

Request to include I100 as a course to fulfill Area II distribution requirements within the School of Liberal Arts

Background information:

I100 Introduction to International Studies has been taught at Indiana University Bloomington for 4 or 5 years now. It was approved by the Curriculum Committee to be taught at IUPUI during the Spring 2005 semester. We plan to offer I100 for the first time in Fall 2006. Ultimately, the course is going to be the required introductory course for the proposed new International Studies major which has already been approved by the Curriculum Committee, Resources and Planning and the School of Liberal Arts Faculty Assembly and is presently under consideration by the university administration.

Specific request/proposal:

I100 should be included in the list of courses that can fulfill Area II distribution requirements for the School of Liberal Arts. Specifically, it should be listed as a course that can be used to fulfill either the Social Sciences requirement or the Comparative World Cultures requirement.

Rationale:

In contrast to International Relations, which is a specific sub-field of Political Science, International Studies is meant to be interdisciplinary. The two most important requirements for anyone who teaches I100 are that: 1) the course be international or global in focus and not just regional (i.e., not just African or Asian or European, etc.) and 2) the course be interdisciplinary and not just taught from the perspective of any single discipline. Both of these traits are demonstrated on the attached I100 syllabus which culturally focuses on Iran, Jamaica, Laos, Nigeria and the United States and which includes disciplinary contributions from Anthropology, Economics, Film, History, Literature and Political Science.

The request to cross-list I100 under both the Social Sciences and Comparative World Cultures requirement follows existing School of Liberal Arts practice. Anthropology A104 and Geography G110 are both already cross-listed the same way. Other courses like Classics C205, History H108, Religious Studies R133, Religious Studies R212 and World Languages and Cultures F200 are similarly cross-listed under the Arts and Humanities and Comparative World Cultures requirements.

While this particular I100 syllabus includes a number of contributions from the Humanities (Film, History and Literature), most I100 offerings will probably be skewed more heavily toward the Social Sciences. As such, I would not recommend including I100 under the Arts and Humanities section. It should be included under the Social Sciences section where it is a much better fit and where it has the benefit of introducing students to multiple disciplinary perspectives within the Social Sciences. This would also approximate the IU Bloomington College of Arts and Sciences practice where I100 can

fulfill their Social and Historical Studies (S & H) requirement. As nearly every other course on the current list is a 100-level course, I100 clearly falls within existing practice in this area as well.

Understanding comparative world cultures will be a central theme throughout all I100 course offerings. The attached I100 syllabus deliberately focuses on a number of different cultures from various regions of the world. It also focuses on the potential problems that can result from cross-cultural misunderstandings (in these cases, respectively, between colonial Europeans and colonized Africans and American doctors and a Laotian patient). While the exact mix of cultures (on this syllabus, cultures from Iran, Jamaica, Laos, Nigeria and the United States) might change with different offerings of the course, the basic focus on cross-cultural understandings and misunderstandings will remain. I100 should therefore be included on the Comparative World Cultures distribution list.

Questions/additional information:

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