

Mason Core Meeting

Thursday, November 9, 2023, from 1:30-3:30pm via [Zoom](#)

Welcome

Attendees: Laura Poms (Mason Core Director), Debra Stroiney (Co-Chair), Matthew Dievendorf, Jamie Clark, Liz White, Shun Ye, Jason Kinser, Courtney Wooten, Lauren Cattaneo, Aarush Jambunathan, Abena Aidoo Hewton, Shelley Reid (ex-officio), Tom Polk (ex-officio), Tricia Wilson (recording secretary)

Guests: Amberly Page, Ann Ludwick, Bobbi Nelson, Brian Platt, Doug Eyman, Heidi Gearhart, Jacquelyn Williamson, Ilona Moore, Jill Bowen, KL Akerlof, Lila Fleming, Lisa Breglia, Liz Bartles, Laurie Schintler, Misty Krell, Nupoor Ranade, Rosemarie Zagarri, Samuel Huneke, Wayne Adams, Zachary Schrag, Matt Karush, Alok Yadav, Amaka Okechukwu, Meghan Garrity

Announcements

- Meeting management

Proposals

Category	Title	Notes
Arts	ARTH 317: The Black Pharaohs: Art and Archaeology of Ancient Nubia	Overall, there were some concerns around the mapping between learning outcomes and assignments included in the proposal. Additional concerns surrounding the course management plan. The instructor was available to respond to these concerns, and the committee ultimately voted to approve the course. Vote: Approve as is
IT&C	ENGH 210: Equitable AI	Positive feedback relating to applicability with Mason Core, but some concerns around the provided assignments. Faculty contact was present to respond to the concerns and shared more information about the assignments. Vote: Approve as is

SBS	INTS 434: Research for Social Change	<p>Concerns on how the discussion prompts could be used to illustrate mastery over SBS learning outcomes. More clarification is needed on how those assignments will lead to mastery.</p> <p>Vote: Rollback with revisions, resubmit</p>
Just Societies	INTS 434: Research for Social Change	<p>Concern from committee on how LO1b is being met (or if it is being met). Suggestion that if using a discussion board to meet LO1b, the instructor should include parameters in the instructions for how to encourage students to engage meaningfully over the key terms specifically, as this would also help with ensuring an appropriate artifact for assessment. As written, the replies could be focused on other aspects of their classmates' posts and therefore not meet that LO.</p> <p>Vote: Rollback with revisions, resubmit</p>
Global Contexts	ARTH 320: Art of the Islamic World	<p>Some concerns brought up regarding LO3 (specifically in regards to positionality). The faculty member was available for response, and provided some clarity on how that outcome is met.</p> <p>Vote: Approve as is</p>
Global Contexts	EVPP 336: Tackling Wicked Problems in Society & the Environment	<p>Positive feedback overall; however, there were some concerns regarding the connections between assignments and LOs. There is a particular concern over how positionality is being met, in addition to whether the course as designed is able to touch on all the elements well. The faculty member was available to provide a response, and they discussed how the readings and assignments are situated in a global context. The committee felt that there was more clarification needed, however.</p> <p>Vote: Rollback with revisions, resubmit</p>
Just Societies	EVPP 336: Tackling Wicked Problems in Society & the Environment	<p>Some concerns provided surrounding how JS LO1 in particular will be assessed ensure proper engagement with peers. Faculty member clarified how the group work/individual work might play out. The committee responded, however, that there needs to be an assessable artifact for assessment purpose, which is not clearly visible in the current proposal.</p> <p>Vote: Rollback with revisions, resubmit</p>

Global Contexts	GCH 205: Global Health	Concerns provided as to how the LOs were frontloaded in the course, as this might not provide enough time for full mastery. The faculty member was present and clarified that it's frontloaded as a way to set the standard for the rest of the course, as those ideas are brought throughout the entirety of the course. Vote: Approve as is
Just Societies	GCH 205: Global Health	Clarification requested on how the assignment for LO1b would be assessed. Overall positive comments on this course's applicability to Mason Core. Vote: Approve as is
Global Contexts	GLOA 101: Introduction to Global Affairs	Positive feedback overall, but there was a request for more information on how the assignment provided meets the LO. The faculty member was available to respond and clarified how the reading is structured to support those LOs. Vote: Approve as is
Just Societies	GLOA 101: Introduction to Global Affairs	Positive feedback overall, but some concerns presented about how the assignments could be further revised to clearly identify how students might gain mastery over the JS LOs. The faculty member present discussed how JS is interwoven throughout the course but there were not as many assignments provided that met the standards. Committee would like to see more clear examples of how the assignments could match with the LOs. Dr. Poms is available to work with faculty to clarify. Vote: Rollback with revisions, resubmit
Just Societies	GOVT 103: Introduction to American Government	Positive comments overall, but some clarification needed on how the assignments will be assessment. For example, the CEA assignment does not seem to meet the goals of LO1b or lead to an assessable artifact. Vote: Rollback with revisions, resubmit
Global Contexts	GOVT 134: Grand Challenges to Human Security	Positive feedback overall. Some concerns provided as to how the assignments are mapped, specifically how the LOs are met and assessed.

		<p>However, one Committee member mentioned this was only one of many assignments and there were other options for meeting those LOs assessable.</p> <p>Vote: Approve as is</p>
Just Societies	GOVT 134: Grand Challenges to Human Security	<p>Similar feedback on the JS Los as above regarding the assignments. Some concern on how LO1b is being met in particular. While there is a peer review element, the meaningful discussion piece of course issues seems to be missing, and there might need to be an added element to this assignment as a result. For example, the peer review could be focused on other aspects of their classmates' work and therefore not meet that LO. Suggestion to clarify what aspects should be commented on relating to key terms as a way to better meet the LOs.</p> <p>Vote: Rollback with revisions, resubmit</p>
SBS	GOVT 150: Introduction to Technology Policy	<p>Positive feedback on relatability to Mason Core category, but some clarification is needed for how LO3 is being met. Particularly, the Committee requested seeing the assignments as that would help solidify how the LOs are being met. Clarification that faculty only need to submit at least one assignment sample for each LO.</p> <p>Vote: Rollback with revisions, resubmit</p>
Just Societies	GOVT 150: Introduction to Technology Policy	<p>In addition to seeing the actual assignments, there is additional concerns on how the LO 1b element would be met. Faculty member did clarify how the writing assignment mentioned in 1a is carried over into 1b, but Committee would like to see this more clearly in the proposal.</p> <p>Vote: Rollback with revisions, resubmit</p>
Global Contexts	HIST 272: Survey of Latin American History	<p>Positive comments overall on how this course fits within the Core. Main comments surrounding the course management plan and the positionality piece. Faculty was available to respond to provide clarification. As for positionality, the faculty member shared how the LO is met, but admits that the materials did not reflect that as clearly as they could have.</p>

		Vote: Approved, pending revised sustainability plan
Just Societies	HIST 272: Survey of Latin American History	<p>Main concern on this designation revolves around whether or not the assignments provide students the opportunity to illustrate mastery over those LOs. Some concern around whether the assignment for LO1b is assessable. Suggestion to clarify that that LO1b assignment also integrates the LO1a elements in the mapping, and focus on how to prompt students to respond to those key terms in a meaningful way.</p> <p>Vote: Rollback with revisions, resubmit</p>
SBS	HIST 314: History of Germany	<p>Positive overall but some issues with how those assignments meet LO3 and whether this course is a natural fit for SBS. Discussion about the social sciences nature of history and how the course fits the LOs. Main issue surrounding a lack of information provided in the course management plan.</p> <p>Vote: Approved, pending revised sustainability plan</p>
Global Contexts	HIST 356: Modern Japan	<p>Overall positive feedback on how this course fits within Mason Core. The main issue relates to a lack of information provided in the course management plan.</p> <p>Vote: Approved, pending revised sustainability plan</p>
Global Contexts	HIST 357: Postwar Japan	<p>Overall positive feedback on how this course fits within Mason Core. The main issue relates to a lack of information provided in the course management plan.</p> <p>Vote: Approved, pending revised sustainability plan</p>
Global Contexts	HIST 378: History of Aviation	<p>Overall there is a concern as to how the instructor will ensure students will interact with the global aspect (and not just the US). The Committee expressed the concern that the course might not be a natural fit for meeting the Global Contexts outcomes and will require additional development to ensure the learning outcomes are met. Suggestion to pull one of the readings and show specifically how an assignment mapped to that reading would guide students to meet the LOs on the</p>

		next submission. Suggestion to meet with Laura, Shelley, or Deb to further develop the proposal. Vote: Rollback with revisions, resubmit
Just Societies	HIST 378: History of Aviation	Same comments and recommendations as above. More development is also needed to ensure the Just Societies outcomes are being met. Vote: Rollback with revisions, resubmit

Due to timing, the following proposals were held off for a future meeting:

Literature	HIST 403: Revolutionary Era in American History, 1763-1811
Just Societies	HIST 403: Revolutionary Era in American History, 1763-1812
Just Societies	INTS 319: Contemporary Youth Studies
Just Societies	INTS 363: Social Justice Narratives
Global Contexts	SOCI 332: The Urban World
Just Societies	WMST 200: Introduction to Women and Gender Studies
Just Societies	WMST 208: Introduction to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Studies