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 Subject: Engineering Proposal
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 Priority: normal
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 Thread-Topic: Engineering Proposal
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 <siegel.83@osu.edu> using -f
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Dear Professor Gustafson,

The Undergraduate Teaching Committee has considered your two history courses, 360 History of Technology and Engineering (generic): 360.01 History of Ancient Engineering and 360.02 History of American Technology.

The reason for the proposals, as stated on the new course request, is that there are not enough such courses offered at OSU.* <#_ftn1>

Each of the new Engineering courses is proposed to be offered once a year with section sizes of 25.

Engineering is also requesting GEC status for each course as "a second history course." The prerequisite listed is one history survey course.

There are two issues to be considered. First, are the syllabi in line with History Department courses? and, second, are the syllabi in line with the new GEC Historical Study requirement?

Because all History courses (except 398 and 598) will be available for GEC status if the new BA (and soon-to-be-proposed BS) GEC template is accepted by CAA, the two questions can be viewed as more or less the same.

Still, there is some confusion re: the request for GEC status. We copy below the new GEC category, Historical Study. (We also attach the "New Historical Study Proposal, Department of History, Autumn 2005.")

Historical Study

Learning objectives: Students will acquire a perspective on history and an understanding of the factors that shape human activity to gain knowledge of the origins and nature of contemporary issues and a foundation for future comparative understanding; develop critical thinking through the study of diverse interpretations of historical events; apply critical thinking through historical analysis of primary and secondary sources; and sharpen communications skills in essay exams, papers, and discussions.

Students will choose two courses.

A. Students must choose one course from the following:

History 111, 112; 121, 122; 141, 142; 151, 152; 171, 172; 181, 182; African-American and African Studies

121, 122; Philosophy H111, H112; Economics 515, 516 or from any History course at the 300-level listed in the *Course Offerings Bulletin* (except for 398).

B. Students may choose the second course from the courses above or from any History course at the 500-level (except for 598).

Courses proposed from other units for the Historical Study category should

1. be vetted by the ASC CCI and CAA in light of the goals and objectives stated in the document, "New Historical Study Proposal, Department of History, Autumn 2005," and,
2. in the spirit of "general education courses," be made available to all undergraduates with a minimum of prerequisites required.

In light of the above, the UTC notes the following:

First, Engineering's proposal to have 360.01 and 360.02 count as the "second history course" and to have the prerequisite of "one history survey course" does not fit the template above. The courses should probably be placed in group A. above.

Second, while the UTC could see how the courses probably meet some of the objectives noted above (e.g., "acquire a perspective on history and an understanding of the factors that shape human activity to gain knowledge of the origins and nature of contemporary issues and a foundation for future comparative understanding;...") its members would appreciate some specific relationships made between the readings and the weekly topics (either in the syllabus or in a separate document).

In addition, there is no indication in the syllabi how other objectives will be met (e.g., "; develop critical thinking through the study of diverse interpretations of historical events; apply critical thinking through historical analysis of primary and secondary sources; and sharpen communications skills in essay exams, papers, and discussions.")

The UTC is working with the CCI Subcommittee B on how to approach requests such as Engineering's. Subcommittee B has requested some example History syllabi "unpacked," in which History shows how some of its current syllabi meet the new GEC objectives.

Once Subcommittee B approves this approach, the UTC will be happy to send Engineering an example of an "unpacked" history syllabus.

Until that occurs, however, UTC cannot approve or disapprove Engineering's requests re 360.01 and 360.02.

On behalf of the UTC,
Jennifer Siegel

* <#_ftnref1> History points out that it does offer History 587.02 on occasion (Science, Technology, and Business in Japan) and that History (in Winter 2007) will be proposing a new course, History 3xx History of Technology, which will be offered by one of our new hires, Professor Christopher Otter, who will begin his tenure at OSU in 2007. Furthermore, we want you to know that we are broadly committed to the teaching of the history of science and technology, as marked not only by Professor Otter's hire, but also by the fact that we hope to search for an historian of modern American environmental history and the history of the life sciences in the 2007-08 academic year.

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