

Academic Senate Agenda - February 14, 2023 - Attachment B

MONTHLY REPORT: DECEMBER 2022 - COMMITTEE ON CURRICULUM

To: Steven Dahlke, Academic Senate Steering Committee
From: Isabella Lizzul, January 31, 2023
Subject: Committee on Curriculum December 2022 Monthly Report for the February 2023 Senate
CC: College Archives (CWilliams@qcc.cuny.edu)

At its December 13, 2022 meeting, the Committee on Curriculum has voted to send the following recommendations and notices to the Academic Senate:

2 new courses
1 election

1. NEW COURSES

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

Departmental approval date: October 12, 2022

ENGL-224 Asian American Literature
3 class hours 1 recitation hour 3 credits
Prerequisite: ENGL-102
Co-requisite: None

Course Description for college catalog:

This course offers a study of Asian American literature, from mid-nineteenth century to the present day, through a variety of genres and mediums, including fiction, memoir, poetry, drama, primary sources, film, and journalism. The course aims to enhance students' knowledge of the literary traditions and historical contexts which shaped Asian American literature. The course focuses on aesthetic, socio-cultural, and political concerns of Asian American writers through a range of periods and movements, and may include topics such as migrant laborers, the 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act, WW2 & Internment of Japanese Americans, Vietnam War, Civil Rights, United Farm Workers Union movements, the Model Minority mythology; and the impact COVID-19 has had on the AAPI community in the US.

Rationale:

Queensborough Community College's (QCC) diversifying student body has resulted in efforts to develop more culturally inclusive curricula. However, Asian American experiences have largely remained underrepresented in this conversation. According to the latest QCC Factbook (2020-2021), Asians and Pacific Islanders make up the largest student demographic at Queensborough Community College: nearly 30% of all undergraduates self-identify as members of this group. For these students to see their linguistic, cultural, and racial experiences reflected in the literature they study in our English classes would invariably challenge their historically monolithic treatment in American history as "model minorities," and illuminate for their classmates and instructors the challenges, heartaches, and triumphs that nuance the Asian American experience.

The exigence for an Asian American Literature course at QCC is especially strong today, given the rising cases of anti-Asian hate crimes in New York City in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the increased conversations around its larger social implications in the media (i.e. "Stop Asian Hate"). Studying the writings of the Asian American community across genres such as novels, graphic novels, memoir, and poetry would help students make connections between the current and historical treatment of Asian Americans in this country. Students can explore and collaborate in discussions on how coalition-building between racial minority groups can lead to lasting systemic change and social justice.

Departmental approval date: November 30, 2022

ENGL-225 Latinx American Literature
3 class hours 1 recitation hour 3 credits
Prerequisite: ENGL-102

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Co-requisite: None

Course Description for college catalog:

This course offers a study of Latinx/a/o American literature, from the 1960s during the peak immigration of Latinxs to the United States up to present day. The course aims to enhance students' knowledge of how the creative and literary components of each text contribute to and reflect the unique social and political experience of being Latinx in the United States. We may discuss how identity is performed in the everyday sense and how Latinx historical identities have been shaped in conflict, dissent and/or conjunction with the multiple Latinx immigrant groups within a U.S context. The course will include all forms of writing as well: poetry, drama, fiction, and nonfiction. Topics may encompass political theater, experimental theater, revolution, censorship and self-censorship, trauma and memory, gender, borders and latinidad, and may focus on the diversity of the Latin American and Latinx ethnic experiences in the US (Chicana/o, Nuyorican, Dominican American, et al).

Rationale:

Courses in Latinx literature are standard in the curricula of most institutions of higher learning nationwide and at nearly all the senior colleges in CUNY. At Queensborough Community College, which is an Hispanic-serving institution, approximately 30% of students identify as Latinx and it is critical to include a course offering focused on literary representations of Latinx American experiences.

2. ELECTION

Patrick Wallach, the former chair, is now on Fellowship Leave and can no longer serve on the committee. An election was held and Isabella Lizzul was elected as the Chair of the Committee and Arthur Adair was elected as the Secretary of the Committee for the Spring 2023 semester.