

**Institute Undergraduate Curriculum Committee  
Academic Matters and Appeals (Full Committee)  
Tuesday, June 17, 2014**

**Present:** Goodisman (BIOL), Klein (ECE), Mayor (ME), Pikowsky (Registrar), Potts (Vice Provost), Riley (ECE), Senf (LMC), Wilkinson (CHEM & BIOCHEM), Yaszek (LMC)

**Visitors:** Laros (Registrar), Merkousko (Registrar), Hodges (Registrar), Winders (HTS), Perez (PSYC), Goldberg (ML), Williams (ECE)

**Note:** All action items in these minutes require approval by the Academic Senate. In some instances, items may require further approval by the Board of Regents or the University System of Georgia. If the Regents' approval is required, the change is not official until notification is received from the Board to that effect. Academic units should take no action on these items until USG and/or BOR approval is secured. In addition, units should take no action on any of the items below until these minutes have been approved by the Academic Senate or the Executive Board.

**Note:** All votes are unanimous unless specifically noted otherwise.

**Academic Matters**

1. A motion was made to approve a request from the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering for new courses, to modify a description, and for a degree modification. The motion was seconded and approved.

**New Courses - Approved**

ECE 4446: Audio Engineering Laboratory 0-3-1

ECE 4452: Integrated Circuit Fabrication 2-3-3

ECE 4502: Optical Fiber Communications 3-3-4

(Note: Expected Mode of Presentation will be Lecture 50% and Supervised Lab 50%)

ECE 4612: Telecommunications Systems Laboratory 0-3-1

ECE 1010: Introduction to ECE Design 1-3-2

ECE 3150: VLSI and Advanced Digital Design 3-3-4

ECE 4122: Advanced Programming Techniques 2-3-3  
for Engineering Applications

ECE 4181: Embedded Computing Systems 3-3-4

(Note: Transcript title will be expanded to *Embedded Computing Sysys.*)

ECE 4350: Electromagnetic and Microwave Applications 3-0-3

ECE 4563: Game Theory and Multiagent Systems 3-0-3

(Note: An updated syllabus was requested. Item #1 under course educational outcomes is incomplete.)

**Course description modification - Approved**

ECE 3710: Circuits and Electronics

(Note: An updated course outline in the syllabus was requested. Reference to “Logic Gates” on the topical outline needs to be deleted.)

The current description is:

An introduction to electric circuit elements and electronic devices and a study of circuits containing such devices. Both analog and digital systems are considered.

We propose to delete the phrase “*Both analog and digital systems are considered.*” since we cover very little digital systems in this course. That part of the course was relatively minor before and has since been shortened to one lecture period.

Thus the new course description becomes:

An introduction to electric circuit elements and electronic devices and a study of circuits containing such devices.

**Note:** ECE will come back to a future meeting with a request for deactivation of courses.

**Degree Modification: Approved**  
**Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering**

Modify the list of courses that can be used as a senior lab elective for the BSEE degree. The current list is:

ECE 4043 or ECE 4180 or ECE 4185 or ECE 4550 or (ECE 4445 and ECE 4881)

**Change to:**

ECE 4043 or ECE 4180 or ECE 4185 or ECE 4446 or ECE 4452 or ECE 4502 or ECE 4550 or ECE 4612 or ECE 4752 or ECE 4881 or ECE 4884B

Note that the School is not requesting a change in the number of credit hours required for the degree. This would simply be an increase in the number of courses from which students could choose a senior lab elective. The goal is to give students more options in a broader range of areas within electrical engineering.

These new courses have either been offered previously as special topics classes or are modifications of existing courses. After review and discussion by the ECE Undergraduate Committee, these courses have been determined to be suitable as options for the BSEE senior lab elective.

2. The Minutes of the General Education Subcommittee for April 29, 2014 were reviewed. Recommendations from the Subcommittee are outlined in items 3 through 6 below.
3. A motion was made to approve a request from the School of History, Technology, and Society for new courses and to add an attribute to an existing course. The motion was seconded and approved.

**Existing Course Add Attribute – Approved for Social Science**

HTS 3048: Modern Russian History 3-0-3

HTS 2051: History of Colonial Latin America – **Tabled**

**NOTE:** This course was requested to be tabled by HTS. The course will be re-evaluated and re-submitted to GEN Ed prior to being brought back to IUCC for consideration. The course was submitted for both Social Science and Global and Gen Ed did not recommend the Global attribute. After some discussion, it was apparent that more work is needed on the title and on the content description before a decision can be taken.)

**New Courses with Attribute – Approved for Social Science**

HTS 3027: The Civil Rights Movement 3-0-3

HTS 3071: Sociology of Crime 3-0-3

(Note: An updated syllabus was requested.)

HTS 3072: Sociology of Education 3-0-3

HTS 3088: Race, Medicine, and Science 3-0-3

(Note: An updated syllabus was requested to add more specifics on the grading policy for the course.)

4. A motion was made to approve a request from the School of Psychology for a new course. The motion was seconded and approved.

**New Course with Attribute – Approved for Social Science**

PSYC 2005: Exploring Multicultural Identities 3-0-3

(Note: An updated syllabus was requested)

Additional Notes: The vote was not unanimous. There was 1 abstain vote and 1 deny vote. There was concern that only one instructor is listed for this course. The proposer was asked to clarify the class participation requirement on the syllabus. It was noted that this course was requested due to a need for this material in the Leadership Minor.)

5. A motion was made to approve a request from the School of Modern Languages for a new course. The motion was seconded and approved.

**New Course with Attribute – Approved for Humanities and Global**

RUSS 3350: Russian and American Mass Cultures 3-0-3

**Note:** The vote on this course was not unanimous. There was 1 vote of deny.

**New Course with Attribute – Tabled**

RUSS 3300: Experiments on Humans in Russian and European Fiction and Film 3-0-3

**Note:** There was a lot of discussion about this course. The Committee resolved that the proposed title was confusing and unclear. The Committee also determined that the proposed title was not reflective of the actual content of the course as it appears on the syllabus. There was general agreement that this appears to be a very interesting course, which could benefit from a better title.

6. It was noted during the discussion of RUSS 3300 that some collaboration between the School of Modern Languages and the School of Literature, Media, and Communication might result in stronger course proposals, particularly given the academic expertise in both areas and in the sense that there would likely be more than one instructor who could be listed for courses. The General Education Subcommittee has made this suggestion to both Schools. The Schools are encouraged to discuss how they might collaborate on course proposals.
7. A motion was made to approve a request from the School of Literature, Media, and Communication for new courses. The motion was seconded and approved.

**New Courses with Attribute – Approved for Humanities**

LMC 3215: Science Fiction Film and Television 3-0-3

LMC 3244: Modern and Contemporary British Poetry 3-0-3

8. A motion was made to approve a request from the Registrar's Office to add language to the Catalog addressing course content in and delivery mode. The motion was seconded and approved.

The motion was approved subject to the revision of the document as seen below.

Academic content delivered through distance learning is in accordance with the course descriptions as approved by the Institute Curriculum Committee. All courses require approval by the Institute Curriculum Committee and the Academic Senate. All offerings for academic credit delivered through the Division of Professional Education have been approved in this manner.

Academic content delivered at our international sites, such as GT-Lorraine and GT-Shenzhen, is in accordance with the course descriptions as approved by the Institute Curriculum Committee. All courses require approval by the Institute Curriculum Committee and the Academic Senate

regardless of where they are delivered. All study abroad programs are approved on a yearly basis by the Study Abroad Subcommittee of the Institute Undergraduate Curriculum Committee. **Changed to: All Study Abroad Programs are approved on a yearly basis by the Institute Undergraduate Curriculum Committee as recommended by the Study Abroad Subcommittee.**

9. Dr. Potts asked the Committee to draft a cover memo for Core course proposals in the future that would lay out the exceptions that we have already been granted and that remain in effect, as well as explaining why our circumstances warrant these requests.

For the record, the content of the memorandum is incorporated below:

Advisory Committee Members:

Georgia Tech is submitting courses for approval in the Core Areas C and E. The following supplemental information is being provided to help frame the request within the specific circumstances on our campus.

Georgia Tech has been granted exceptions for inclusion of 3000-level classes in the Core Curriculum by both the Advisory Committees and the Board of Regents. This exemption continues to be observed. Approximately 70% of the students at Georgia Tech are in one of the engineering majors, which have rigid curricula. Most of them will take no more than 12 hours of social science classes, and may take fewer because of AP, IB, or dual-enrolled credits. The same holds true for Humanities (we require 6 hours, in addition to ENGL 1101 and ENGL 1102) due to AP, IB, and dual enrolled high school courses.

It is not unusual to see students who take zero social science hours and perhaps only three hours of humanities because of the ENGL 1102 requirement (we only give AP credit for ENGL 1101) in their entire college career. Many will not write a paper unless they are in a 3000-level class. Our requirements for the minors also make it very difficult for students to fit in enough classes to complete both a major and minor in a timely fashion.

Classes at the 3000-level may be the only experiences that the students have in social sciences or humanities in which they will be expected to think critically, analyze texts, and write. We feel that it is extremely important for the engineering students to have this experience and it simply will not happen without being able to include 3000-level classes in the Core. The engineering faculty support this and want their students to

take 3000-level social science and humanities courses. The other colleges at Tech agree with this as well.

Pre-requisites are not required for most of our 3000-level courses in social sciences and humanities due, again, to our rather unique circumstances. It is almost impossible for us to require pre-requisites for these classes, as they would end up with no enrollment. For example, majors in History, Technology, and Society (HTS) do not need to take SOC 1101 before moving on to 3000-level HTS classes. The nature of a 3000-level class is not that it is so detailed as to require prior coursework in the area but, rather, that the degree of difficulty and writing (especially writing) will be different. In all of the sociology classes offered by HTS, for example, instructors have to cover the basics of sociology for the 95% who have not taken a class in the area. In that sense, humanities and social sciences offer a breadth that one would not expect from 3000-level classes.

It can be very challenging to teach social sciences and humanities at an institution that is mainly focused on engineering, with strong programs also in sciences and computing. All of our degrees are BS degrees; we do not offer BA degrees. As such, all our programs carry a strong scientific basis and are populated with students who are typically ready for courses at the 3000-level where they can be challenged and where they can encounter content that they would not see in a large survey course at the 1000-level.

Our aim is to give our students the most holistic academic experience we can deliver as an institution. Being allowed to offer courses in the Core Curriculum through the 3000-level is an important aspect of our strategy to accomplish that goal. We appreciate your support of our requests in this regard.

Institute Undergraduate Curriculum Committee  
(A Standing Committee of the Faculty)

## **Student Petitions**

1. A motion was made to approve a written appeal of a petition for a late withdrawal. The motion was seconded and approved.
2. A motion was made to table a written appeal of a petition for a late withdrawal. The motion was seconded and approved.

Adjourned,

Reta Pikowsky  
Registrar