WheelerNotes

WMST 1101 in Spring 2003
Due to deanly errors, WMST 1101 did not make the spring schedule. In advising students for spring semester, please make them aware that WMST 1101 will be taught on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 1:00 – 2:15 pm by Dr. Karen Hollinger. The control number is 22477, and it counts in area E-4 of the core.

Thematic Learning Communities in Fall, 2002
The College is soliciting instructors willing to work together on thematic learning communities for fall 2003. In learning communities, the same group of 25 students takes 2-4 courses together as a cohort. In this instance we are looking for instructors willing to assure that 2-3 of those courses have some relevance to a common theme. The following examples perhaps give some sense of what is possible:

- A single instructor teaches ENGL 1101 and AASU 1101 lightly integrating the theme: “Speaking Up without Looking Down: Citizenship and Civil Communication.”
- An instructor teaching POLS 1100 and an instructor teaching ENGL 1101 lightly integrate along the theme, “Literature and Politics of Georgia.”
- A HIST 1112 instructor and an ENGL 1101 instructor use the biography or autobiography of a historical figure for the purpose of both historical and rhetorical analysis.
- A community includes a section of AASU 1101, MATH 1113 and BIOL 1107 and uses a text (assigned in the AASU class) that examines the basics of scientific inquiry.
- An AASU 1101 course highlights its instructor’s field of expertise as its theme, and links that theme with a related discipline in the core.

- Instructors in several different learning communities use a common text, and use that text as a focal point for a related campus-wide conference, for a guest speaker, or for display in the library or art gallery.

To indicate interest in participating in a learning community, please send an email with a proposal to Dean Wheeler at wheeleed@mail.armstrong.edu. [Note: The proposal does not need to be extensive; a paragraph describing the theme and how the integration will be accomplished together with names of the participants will be sufficient.] We hope that the challenge of teaching core courses in a somewhat different context is appealing to many faculty members. However, as an additional incentive, the College will provide $500 in travel monies beyond departmental funds to those who are chosen to participate in this experiment.

Toward an Explanation of Certificates
Certificates are relatively new phenomena on the academic scene in general and at Armstrong in particular. Since faculty members are often asked to think about certificates in their curricular deliberations, it is probably wise to discuss their purpose and function briefly. Perhaps the following comments will be useful in initiating this discussion.

University-wide Armstrong offers several graduate certificates and a smaller number of undergraduate certificates. Graduate certificates allow students to complete a small number of graduate courses that accomplish a specific continuing education goal and then discontinue studies without the major commitment of time and resources required to complete a master’s degree. For the AASU graduate program they serve the additional purpose of letting students experiment with being a graduate student without making an all or nothing decision. This

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freedom to experiment has been helpful in graduate recruitment.

Undergraduate certificates have slightly different purposes. Their major purpose is to serve as an advising tool, pointing students toward collections of courses that will substantially improve their knowledge of an issue that complements their major studies. Hence a certificate functions in much the same way as a track within a major. A secondary purpose of a certificate is to make a student’s academic program more attractive to a potential employer. A criminal justice major with a certificate in information technology can point with pride to a series of courses that will improve her ability to serve a public agency. A chemist with a certificate in European Studies can suggest to an international corporation that he or she has insight that would be useful in an international context. What a certificate does not do is prepare a student for a specific job. Information technology certificate holders are not ready to assume a major role in a data processing shop; European Community certificate holders are not ready to become diplomats. Next Edition: Thinking About Certificates Chapter 2

FinlayNotes

As we begin the advisement season, here are few notes on advisement that might be helpful:

- Remember the Regents Test. Check the Advising TranGuide to see if your advisee is approaching the 45-hour cutoff, (or second semester for transfer students), and insist your advisee take this test on time.
- Remember that HIST 1112 can be taken before HIST 1111
- Remember that PHSC 1212 can be taken before PHSC 1111
- Students struggling with college algebra should consider taking MATH 1111-04. This section requires one hour of laboratory each week in addition to the three hours of lecture. This is an excellent option for students who have unsuccessfully tried college algebra before.
- MATH 1101 is provides an interesting alternative to college algebra for students whose proposed programs of study have limited mathematics requirements. Because of the availability of inexpensive graphing calculators, MATH 1101 has been designed to allow students to use geometric reasoning to address problems that once yielded only to algebraic reasoning. MATH 1101 serves as prerequisite to both MATH 2200 and MATH 2900.
- The Honors Program relies on advisors to help identify potential honors students among late-bloomers and other star students who have slipped through the cracks. Please encourage potential honors students to consider honors courses and to see Dr. Finlay.
- CSCI 1050 is not a core course for non-science majors, but CSCI 1150 is.
- ASTR 1020 can be taken before ASTR 1010.
- A "C" or better in ENGL 1101 is required for students to enroll in ENGL 1102.
- Remember the Regents Test. See above.

UPCOMING DEADLINES AND EVENTS:

November 18: International Lecture Series: Alejandro Gomez - US and Latin American Relations during the Cold War, UH 156, 10 a.m.
November 20: Department heads meeting at 3:30, and International Lecture Series: Olga Medvedeva-Siberian Links and Connections with the USA, Gamble 200, 3:30 p.m.
November 22: College of A&S Theatre Night
December 2: Post Tenure Review portfolios due to departments and deadline for items for College of Arts & Sciences Curriculum Committee
December 4: Fall FAR due
December 4: Dress rehearsal for budget presentation, 4:00 p.m.
December 13: Proposed summer school budgets due
December 14: Graduation, 10:00 a.m.

Friday, November 22 Event
Led by Professor Carpenter, the committee has everything in line for the wine & cheese, classy hors d’ouevres, Shakespearean theater, and coffee/dessert that will entertain us. All that is left is for you to sign up. Please contact your appropriate departmental representative: Drs. Harris, Barron, Roberts, Stone, Toma, Hadavas, Murphy or Relyea. Representative for Adult Academic Services, Advisement Center, General Studies and Military Science is Mark Finlay.
As mentioned earlier, one of the duties of the Assistant Dean is to sit on committees that did not even exist in the past. One such committee is the 11/22/02 Party Committee. Led by Professor Carpenter, this committee has everything in line for the wine and cheese, the classy hors d’oeuvres, the Shakespearean theater, and the coffee and dessert that will entertain us. All that is left is for you to sign up. Please contact your appropriate departmental representative: Drs. Harris, Barron, Roberts, Stone, Toma, Hadavas, Murphy or Relyea