

TO: Amy Parsons, Chair, Curriculum Committee

FROM: Sarah Senk, Chair, General Education Committee

DATE: January 31, 2020

SUBJECT Curriculum Change Request: New EGL Course on “Ethical Inquiry”

Proposed Course Subject: EGL ---
Proposed Course Title: Ethical Inquiry
Submitted by: Colin Dewey, Department of Culture and Communication
Date Submitted: January 27, 2020

The General Education Committee met on Tuesday, January 20, 2020 to determine whether or not a Curriculum Change Request for a new upper-division course on Ethical Inquiry should be designated as a General Education course. In attendance were voting committee members Sarah Senk (Chair), Katherine Luce, Tom Oppenheim, Katherine Sammler, Joshua Shackman, Julie Simons, Aparna Sinha (via remote call), and Cynthia Trevisan, as well as non-voting member Julia Odom. (Voting Member and ET Department Representative was absent due to illness, and non-voting member AVP Graham Benton was absent due to a conflict with another meeting.

After reviewing the course description, goals, competencies and list of potential texts, the General Education Committee voted unanimously to designate this course as an Upper-Division Area C2 Humanities course.

When reviewing courses, the GE Committee considers how well a course accords with the description of the subject area in EO1100, and whether or not the course will require that students satisfy the Cal Maritime General Education Learning Outcomes:

EO1100 Description of Area C: Arts (C1) and Humanities (C2):	GE Committee Discussion Notes
<p>“Students will respond subjectively as well as objectively to aesthetic experiences and will develop an understanding of the integrity of both emotional and intellectual responses. Students will cultivate and refine their affective, cognitive, and physical faculties through studying works of the human imagination. Activities may include participation in individual aesthetic, creative experiences; however, Area C excludes courses that exclusively emphasize skills development. In their intellectual and subjective considerations, students will develop a better understanding of the interrelationship between the self and the creative arts and of the humanities in a variety of cultures.</p>	<p>The committee observed that the proposed course - “Ethical Inquiry” - <u>DOES</u> fulfill the Humanities Requirement for a C2 course. The course focuses predominantly on literature as a way of exploring “ethical issues.” The syllabus is entirely comprised of philosophical and literary texts of aesthetic and cultural importance. The course goals mention that students will practice “ethical decision-making skills” but this is clearly not just a skills-based class as the primary focus appears to be on “critical hermeneutics.”</p> <p>Committee briefly discussed whether or not there was a need for a new course when HUM 400 – Ethics already exists. C&C rep explained that HUM 400 is a “straight-up philosophy class” while this is a literature class (offered by a department whose members have demonstrable research and teaching expertise in a wide range of literature) that explores philosophical issues. The course will still allow the department to assess the Institution-Wide Learning Outcome in “Ethical Awareness” while allowing the department members to leverage their research expertise to ensure the highest quality teaching.</p>

Cal Maritime GE Learning Outcomes: Area C	GE Committee Discussion Notes
<p>GELO 7: Evaluate aesthetic experiences subjectively as well as objectively.</p>	<p>The committee observed that the proposed course <u>DOES</u> meet this outcome.</p>
<p>GELO 8: Demonstrate awareness of the relation between the arts [C1] and their cultural contexts.</p>	<p>N/A. This outcome applies to C1 courses only.</p>
<p>GELO 9: Demonstrate awareness of the relation between literary and philosophical texts [C2] and their cultural contexts.</p>	<p>The committee observed that the proposed course <u>DOES</u> meet this outcome.</p>