

(From Social Sciences Dept Chair, Carl Hefner, 11/29/16)

Aloha,

After conducting a poll among the Social Science faculty, the majority have indicated the following:

1) Generally, faculty felt there was insufficient information, and a lack of Social Sciences content in these proposals to justify the DS designation. Neither course as proposed meets the 2/3 content for DS Hallmarks. Upon our faculty review, not only is there insufficient information attempting to address these hallmarks, there appears to be little justification to even consider placing these courses into the Diversification/DS category.

2) Reference

DS Explanatory Notes for Reference

1. *Courses in the Social Sciences (DS) category examine the behavior and interactions of people within societies, and Interactions between societies*
2. *Students will be introduced to social science concepts and theories that explain such behavior and interactions at levels that range from the individual to the social structure*
3. *Students will be introduced to methods such as interviews, observation, surveys, experiments, and literature reviews.*

DS HALLMARKS To satisfy the Social Sciences requirement, at least two-thirds of a course must meet the following

1. ***DS1 This course uses the terminology of theories, structures, or processes in the social or psychological sciences;***
2. ***DS.2 This course involves concepts, models, practices, or issues of concern in the scientific study of these theories, structures, or processes;***
3. ***DS.3: This course demonstrates inquiry that is guided by quantitative and/or qualitative methods employed in the scientific study of structures or processes of these sciences.***

3) PACS 201–Islands of Globalization outcomes do not satisfy any of the Hallmarks or at least two-thirds of the Social Sciences requirement DS1; DS2, and DS3. This same PACS 201 was previously reviewed by the department and unanimously decided that it does not fulfill the DS requirements on January of 2016. This course is more aligned with Humanities and not aligned with Social Sciences. (all of our comments on this subject is compiled in my email of November 16, 2016).

PACS 201 OUTCOMES:

1. define and discuss globalization and its impacts on Oceania.
2. identify and discuss the forces, dimensions, and processes of globalization.
3. identify and discuss the main events, issues, and characteristics of Oceania's histories and cultures and their contemporary opportunities and challenges
4. identify and discuss how Pacific Islanders engage with globalization.

4) COM 201 – Introduction To Communication outcomes do not satisfy any of the Hallmarks or at least two-thirds of the Social Sciences requirement DS1; DS2, and DS3.

COM 201 OUTCOMES:

1. Describe the human communication process, its purposes, functions and modes.
2. Identify and explain verbal and non- verbal codes.
3. Explain the role and dynamics of communication in relationships, groups, and organizations.
4. Analyze the processes and identify the pitfalls of interethnic and intercultural communication, including interactions in Hawai'i, Oceania and Asia.
5. Describe the role of mass and public communication systems in modern societies.
6. Identify and explain the functions and methods of telecommunication in a global society.
7. Express clearly in writing ideas and opinions about communication theories, based on critical analyses of readings and other sources of data.

More comments from reviewers from a 2015 review on PACS 201/202 (edited)

a) The proposer should have taken the initiative to come to the department to collaborate with helping these courses meet the DS diversification requirements before submitting his courses. Nonetheless, presently, the message that was given to all proposers is that the course(s) will come through Curriculum Committee first and the Committee Chairs will be the one to forward the proposals to the department allowing time for the department to review the courses and meet with the proposer if need be to modify/change the content. This process has been in place for over two years, ever since the Diversification Board was placed in Curriculum Committee.

Currently, there are no set departmental guidelines and procedures to assist proposers through this process. The Senate endorsed the Gen. Ed. Board's recommendations last year, which asked all departments to create guidelines and procedures for proposers seeking diversification designations. Can we please work on that?

Also, the proposer of these courses need to abide by the recommendations of the Gen. Ed. Board which states:

"The Board suggests that faculty applications for Diversification designations include: 1. An annotated lecture schedule detailing how hallmarks are being met OR 2. A narrative explaining how the course meets the 2/3 standard for diversification designation."

b) This request does not follow proper procedure and it is unfortunate that this request put us in an awkward situation of having to decide in a rush without sufficient knowledge....I don't feel comfortable voting without having more information on how the courses are being taught (which includes seeing the syllabus and the reading material to assess whether or not the courses do meet the DS Hallmarks.)

c) The statements given in curriculum central suggest the DS Hallmarks are met but as a scientist, I need more data before casting a vote.

If....at this stage of his proposal, is in a hurry the proposer can always choose one of our existing DS in Social sciences courses to fulfill the requirements for AA in LBARTS with a concentration in Pacific Islands Study.

d) The Social Sciences should always be notified if any course(s), in our department or any other department affects our DS courses...prior to its submission to Curriculum Committee. It is hoped that we are affording the same courtesy to other departments.

e) After rereading the SLOs for the two courses (PACS 201 and PACS 202) and the list of readings for PACS 202 (a list of readings for 201 was not provided), it is clear to me, that as described, these two courses are aligned with the (DH) Humanities and not the Social Sciences. This is very clear for PACS 202 which provided a list of readings. It is less clear for PACS 201 because no list was provided. However based on the SLO's which mostly focused on "identifying" and "discussing," it is pretty clear that they don't belong as a DS.

e) We can conclude that, since the request lacks the required and necessary information (on DS), our department does not endorse the DS diversification designation at this time.