

Academic Affairs Committee—October 1, 2019

Present: Steve Saunders, Loren McClenachan, Katie Donahue, Dale Kocevski, Erin Sheets, Genesis Cazales, Caitrin Eaton, Lukas Alexander, Barbara Moore, Russ Johnson, Jim Sloat, Lindsey Nelson, Sam Scott,

I. Minutes from the previous meeting (September 24) were approved.

II. Four course proposals were approved.

- A. History 318 (From Renaissance to Revolution: Early Modern France) H
- B. Religious Studies 3xx (Jews of Germany, Past and Present) H, I
- C. Religious Studies 3xx (Mysticism, Spirituality, and Religious Experience) L
- D. STS 2xx (Big History)

The first three proposals were approved without concerns or conditions. The STS course was approved with the condition that we would advise the instructor to add an additional writing assignment early in the semester – both to increase the total amount of writing and to provide students with graded feedback earlier in the term.

III. The question of when it should be permissible to have a required field trip during a college recess (e.g. spring break) was referred back to the AAC at the early May 2019 faculty meeting. The committee began a discussion of what general principles should be applied in deciding whether to approve a required field trip for a particular course. There was a consensus that such trips should be approved only in special situations, and that strict scrutiny should be applied. The committee agreed on the following general ideas for when AAC would consider allowing a required field trip during a break.

The course is optional for all students (not required for any major or minor).

The field trip offers some irreplaceable experience that could not happen otherwise.

Support is available (e.g. from DavisConnects) to cover the cost of the trip.

The course is unlikely to enroll first-year students.

The trip is clearly announced in the course description and syllabus.

A formalized set of guidelines based on these ideas will be brought to the next meeting for further discussion and finalization.

Next meeting: October 8 at 4:00 p.m. in Diamond 146.