

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA ASHEVILLE
FACULTY SENATE

Senate Document Number SD3723S
Date of Senate Approval 03/30/2023

Statement of Faculty Senate Action:

APC Document 27 (HUM): **Change the titles and descriptions of HUM 124 and 214**

Effective Date: Fall 2023

1. **Delete:** On page 183, the entry for HUM 124, The Ancient World:

124 The Ancient World

Introduction to the Humanities sequence. Human history and cultural developments from the ancient civilizations of Africa and Asia to the disintegration of the Western Roman Empire, emphasizing both continuities and discontinuities across a wide range of ancient peoples, the intellectual and artistic heritage of the ancient world and the origins of major religions including Judaism, Buddhism and Christianity. Fall and Spring.

Add: On page 183, in place of deleted entry:

124 Global Humanities: Ancient Worlds

Introduction to the Humanities sequence. Comparative exploration of central humanistic themes, such as love, death, gender and sexuality, power, and the sacred, as reflected in diverse ancient oral traditions, texts and artifacts from peoples of Asia, Africa, the Americas and the Levant and Mediterranean regions. Emphasis is placed on analysis of primary sources in their cultural and historical context and critical engagement with multiple ancient perspectives in relation to contemporary questions. Classes usually include different forms of learning, including close reading, lectures, performances, discussion, writing, and project-based activities. Fall and Spring.

Impact: The proposed change to rename HUM 124 from “The Ancient World” to “Global Humanities: Ancient Worlds” will have no effect on requirements, resources, staffing, etc. Likewise, the change to the course description.

Rationale: The new name and description proposed for this course is a better reflection of what the course seeks to do, and reflects many years of revision. Shifting the title from “The Ancient World” to “Ancient Worlds” signifies the plurality of worlds and worldbuilding in antiquity, reflecting our efforts to acknowledge and represent traditional African and Indigenous American worldviews, ethics, ways of being, texts which are rooted in the ancient world and practiced and respected in the present day. The shift in title also supports the method of inquiry and metacognition we practice in HUM 124, asking what it means to designate a culture or practice as *ancient*. The change from the singular to the plural of Ancient Worlds reflects the fact that the designation *ancient* is different for different cultures and does not fall within a single timeline. It is difficult to circumscribe ancient worlds within specific dates; therefore, we have chosen not to give an era in the title. The title of the reader for HUM 124 is *Global Humanities: Engaging Ancient Worlds and Perspectives*, so choosing “Global Humanities: Ancient Worlds” as the title of the course also aligns well with this.

2. **Delete:** On page 183, the entry for HUM 214, The Medieval and Renaissance World:

214 The Medieval and Renaissance World

A study of world civilization from the 4th to the 17th centuries emphasizing European developments, but also attending to parallel developments in African, Chinese, Japanese, Indian and Latin American cultures. Areas of study include philosophy, religion, history, art, literature, music and political systems.

Add: On page 183, in place of deleted entry:

214 Global Humanities: Premodern Worlds (300-1700)

A study of pre-modern civilizations, from the 4th through the 17th centuries. Students draw upon the arts, literature, material culture, music, philosophy, and religion, to gain insight into the world's diverse cultures. Classes usually include different forms of learning, including close reading, class and common lectures, performances, discussion, writing, and project-based activities. Prerequisite: HUM 124. Fall and Spring.

Impact: The proposed change to rename HUM 214 from “The Medieval and Renaissance World” to “Global Humanities: Premodern Worlds (300-1700),” will have no effect on requirements, resources, staffing, etc. Likewise, the change to the course description.

Rationale: The new name and description proposed for this course is a better reflection of what the course seeks to do, and reflects many years of revision in order to diversify course content. The current nomenclature of “Medieval and Renaissance World” is dated and has Euro-centric connotations. The proposed shift to “Global Humanities: Premodern Worlds (300-1700)” not only captures the course content better, it also creates a more inclusive framework for how we approach that content. This change also brings the course in line with the new course reader which every section of HUM 214 has been using since Spring 2022. The title of the reader for HUM 214 is *Global Humanities: Engaging Premodern Worlds and Perspectives*, so choosing “Global Humanities: Premodern Worlds (300-1700)” as the title of the course also aligns well with this.