability plan protects the course.</p> <p>Vote: Rollback with revisions and resubmit</p>
Just Societies	CRIM 308: Human Rights and Justice	<p>Positive feedback around the intentionality to develop a framework assignment for multiple modalities/instructors, but as written it remains problematic because it allows for too much flexibility. Content is a good match for both categories, but the proposal needs to more clearly identify how LOs will be met. Additional concerns provided regarding how well the sustainability plan protects the course.</p> <p>Vote: Rollback with revisions and resubmit</p>

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

Global Contexts	HIST 271: Survey of Latin American History
SBS	INTS 337: Social Justice Consciousness and Action
Just Societies	INTS 337: Social Justice Consciousness and Action
Global Contexts	INTS 406: Global Leadership
Just Societies	INTS 406: Global Leadership
Global Contexts	ANTH 320: Global Africa
Literature	ENGH 206: Literature in the Creation of Just Societies
Just Societies	ENGH 206: Literature in the Creation of Just Societies
Just Societies	ENGH 315: Folklore and Folklife