

Definition of an Interdisciplinary Course

Throughout the 1987-88 academic year, the FASN Courses of Study Committee has examined proposals to designate a wide variety of courses as "interdisciplinary" under the terms of the new curriculum. The criteria the Committee has used in recommending such designations are described below. The Committee will continue to adhere to this definition and these procedures during 1988-89 and beyond.

For purposes of implementing the new curriculum, we define an interdisciplinary course as one:

- a. which focuses on a theme, issue, historical period or culture and studies it from two or more disciplinary perspectives, and
- b. in which the faculty member or members teaching the course present an in-depth discussion and analysis of these two or more disciplinary perspectives, and
- c. in which students are evaluated on their recognition of and ability to deal with these two or more disciplinary perspectives.

To judge whether a course meets the terms of this definition, the Committee will look closely at

- a. course syllabi and reading lists which must reflect interdisciplinary in depth
- b. the tools of evaluation used in the course
- c. the interests and expertise of the instructor(s)
- d. the particular suitability of the course for an interdisciplinary approach. Applications should address how the course requires or is enhanced by an interdisciplinary approach.

Very few new interdisciplinary courses were submitted during the 1987-988 academic year. To a large extent we have been engaged in decanting old wine into new bottles. While this has provided a useful look at present offerings, the Committee hopes that the future will see new courses specifically constructed in an interdisciplinary mode. This will be important, we feel, in tapping the spirit of the new curriculum and perhaps bringing about a cooperation between and among departments that should serve our students well.

FOR EXISTING NCAS-UC COURSES

The Department of _____

wishes to propose _____

(course number)

(course name)

as meeting the designation of _____

in the new curriculum. _____

(signature of chair)

(date)

A. Catalogue description

B. Please list the disciplines whose methodologies are being employed.

C. Rationale (Applications should address how the course requires or is enhanced by an interdisciplinary approach.)

D. Supporting documentation. Please attach: (a) a course syllabus and reading list, which must reflect interdisciplinary in depth; (b) a statement describing tools of evaluation to be used in the course; (c) a statement describing the interests and expertise of the course instructor.