# General Education Committee Minutes, 11/29/17

## Call to Order / Roll Call

Members present: L. Ametsbichler, S. Bradford, B. Durnell, P. Muench, G. Peters, J. Randall, A. Sala, A. Schafer, D. Ward, T. Wheeler, J. Wilkinson

Members Absent/Excused: B. Bach, B. Clough, N. Lindsay, A. Wadell
Ex-Officio present: B. French
Guest: Rob Tuck-- Japanese

The minutes from the 11/22/17 meeting were amended and approved.

## Communication

* An e-curr form requested the deletion of general education designation. The item was approved by ASCRC after presentation from the Education and Fine Arts Subcommittee. reviewed and recommended the item for approval. It does not require further review.

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| THTR 106 U | THEAT PROD 1: RUN CREW | CHANGE NUMBER | DELETE GEN ED DESIGNATION (106A) |

* Members were notified of ASCRC’s decision to maintain the ethics designation for ANTY 326E and HSTR 272E. The excerpt from the minutes (below) indicated members from the General Education Committee were invited to ASCRC for the discussion, but the Chair and Committee members were not aware of any such invitation.

Based on appeals, ASCRC considered additional information provided by the instructors of ANTY 326E and HSTR 272E and voted unanimously to maintain the ethics designations through the seven year review cycle. General Education committee members were invited, but chose not to attend.

The Committee discussed whether it should send a letter of objection to ASCRC. Subcommittee members have spent more time corresponding with the instructors and reviewing the materials for these two courses than on any others. It has spanned three committee chairs. The record should not represent the General Education Committee as being non-responsive. ASCRC overturning the General Education Committees’ decision sets a bad precedent. It agreed that Chair Randall should draft a response on behalf of the Committee given the time constraints. ECOS is meeting tomorrow to approve the Faculty Senate Agenda, which includes the curriculum consent agenda.

* Professor Tuck informed the committee about his concern regarding Missoula College students enrolling in first-year Japanese and then either. Over the past 6 years there have been 21 Missoula College students taking the course and only three passed. The others received a D, F or W and did not return to UM. This is not good for retention. The students are routinely waived into the class by advisors. He is concerned about the process to grant waivers and has discussed his concerns with the Associate Dean. The College is short advising staff and resources

He has five Missoula College students in his class this semester. The issue is puzzling given Missoula College students are not required to take a language. This is not an issue for other first-year language courses. One possibility is that the students are intrigued by the Japanese pop culture. The Committee suggested further review of the data to determine whether the students were in the same program at Missoula College.

Japanese is a difficult language. Students that lack foundational skills do not succeed. The Program is working to improve retention and has made improvements to help students succeed including personal coaching and study skills.

Director French will reach out to the Missoula College Advising Staff.

## Business Items

* The following general education designations from Group 3 and 2 were approved. Additional information has been requested for the two pending courses.

Group 1

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| Course Number | Title | Group |
| HSTR 240 | East Asia Civilization | Cultural and International |
| HSTR 240 | East Asia Civilization | Historical Studies |
| GRMN 352H | German Culture: Romanticism to the Present (Changed Title) | Historical Studies (renew) |

* The edits to the Criteria Policy incorporating the revised groups (X, Y, H, and Language exemption) were approved.
* The Committee discussed and revised the recommended edits to the Preamble and Overview section. The document below was approved and submitted to ASCRC for review.

## Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

# Preamble

The University of Montana-Missoula's General Education Program provides a broad academic base that supports both undergraduate learning at the University of Montana-Missoula and continued learning following graduation. The General Education Program is designed to provide a high-quality intellectual foundation that accommodates all UM students whether in liberal arts or professional programs. While the General Education Program offers students considerable flexibility in selecting courses, it has a set of common educational objectives for all students.

In accordance with the mission of the University of Montana-Missoula, these objectives are to develop competent and humane individuals who are informed, ethical, literate, and engaged citizens of local and global communities. Students should become acquainted with issues facing contemporary society, participate in the creative arts, develop an understanding of science and technology, cultivate an appreciation of the humanities, and examine the history of different American and global cultures. Upon completion of the general education requirements students should be able to articulate ideas orally and in writing, understand and critically evaluate tangible and abstract concepts, and employ mathematical and other related skills appropriate to a technologically focused society.

~~In summary, the General Education Program is designed to provide a high quality intellectual foundation that accommodates all UM students whether in liberal arts or professional programs. This foundation will be reinforced, expanded, and refined as students continue through their course of study. Students are encouraged to prepare for productive roles in their chosen fields by cultivating civic awareness vital to the greater community and a democratic society. The acquired skills will allow students to examine critically the human experience and achieve genuine confidence in their knowledge and abilities. For the General Education Program to accomplish its goals, students must assume primary responsibility for their growth and education.~~

# Overview

To earn a baccalaureate degree, all students must ~~complete~~ successfully complete the General Education requirements listed below. ~~in addition to any other requirements~~ All courses taken to satisfy the requirements must be taken for a traditional letter grade and must be passed with a grade of C- or better. General Education courses may change from year to year. To be used for General Education credit, a course must be so designated in the catalog the semester it is taken, ~~the following General Education Requirements. Students who have completed an approved lower-division general education program at an approved Montana institution of higher education should refer to the catalog section on General Education for Transfer Students.~~

~~All General Education courses must be at least 3 credits, must be introductory and foundational, and have no more than one pre-requisite. The General Education Committee may allow exceptions for upper-division courses, courses fewer than three credits, and for courses with more than one pre-requisite, if the proposing unit can justify such an exception.~~

~~Some courses may satisfy both the "Writing Course" requirement (1.2) and one of the Groups IV through XI.~~

~~Some courses may satisfy both Group II and Group III Symbolic Systems.~~

~~Some courses may satisfy both Group IX and one of the Groups IV through VIII.~~

~~Some courses may satisfy both Group X and one of the Groups IV through VIII. No course may satisfy both Group IX and Group X.~~

Many ~~of the~~ General Education courses ~~listed below~~ require prerequisites; these  ~~be met before registration. The prerequisites~~ are listed in the individual course descriptions.

**~~NOTE! \*\*\*All courses taken to satisfy General Education Requirements must be taken for a traditional letter grade and must be passed with a grade of C- or better\*\*\*.~~**

~~Students are cautioned that approved courses may change from year to year. To be used for General Education credit, a course must be listed as approved in the Class Schedule for the semester a student registers for it.~~

Students who have completed an approved lower-division General Education program at an accredited institution of higher education should refer to the Catalog section on [General Education for Transfer Students.](http://catalog.umt.edu/academics/admission/transfer/)

[Faculty developing General Education courses must complete the [appropriate forms](http://www.umt.edu/facultysenate/committees/gened/GE%20Forms.php)].

| **Group Letter and Description** | **Credits** |
| --- | --- |
| Group I: English Writing Skills |  |
| 1. ~~Composition course~~[~~WRIT 101~~](http://catalog.umt.edu/search/?P=WRIT%20101)~~or 201 (ENEX 101, WTS 101, ENEX 200) or an equivalent~~ Introductory College Writing (WRIT 101)  |  3 |
| 2. ~~One designated~~ Intermediate Writing Course |  3 |
| 3. ~~Upper-Division~~ Advanced Writing Requirement (as specified by major department) |  3 |
| Group II: Mathematics | 3 |
| Group III: Modern and Classical Languages - successful completion of a second semester language (test out provisions apply). Some majors have been granted exceptions to the Modern and Classical Language requirement. ~~The majors are listed below.~~ See list in the [catalog](http://catalog.umt.edu/academics/general-education-requirements/). | 0-10 |
| Group IV: Expressive Arts (A) | 3 |
| Group V: Literary and Artistic Studies (L) | 3 |
| Group VI: Historical ~~and Cultural~~ Studies (H) | 3 |
| Group VII: Social Sciences (S) | 3 |
| Group VIII: Ethics and Human Values (E) | 3 |
| Group IX: ~~American and European Perspectives~~ Democracy & Citizenship (Y) | 3 |
| Group X: ~~Indigenous & Global Perspectives~~ Cultural & International Diversity (X) | 3 |
| Group XI: Natural Sciences - One Natural Science course must include a laboratory experience. (N) | 6 |
| ~~Total~~ | ~~28-49~~~~1~~ |
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