

From: [James Fredal](mailto:James.Fredal)
To: boykin.1@osu.edu
Cc: [Vankeerbergen, Bernadette](mailto:Vankeerbergen.Bernadette)
Subject: AAS 200 GEC Proposal
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Dr. Elona Boykin

The Sciences Subcommittee of the CCI met on Monday to review the AAAS proposal to have the class "Major Readings in African American and African Studies" count in the GEC Diversity in the U.S. category and the Social Science: Individuals and Groups category. The committee approved the request for Diversity in the U.S. status, but it did not approve the request for Social Science: Individuals and Groups. The committee did not feel that the course proposal demonstrated fulfillment of the three expected learning outcomes for this category. Though the course clearly does address issues relevant to groups and individuals in the U.S., it does not seem to do so from a Social Sciences perspective, including theories and methods of the Social Sciences, the behavior of individuals and groups and the processes through which they function, and the assessment of social values and their role in policymaking and problem solving. The course likely does address these issues, but it's not clear how they do so from the perspective of the social sciences. One committee member commented that the course appeared to fit better into the Humanities: Cultures and Ideas category, based on the humanistic approach of the readings and topics. Finally, the committee felt that the assessment plan needed to translate more clearly the goals of the GEC category (and the goals of the course) to the assessment tools, suggesting how specifically elements of these tools (the graded assignments, for example) would be used, and which would be used, for each GEC learning outcome, and then how that assessment data would be used to revise the course to improve the fulfillment of those learning outcomes.

I'd be happy to talk more about the course and the committees decision if I can be of any further assistance.

Jim Fredal

Chair, CCI Sciences Subcommittee
Assoc. Professor
Director Second Level Writing
Faculty Advisor, Speech and Debate team
Dept of English
Ohio State University