

Date: November 18, 2010

To: ASC Committee on Curriculum and Instruction, and
Office of Academic Affairs

Re: New Course Proposals: ASC 230 & ASC E230

The Innovation Group for the OSU Center for Ethics and Human Values has received funding to lead what we are describing as a “year-long, University-wide conversation on immigration.” This funding has come from President Gee, Joe Steinmetz, Executive Dean of the Arts and Sciences, the Mershon Center for International Security Studies, the Institute for Collaborative Research and Public Humanities, and the Initiative in Population Research. The funding will provide for two short interdisciplinary conferences, bookending the academic year 2011-12, and six individual events throughout the year addressed to this topic. Around this academic core, we are working to function as a catalyst for numerous other events being sponsored by a wide range of units and groups at OSU.

We envision this project as a prototype for similar “conversations” to be held on a biennial basis. We are calling these projects ‘Conversations on Morality, Politics, and Society’ (COMPAS). Future COMPAS programs might be organized around such broad, interdisciplinary themes as: Health & Wellbeing; Competition & Cooperation, and so forth.

Course Proposals:

The faculty involved in this project—which include individuals from numerous Arts & Sciences departments, including Political Science, Philosophy, Anthropology, Sociology, Geography, History, and Spanish & Portuguese—are proposing two interdisciplinary courses coordinated with the COMPAS projects: ASC 230 (Conversations on Morality, Politics, and Society) and ASC E230 (Conversations on Morality, Politics, and Society—Honors Embedded).

Intended Audiences:

- ASC 230 is aimed at freshmen and sophomores from a wide range of disciplines who are seeking an exciting, challenging, interdisciplinary course on a topic of great current interest. We have designed ASC 230 to be a very strong, interdisciplinary course on the COMPAS topic. It will provide students with a rich educational experience. In addition, because of the coordination with the COMPAS project, there will be significant allied programming on the campus that will allow students to enhance their educational experience beyond the boundaries of the course.
- ASC E230 is aimed at freshman and sophomore honor students who from a wide range of disciplines who are seeking a course with the content focus of ASC 230 but with significantly enhanced educational experiences. (See the *Statement of Qualitative Difference* below.)

We include herewith syllabi that indicate the content and course expectations of the proposed courses for their first proposed iteration—on the topic of immigration. These syllabi were prepared by Professor Michael Neblo (Political Science) who would be the instructor for the proposed course. Here is a brief overview of each course.

- **ASC 230 – Conversations on Morality, Politics, and Society**

ASC 230 would challenge students to explore one (very large and multi-faceted) issue from a variety of disciplinary perspectives. In addition to fairly typical course requirements, ASC 230 would require students to attend, if their schedules permit, or to view recordings of the various COMPAS events held during the autumn quarter of 2011. Students will be evaluated through a variety of assignments that are designed to ensure mastery of a core body of material drawn from a variety of sources and flexibility for students to explore particular facets of the immigration from any one of a number of different disciplines.

- **ASC E230 – Conversations on Morality, Politics, and Society—Honors Embedded**

ASC E230 will be embedded in ASC 230. Students in the embedded course will complete all of the course assignments required of students in the regular course. In addition, they will complete additional readings that are designed not simply to provide more readings of the same sort but to present more challenging material. Students in the embedded course will have five to six additional hours of meetings with the instructor (times to be arranged) in a seminar-style format to pursue the topics of the additional reading assignments. Finally, they will be required to complete a significant and original term paper on a topic covered in the course or another topic approved of by the instructor. ASC E230 will offer students not only more sophisticated and challenging readings, but in depth interactions with the professor and other students taking the Honors embedded course as well as a significant research component.

Statement of Qualitative Difference: As can be seen by the above descriptions, the embedded honors version of the course, ASC E230, will extend the educational experience of ASC 230 in ways appropriate to a genuine honors experience: students will engage in more challenging readings that will deepen and broaden their understanding of the issues raised in the course, they will engage in significant additional seminar-style discussions of the course material in a small group with Professor Neblo, and they will undertake a more significant research project than those in the core course.

GEC Status:

We are proposing that ASC 230 and ASC E230 satisfy either of two GEC requirements: the Cultures & Ideas subcategory of the Arts & Humanities GEC requirements (2.C.3.); or, the Individuals and Groups subcategory of the Social Sciences GEC requirements (2.B.1.). This unusual—but not unprecedented—proposal is grounded on the strong interdisciplinary nature not only of this iteration of the course but of all envisioned iterations. Regardless of the specific topic of the COMPAS project in a given year, the proposed COMPAS course, like the COMPAS project itself, will be strongly grounded in both the social sciences and the humanities. (We anticipate that both the projects and the course will often integrate materials from a much broader range of disciplines, including the arts, the natural sciences, and those housed in various of the professional schools. But there will always be a very strong core of humanities and social sciences content.)

The syllabi for the course explain how we anticipate that these courses will fulfill the expected learning objectives of these two categories of the GEC.

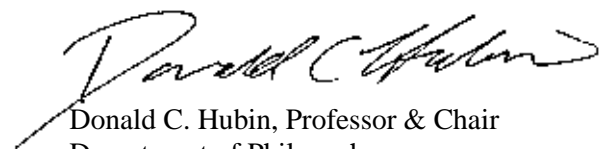
Assessment:

Since this is an entirely new course designed on a model that is new to those of us involved, it will be monitored closely to ensure that it is achieving its intended goals. The attached assessment plan presents our current commitments to assessment of the course. In addition, because of his commitment to the ideal of deliberative democracy, Professor Neblo is very interested in developing additional instruments to measure the effectiveness of this course in achieving the expected learning outcomes—outcomes which align well with the ideal of deliberative democracy.

Conclusion:

We are excited about the COMPAS project and especially excited about the interdisciplinary educational opportunity it affords students through the proposed ASC 230 and ASC E230 courses. We look forward to suggestions for improvement of the course design from the Committee on Curriculum and Instruction and the Office of Academic Affairs. If I can be of any further assistance in evaluating these course proposals, please contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Donald C. Hubin". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "D".

Donald C. Hubin, Professor & Chair
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