

Professor C. David Andereck
Associate Dean, and Chair, SubCommittee C,
A & S Committee on Curriculum and Instruction
College of Mathematics and Physical Sciences
425 Stillman Hall
1947 College Road
OSU-Columbus

October 1, 2004

Dear Professor Andereck:

I write in response to yours of June 30, 2004, regarding my Sept. 10, 2003 resubmission of my earlier petition for GEC status in two areas for my course: History 336: Global Environmental History. Please accept my apologies for not getting back to you sooner, but various matters have kept me very busy.

I am asking that my course fulfill two areas of the GEC:

4 C: Social Science: Human, Natural, and Economic Resources, and
6 B: Diversity Experiences: International Issues.

Since I was last in touch with you the course has been adopted for course credit by the "Minor in Globalization Studies" offered by the Program in International Studies, to fulfill their requirement in "Economic, Environmental, and Political Dimensions." They have adopted this course for a minor requirement that is quite similar in content and scope to the two GEC requirements in question. Additionally, the History Department counts the course toward the "Group A" ["non-Western"] requirement for majors.

I would suggest that two points ought to be kept in mind when considering my application for GEC standing in these two areas [4C; 6B].

First, the entire course involves human demography and welfare, as rooted in natural resources and circumstances. It examines environmental [i.e. natural] constraints on human economies and technologies. Thus I propose it for requirement 4C.

Second, since I define “international” as pertaining to the world outside of the United States, this global course is by its definition “international.” We do, certainly, in the final section of the course, consider the United States as an important “actor” in the global environment. But since the United States did not exist for almost all of the historical time covered by this course, and really only gets a superficial passing attention,* I consider this an “international course.” So does the Ohio State International Studies Program, and so did the International Relations Program at Tufts, where I taught the course six times over a seven year period. And so does the Department of History.

Your letter of June 30 has four points of concern, which I will address here, or indicate how they have been addressed on the syllabus.

1. The syllabus should contain **brief statements of how the course fulfills the specific GEC requirements**. I have drafted the following syllabus language for your consideration and approval [see also the enclosed syllabus]:

***4 C: Social Science: Human, Natural, and Economic Resources.** Course examines the relationship between environmental change and human welfare over the entire sweep of human history, focusing on the ways in which these are mediated by culture and technology.*

***6 B: Diversity Experiences: International Issues.** Course examines the genetic basis of human unity, and the similarities and differences in the ways in which peoples in different parts of the world have and continue to derive subsistence from the natural world.*

2. **The assignments should be linked to the GEC requirements**; specifically you refer to the term project. I have addressed your concerns, I hope, by indicating that these projects are typically international in their topics, and indicating that all students taking the course for GEC 6B must do such an international topic. I list some of the topics done as term projects in earlier offerings of the course. [This list would probably go on the course web-site.]

3. **Shorten the course description**. I have done this – please see the syllabus.

4. Your committee feels that my readings do not seem to provide an “international perspective,” and propose that I describe how they do this. I would suggest that it would be much easier to single out the readings that do *not* have an “international perspective,” since there so little that bears directly on the American experience!! But let me attempt to fulfill your request.

All readings in the Introduction and Part I are global or specifically African in their reach. They cover pre-human geological time, the African origins of humanity [5 million to 50,000BP] and the “diaspora” of biologically and culturally “modern humans” from Africa after 50,000. In this coverage, I give only a very short account of the eventual

* I should make it clear that this course is paired in the history curriculum with History 567, “American Environmental History,” which is devoted to covering the literature on environment and society in the American colonies and United States from 1492 to the present.

PaleoIndian migrations into the America, which is covered in one chapter in Fagan, The Long Summer.

The first three sections of Part II focus on the hearths of agriculture and complex society, especially Southwest Asia and China (with some attention to Meso-America), and the ways in which ancient and medieval civilizations were constrained by climate and soil deterioration. The readings for this section are “international” in as much as they are not about the colonial America or United States [which did not exist until after 1600], but also because they engage directly with the problem of how the various peoples of the world coped with the stresses of the environmental change and degradation in but similar and different ways. For example, if I may cite the coverage in two books, Fagan’s discussions of agriculture and climate include cases from Turkey, the Anasazi, Europe, the Jordan Valley, the Mayans, Mesopotamia, the Nile Valley, and the Andes. Karlan’s book on diseases and epidemics covers Europe, China, India, the Near East, etc.

Section four of Part II does touch on North America as part of the wider domain of empire established by Europeans between the 1450s and the 1750s. Karlan’s chapter discusses the impact of Old World disease on Native American populations; Marks’s book has a few pages on North America in the context of the interrelated world economy stretching out from Europe to the America and more importantly in his thinking to India and China. I should note here that Robert Marks is a specialist in Chinese history, and makes sure that his analysis is global in reach.

Part III, Section 1 is fundamentally about England, the hearth of the industrial revolution, but in its attention to energy consumption does attend to the United States. The key reading here is Smil’s 267-page Energy in World History, in whose index there are a total of 25 pages of reference to the United States. Section 2, “Population,” introduces students to the concept of the Demographic Revolution; most of the examples are older societies not formed by immigration, England, France, India, China. Again, the United States is discussed in passing, as a society shaped by immigration. In Section 3, “Impacts,” the United States does loom large, as it should, since large volumes of global energy consumption and emission are caused by the American economy. But as the Dasgupta essay might suggest, our attention is on the global context of wealth, poverty, and energy, while Karlan’s discussion of emergent diseases (Ebola and AIDS in particular) is necessarily international in scope and reach.

I hope that this discussion and the attended syllabus will address the concerns that your committee has expressed. Since this petition now has a long history, running back to the fall of 2002, I would hope that we could get this settled in the reasonably near future! I am always available if you need further comment and information.

Regards,

John L. Brooke
Humanities Distinguished Professor
brooke.10@osu.edu 614-292-8757

From: Kerry Johnson <johnson.2647@osu.edu>
Subject: Fwd: Re: GEC Status of History 366
To: lando.5@osu.edu

Date: Mon, 06 Dec 2004 09:33:21 -0500
To: Edward Adelson <adelson.3@osu.edu>, andereck@mps.ohio-state.edu
From: Kerry Johnson <johnson.2647@osu.edu>
Subject: Fwd: Re: GEC Status of History 366
Cc: Jennifer Lando <lando.5@osu.edu>, LISYA SELONI <seloni.1@osu.edu>

Ed and Dave,

I pulled up the old notes on History 366 from last year (5/24/04) which would be the first time Subcommittee C looked at the proposal. The committee's discussion focused on the International Issues component of the GEC proposal (which technically falls under Subcommittee B's charge) and there were no concerns expressed regarding the request for Social Science status. The concerns expressed by the committee were those that John Brooke answered in his e-mail below:

- Inclusion of GEC statements on the syllabus describing how the course meets the goals of the GEC
- More detail on how the International Issues component issue is met by the course content and within the readings.
- More clarification on the term project and how the international issues component is folded in to paper.

-Kerry

Date: Fri, 03 Dec 2004 15:47:13 -0500
From: LISYA SELONI <seloni.1@osu.edu>
Subject: Fwd: Re: GEC Status of History 366
To: Kerry johnson <johnson.2647@osu.edu>
X-Mailer: iPlanet Messenger Express 5.2 HotFix 1.14 (built Mar 18 2003)
X-Accept-Language: en
Priority: normal
X-CanItPRO-Stream: osuedu
X-Spam-Score: 1.1 (*) HTML_MESSAGE,HTML_TAG_BALANCE_BODY,J_CHICKENPOX_75
X-Scanned-By: CanIt (www . canit . ca)
Original-recipient: rfc822;johnson.2647@osu.edu

Return-path: <andereck@mps.ohio-state.edu>
Received: from mail-mta2.service.ohio-state.edu
(mail-mta2.service.ohio-state.edu [128.146.216.42])
by mail2.service.ohio-state.edu
(iPlanet Messaging Server 5.2 HotFix 1.14 (built Mar 18 2003))

with ESMTP id <0I8500EK8YVNZ9@mail2.service.ohio-state.edu> for
686114@ims-ms-daemon; Fri, 03 Dec 2004 15:43:00 -0500 (EST)
Received: from defang1.net.ohio-state.edu
(defang1.net.ohio-state.edu [128.146.216.81])
by mail-mta2.service.ohio-state.edu
(iPlanet Messaging Server 5.2 HotFix 1.14 (built Mar 18 2003))
with ESMTP id <0I8500H3UYVNNW@mail-mta2.service.ohio-state.edu> for
seloni.1@osu.edu (ORCPT seloni.1@osu.edu); Fri,
03 Dec 2004 15:42:59 -0500 (EST)
Received: from phyas1.mps.ohio-state.edu
(phyas1.mps.ohio-state.edu [128.146.37.10]) by defang1.net.ohio-state.edu
(8.12.11/8.12.11) with ESMTP id iB3KgwVA018682; Fri, 03 Dec 2004 15:42:58 -0500
Received: from dave.mps.ohio-state.edu
(dave.mps.ohio-state.edu [128.146.98.211])
by mps.ohio-state.edu (PMDf V6.2-X26 #31056)
with ESMTPSA id <01LHYTRBJ2F08WX8VB@mps.ohio-state.edu>; Fri,
03 Dec 2004 15:42:17 -0500 (EST)
Date: Fri, 03 Dec 2004 15:44:33 -0500
From: andereck@mps.ohio-state.edu
Subject: Fwd: Re: GEC Status of History 366
X-Sender: andereck@ohstpy.mps.ohio-state.edu
To: Edward Adelson <adelson.3@osu.edu>
Cc: Jennifer Lando <lando.5@osu.edu>, LISYA SELONI <seloni.1@osu.edu>
Message-id: <6.0.1.1.2.20041203153115.0384c938@ohstpy.mps.ohio-state.edu>
MIME-version: 1.0
X-Mailer: QUALCOMM Windows Eudora Version 6.0.1.1
Content-type: multipart/mixed; boundary="Boundary_(ID_8FXmtmU/fUIZMF0GQwjppA)"
X-CanItPRO-Stream: osuedu
X-Spam-Score: 1.1 (*) HTML_MESSAGE,J_CHICKENPOX_75,NO_REAL_NAME
X-Scanned-By: CanIt (www . canit . ca)
Original-recipient: rfc822;seloni.1@osu.edu

Ed, et al,

Here is what I received from John Brooke back in October. I believe this came in the day after my mother fell and broke her hip. It is entirely possible that during that week, in which I spent a very large amount of time in the hospital with her, that this was never forwarded to anyone and just lay dormant in my inbox. I am not surprised that this may have gotten misplaced in the confusion of that time period. In any case, I apologize if it never went anywhere. As for the concerns of Haurin and Sylvan, I am not sure anything like that was ever communicated to him--it appears from his note to me that Kerry sent something to him about the Social Science issues, but I am not sure what it was. He seems to have addressed the concerns with the international focus rather extensively, but gives us almost no text with respect to the Social Science category. Not sure how to proceed at this point. We could invite him to a subcommittee meeting, but as was made *abundantly* clear this afternoon, we lack the expertise to evaluate what he is proposing. If a **proper** Social Scientist were to attend such a meeting and engage in a spirited discussion with Brooke about his course, maybe we could arrive at a winner, although I am presently rather gun-

shy about even touching the silly thing again. Your suggestions are welcome at this point.
Dave

Date: Wed, 06 Oct 2004 09:43:45 -0400
From: John Brooke <brooke.10@osu.edu>
Subject: Re: GEC Status of History 366
To: andereck.1@osu.edu
X-Mailer: Microsoft Outlook Express 6.00.2800.1437
X-CanItPRO-Stream: osuedu
X-Spam-Score: 1.8 (*) FROM_ENDS_IN_NUMS,HTML_MESSAGE,J_CHICKENPOX_75
X-Scanned-By: CanIt (www . canit . ca)
X-PMAS-Software: PreciseMail V2.0-1 [040928] (ohstpy.mps.ohio-state.edu)
X-PMAS-HDR-FROM_OSU: Mail is from OSU (-3.000)
X-PMAS-HDR-FROM_ENDS_IN_NUMS: From: ends in numbers (0.611)
X-PMAS-BDY-FONTFONT: Body HTML has useless tags (1.000)
X-PMAS-META-__MIME_HTML: (no description) (0.000)
X-PMAS-Not-Positive: -1.389
Original-recipient: rfc822;andereck.1@osu.edu

Dear Dean Andereck:

I understand that you are out today for personal reasons, and I hope that all is well.

I write regarding my petition for GEC status for History 366: Global Environmental History.

The events of the past week seem to be as follows:

Thursday: The Diversity Experience committee met and approved the course for 6B.

Friday: I sent my letter to you responding to yours of June 30, making adjustments to my syllabus and statement accordingly, in particular the Diversity committee's request that I stipulate the international dimensions of the course project.

Tuesday: I received an email from Kerry Johnson saying that the Social Science committee was now concerned about my specifying that the project address their requirement. This request from the Social Science Committee was not made in your June letter!!

Very quickly, I would propose that add a sentence to the following effect in my project description:

Students taking this course for GEC 4C: Social Sciences: Human, Natural, and Economic Resources must develop a project that addresses the structural issues regarding human welfare and environmental conditions that form the core of this course's subject matter.

Please note that my revised syllabus includes a list of many of the topic undertaken in the past version of the course, all of which fulfill, as I understand it, the spirit of 4C.

I will try to be in touch with you tomorrow morning regarding this, unless you indicate in an email that this would not be necessary.

Again, I hope that all is well at home.

Regards,

John Brooke

PS: I attach copies of my letter of last Friday, and my revised syllabus.

At 11:43 AM 10/5/2004, Kerry Johnson wrote:

Dr. Hahn *[note: Bill Childs now Vice Chair]*,

The Subcommittees of the Arts and Sciences Committee on Curriculum and Instruction (ASC CCI) that review GEC proposals have reviewed the History 366 proposal for Diversity Experiences: International Issues and Social Science: Human, Natural, and Economic Resources status. It has been approved for the Diversity Experiences: International Issues component. The subcommittee that looks at Social Science proposals, however, would like some additional clarification before reviewing the proposal again. **They are requesting additional information on the term project and how this project falls under the goals of the GEC.** If you could send this information to me, I can forward it on the subcommittee.

If you like I can send this course through to the full ASC CCI to be reviewed only for the International Issues component while we wait for additional clarification on the term project for the Social Science category. Or, if you prefer, we can hold off on the International Issues component until we receive additional information on the term project. Please let me know how to proceed.

Thank you,

Kerry Johnson
Curriculum Specialist
Colleges of the Arts and Sciences
Curriculum Office
161 Denney Hall
614-688-3523
johnson.2647@osu.edu

William R. Childs
Vice Chair, Department of History
The Ohio State University
230 W 17th Ave
Columbus, OH 43210-1367
614-292-7014; fax: 614-292-2282

David Andereck
Senior Associate Dean

From: Kerry Johnson <johnson.2647@osu.edu>
Subject: Fwd: Re: Fwd: Re: History 366
To: lando.5@osu.edu

Date: Tue, 05 Oct 2004 13:47:09 -0400
From: William Ralph Childs <childs.1@osu.edu>
Subject: Fwd: Re: Fwd: Re: History 366
X-Sender: childs.1@pop.service.ohio-state.edu
To: brooke.10@osu.edu
Cc: johnson.2647@osu.edu
X-Mailer: QUALCOMM Windows Eudora Version 6.1.0.6
X-CanItPRO-Stream: osuedu
X-Spam-Score: 0.9 () HTML_FONTCOLOR_BLUE,HTML_MESSAGE,J_CHICKENPOX_75
X-Scanned-By: CanIt (www . canit . ca)

John:

Would you please forward via attachment your letter and new syllabus to Kerry Johnson (johnson.2647@osu.edu)? This might speed up consideration. Thanks, bill

Date: Tue, 05 Oct 2004 13:08:11 -0400
From: Kerry Johnson <johnson.2647@osu.edu>
Subject: Re: Fwd: Re: History 366
X-Sender: johnson.2647@pop.service.ohio-state.edu
To: William Ralph Childs <childs.1@osu.edu>
X-Mailer: QUALCOMM Windows Eudora Version 5.1
X-CanItPRO-Stream: osuedu
X-Spam-Score: 1.9 (*)
FROM_ENDS_IN_NUMS,HTML_FONTCOLOR_BLUE,HTML_MESSAGE,J_CHICKENPOX_75
X-Scanned-By: CanIt (www . canit . ca)
Original-recipient: rfc822;childs.1@osu.edu

Actually I think they saw an older version - dated 6/3/04. They met on 9/23 so they would have just missed that version. Do you have a copy you could e-mail to me to distribute to the committee members? I'll ask them to add it to the agenda for their next meeting on Thursday.

Thanks,
Kerry

At 01:04 PM 10/5/2004 -0400, you wrote:

Dear Kerry:

I have a revised syllabus in hand dated October 1 for History 366. Has the Social Science subcommittee already seen this copy? It has an extended section on the project. If they

have seen it, and your request below is based on that revision, then I need more clear instructions on what they want to forward to my colleague, John Brooke.

Thanks! Bill

Dear Kerry:

I am forwarding this message to my colleague Prof. Bill Childs, who now chairs the History Department's Undergraduate Teaching Committee.

Best,
Peter

At 11:43 AM 10/5/2004, you wrote:

Dr. Hahn,

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Thank you,

Kerry Johnson
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johnson.2647@osu.edu

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Winter 2005

History 366: World Environmental History [title changed 2002]

Prof. John Brooke

Monday, Wednesday: 2:30-4:18

This course explores the long history of the earth and humanity from an environmental perspective, focusing on the changing relationship of human societies and global ecologies and the problem of the sustainability of humanity as a species. A brief introduction to pre-human earth history establishes a picture of natural change in climate and the biosphere, setting the stage for a comparative overview of three broad "human revolutions" -- or crises in human sustainability: the origin of the human species, the agricultural revolution, and the industrial revolution. Themes of particular importance include issues in human demography, subsistence, and technology, and debates over gradual and catastrophic change in climate and the biosphere. The course closes with a look at the rise of environmental consciousness, our contemporary environmental situation, and the prospects for a sustainable future. Term projects allow students to explore problems of individual interest.

Readings:

Spencer Wells, [The Journey of Man: A Genetic Odyssey](#)

Brian Fagan, [The Long Summer: How Climate Changed Civilization](#)

Arno Karlen, [Man and Microbes: Disease and Plagues in History and Modern Times](#)

Robert Marks, [The Origins of the Modern World: A Global and Ecological Narrative](#)

Vaclav Smil, [Energy in World History](#)

Articles in reader or on course web-site.

Assignments: Class attendance, participation in discussions, exams [IDs and short essays] on Parts I, II, and III (75%), term project (25%).