

COVER SHEET TO BE ATTACHED TO ALL REPORTS SUBMITTED TO THE ACADEMIC SENATE

Date **September 2024** Report Number (For Senate Use Only) _____

Name of Committee Submitting Report
General Education Committee

Committee Status: (elected chartered, appointed chartered, ad hoc, etc.)
Elected/Appointed

Names of Committee Members: Adam Earnhardt, CHAIR/Oral Communication; Kelly Colwell, BCHHS; Nina Stourman, CSTEM; Paul Louth, CCCA; Ramesh Dangol, WCBA; Matt O'Mansky, BCLASSE; David Simonelli, Arts and Humanities; John Feldmeier, Natural Science; Thomas Madsen, Mathematics; VACANT, English Composition; Brian Bonhomme, Social and Behavioral Sciences; Jennifer Soles, Advisor; VACANT, Student; Michele Schaper, Provost's Office (ex officio); Alison Kaufman, Assessment

I. The following is a summary of the Gen Ed Approvals for the 2024-2025 AY:

Course #	Course Title	Date Rec'd	Domain	Hearing	Notes
ALCS 1503	Aging and Society	4/14	SS	7/17	37xx changed to a 15xx level course; prefix change from GERO to ALCS
PHIL 2619	Intro to Logic	5/13	SS	7/17	Removed pre-req
HIST 1500	Discovering World History	7/17	AH	7/17	May count toward major/minor
HIST 1501	Discovering American History	7/17	AH	7/17	May count toward major/minor

II. The following courses were selected to be retained as general education-approved courses beginning with the 2025-26 academic year:

General Education Courses by Domain

Starting in the 2025-2026 academic year, the courses listed below will be incorporated into YSU's general education curriculum. Any course identified below with a pre-existing honors designation is considered part of the general education course inventory.

CORE DOMAINS

English Composition

Writing 1

ENGL 1549 Writing 1 With Support **OR**

ENGL 1550 Writing 1

ENGL 1551 Writing 2

(to be replaced with discipline-specific writing courses)

Mathematics

MATH 1510 College Algebra (and coreq)

MATH 1571 Calculus 1

MATH 2623 Quantitative Reasoning (and coreq)

PHIL 2619 Intro to Logic

STAT 2601 Introductory Statistics

STAT 2625 Stat Lit and Crit Reasoning (and coreq)

KNOWLEDGE DOMAINS

Oral Communication

Communication

CMST 1545 Communication Foundations **OR**

CMST 2620 Science Communication

Natural Sciences

ASTR 1504 Descriptive Astronomy (and lab)

BIOL 1505 Biology in Modern World (and lab)

BIOL 1551 Anatomy and Physiology 1 (and lab)

BIOL 2601 Gen Biol Molecules and Cells (and lab)

CHEM 1500 Chemistry in Modern Living (and lab)

CHEM 1510 Chem for Allied Health Science (and lab)

CHEM 1515 General Chemistry 1 (and lab)

ENST 1500 Intro to Environmental Science (and lab)

FSCI 1510 Survey of Forensic Science

GEOG1503 Physical Geography (and lab)

GEOG 2630 Weather (and lab)

GEOL 1500 Environmental Geology

GEOL 1504 The Dynamic Earth

GEOL1505 Physical Geology (and lab)

PHYS 1501 Fundamentals 1 (and lab)

PHYS 2610 General Physics 1 (and lab)

Arts & Humanities

AFST 2601 Intro Africana Studies 2

ART 1541 Survey of Art History 1

ART 1544 Survey of Art History: Body, Gender, and Self

ART 1591 Idea Development and Creativity in Cultural Context

ENGL 1590 Introduction to Literature

ENGL 2618 Amer Literature and Diversity

ENGL 2631 Mythology in Literature

HIST 1500 Discovering World History

HIST 1501 Discovering U.S. History

HIST 1511 World Civilization to 1500

HIST 1512 World Civilization since 1500

HIST 2605 Turning Points US History 1

JOUR 2603 Media Ethics Social Responsibility

MUHL 2618 Rock n Roll to Rock

MUHL 2621 Music Lit and Appreciation

MUHL 2622 Popular Music in America

MUHL 2624 Survey of Hip Hop

PHIL 1560 Introduction to Philosophy

PHIL 1561 Technology and Human Values

PHIL 1565 Critical Thinking

PHIL 2625 Intro to Professional Ethics

REL 2601 Intro to World Religions

THTR 1560 Introduction to Theatre

THTR 1590 History of Motion Pictures

Social & Behavioral Sciences

ALCS 1593 Aging and Society

ANTH 1500 Introduction to Anthropology

ANTH 1503 Rise and Fall of Civilizations

CMST 2610 Intercultural Communication

CRJS 1500 Introduction Criminal Justice

ECON 1505 Intro to Personal Financial Literacy

ECON 2610 Principles 1: Microeconomics

ENGL 2651 Intro to Language

FNUT 1551 Normal Nutrition

GEOG 2626 World Geography

GEOG 2640 Human Geography

MCOM 1595 Media Literacy and Culture

PHLT 1531 Fundamentals of Public Health

PHLT 1568 Healthy Lifestyles

POL 1560 American Government

POL 2660 International Relations

PSYC 1560 General Psychology

PSYC 2600 Social Psychology

PSYC 2607 Psychology Intimate Relations

SOC 1500 Introduction to Sociology

SOC 2601 Social Problems

WMST 2601 Introduction Women Studies

- III. The following General Education Microcredentials were developed during the Summer 2024 for the 2025-26 academic year per Senate-approved guidelines (Feb

24). Additionally, per those guidelines, an additional four will be developed for the 2026-27 academic year.

YSU GEN ED MICROCREDENTIALS

Developed July 2024

For 2025-26 (soft launch Spring 2025) - see below for details

- Creative Thinking
- Critical Thinking
- Personal and Social Well-Being
- Quantitative & Scientific Reasoning

Microcredential development for 2026-27 (course development)

- Professional Communication & Presentational Literacy
- Leadership
- Digital Citizenship
- Global Engagement

Creative Thinking: apply and present knowledge associated with artistic, creative, and intuitive understanding to develop questions; examine problems from different perspectives, and present potential solutions.

LO: Analyze and synthesize information from diverse sources to formulate unique perspectives and create original concepts, demonstrating the capacity to think beyond conventional boundaries and challenge existing paradigms.

Aligns with UWLO 1 YSU graduates are critical, creative, and integrative thinkers who incorporate a range of interdisciplinary knowledge (1.5) and UWLO 4 YSU graduates connect scholarly research, academic inquiry, and/or artistic expression to actions that inspire a civically engaged mindset and contribute to society through service to their community (4.5).

Possible Courses (pick 3)

AFST 2601 Africana Studies 2. The cultural and intellectual heritage of black people in Africa and the Americas as reflected in literature, philosophy, and art.

ART 1591 Idea Development and Creativity in Cultural Context. This course is centered on creative and equitable strategies in idea development and implementation applicable to innovative and collaborative problem solving in diverse fields and the ability to connect these strategies meaningfully to diverse audiences, specifically subcultures and minority groups within the United States.

CMST 1545 Communication Foundations. Theories, strategies, and skills for competent participation in interpersonal, group, and public communication situations. Application exercises in interpersonal, group, and public communication

OR

CMST 2620 Science Communication. Project-based course in planning and disseminating public messages that explain and use science ethically and effectively to inform and influence people.

ENGL 2618 Amer Literature and Diversity. Writers and works in relation to the diversity of American culture, politics, lifestyles, and social movements.

MUHL 2622 Popular Music in America. The changing styles in American popular music from its origins to the present day studied through an examination of representative compositions and performers.

THTR 1590 History of Motion Pictures. The history of the motion picture from its beginnings to the present, with emphasis on the milestones of film as a performing art. Viewing of significant films from various periods and countries.

Critical Thinking: develop and enhance abilities to analyze information, evaluate arguments, identify biases, and make informed decisions across various academic disciplines.

LO: Apply logical reasoning and evidence-based methodologies to construct well-supported arguments and counterarguments, demonstrating the ability to critically assess and challenge ideas in academic and professional contexts.

Aligns with UWLO 1 YSU graduates are critical, creative, and integrative thinkers who incorporate a range of interdisciplinary knowledge (1.3, 1.4)

Possible Courses (pick 3)

ANTH 1503 Rise and Fall of Civilizations. Comparative survey of the archaeological evidence on the origins, development, and collapse of the great early civilizations of the world. The transformation of societies from settled villages to urban states in Mesopotamia, Egypt, China, Mexico, and Peru. Analysis of the archaeological discoveries, alternative interpretations, and general theories of cultural evolution.

ART 1544 Survey of Art History: Body, Gender, and Self. This course covers the history of world art from the perspective of the human body, issues of gender, and conceptions of self. This

course introduces key concepts, methods, and vocabulary for the study of art, and treats a range of artistic media in their historical and cultural contexts.

CMST 1545 Communication Foundations. Theories, strategies, and skills for competent participation in interpersonal, group, and public communication situations. Application exercises in interpersonal, group, and public communication

OR

CMST 2620 Science Communication. Project-based course in planning and disseminating public messages that explain and use science ethically and effectively to inform and influence people.

MCOM 1595 Media Literacy and Culture. This course offers a critical survey of the role played by mass communication in shaping culture. Individual media institutions are examined in terms of the information they distribute, the entertainment they provide, and the influence they exercise. Special attention is paid to the audience-medium relationship and the concept of media literacy.

PHIL 1565 Critical Thinking. An examination of the logical skills needed for critical thinking in practical situations. Topics include procedures and guidelines for identifying and evaluating arguments, recognizing and eliminating informal fallacies, and writing and critiquing argumentative essays.

HIST 1501 Discovering U.S. History. Survey of U.S. history focusing on five strategic events in the American past. Emphasis is on cultural conflict and compromise, institutional developments and revolutions, and the emergence of democracy as concept and practice. This course is intended for those students for whom history is not a requirement.

Personal and Social Well-Being: strategies for stress management, self-awareness, and resilience through mindfulness and emotion regulation. It addresses the impact of financial resources on mental and physical health, stress levels, and healthcare access, while fostering healthy relationships and effective personal finance management.

LO: Students will develop and apply strategies for personal well-being, social interaction, and financial literacy to enhance their overall quality of life and resilience.

Aligns with UWLO 2 YSU graduates will recognize the impacts of different dimensions of health which include: physical health, emotional well-being, social support, economic stability, environmental quality, educational opportunity, and health-care accessibility (2.2-2.5).

Possible Courses (pick 3)

ECON 1505 Intro to Personal Financial Literacy. An introduction to personal financial planning. Topics covered include budgeting, the use of credit, taxes, savings accounts, investment strategies, insurance, buying a home, career planning, and retirement planning. Students will gain the knowledge and resources to be better prepared for their financial future.

ENST 1500 Intro to Environmental Science. Basic environmental science literacy for informed citizens as inhabitants and stewards of Earth. The use of science and the scientific method to understand, assess, and manage the environment to improve human health, conserve energy and resources, preserve nature, and sustain quality of life.

FNUT 1551 Normal Nutrition. The fundamentals of normal nutrition as they apply to health; nutritional needs during various stages of the life cycle; dietary guides and their application to the selection of adequate diets; problems of nutritional deficiencies and excesses.

PHLT 1568 Healthy Lifestyles. Personal and consumer health issues and prevention of premature death analyzed from physical, emotional, social and spiritual perspectives. Plans for disease prevention and healthful living. Importance of health promotion to the individual, region, nation and world.

PSYC 2607 Psychology Intimate Relations. Psychological principles pertaining to intimate relationships, both marital and non-marital, and family dynamics. Includes topics such as communication, problem solving, domestic violence, and sexuality.

SOC 2601 Social Problems. A sociological overview of various contemporary social issues, analyzing significant discrepancies between standards of expectation and actual social behavior, attempting to ascertain possible causes, and discussing trends and possible changes.

Quantitative & Scientific Reasoning: introduction to the use of logical, mathematical, statistical, and scientific concepts and data to help ground solutions to real world problems.

LO: Students will apply logical, mathematical, statistical, and scientific concepts to analyze real-world problems and develop evidence-based solutions.

Aligns with UWLO 1 YSU graduates are critical, creative, and integrative thinkers who incorporate a range of interdisciplinary knowledge (1.2) and UWLO 4 YSU graduates connect scholarly research, academic inquiry, and/or artistic expression to actions that inspire a civically engaged mindset and contribute to society through service to their community (4.1)

Possible Courses (pick 3)

MATH 2623 Quantitative Reasoning. Mathematics models emphasizing basic ideas in mathematics and statistics, stressing concept formation rather than manipulative skills.

PHIL 2619 Intro to Logic. Introduction to syllogistic or classical logic, symbolic and inductive logic. Emphasis on the rules of syllogism, immediate inferences, propositional functions, classes, truth tables, Venn diagrams; the use of analogy, generalization, the verification of hypotheses, and scientific method.

BIOL 1505 Biology and the Modern World. Biology applied to critical issues of today's society. Focus on the scientific method as relevant to modern biology issues.

CHEM 1500 Chem in Modern Living. Introduction to basic chemical concepts, the scientific method, and the impact of chemistry on human life and society. Examples may include water treatment, air quality, plastics, drugs, cosmetics, energy resources, food, and the chemical basis of life.

GEOL 1500 Environmental Geology. An introductory course that examines interactions between human society and our changing planet, the effects of natural/geologic hazards on humans, and anthropogenic (human-caused) impacts on nature, geology, and society.

HIST 1512 World Civilization since 1500. Development of the major civilizations of the world from 1500 to the present.

IV. **Call for Transformative General Education Course Proposals**

In consultation with ITL and Cyberlearning, the General Education Committee has developed a Call for new courses to be developed to feed the additional microcredentials to be launched in 2026-27. The process for the selection of courses is as follows:

Start of F24 Semester: Gen Ed committee shares list of Microcredentials & current course makeup with campus. Applications for new courses open.

Due September 30: Application via Microsoft Forms/Alchemer

- Name of Proposed Course:
- Person(s) Submitting Proposal:
- Associated Microcredential (proposed course must be aligned to a current microcredential):
- Course Elevator Pitch (250 words max):
- Course Learning Outcomes ([Writing Learning Outcomes guidance](#)):
- How does the proposed course add value to the microcredential? Be sure to speak to how your course might work with current course(s) listed in the microcredential. (max 200 words).
- How does the proposed course support student learning related to the [University Wide Learning Outcomes](#) (max 200 words)?
- Concurrently, applicants must complete Cyberlearning's "[Application to Develop an Online Course](#)" for Cyberlearning and OAA approval.

October 30: GE committee, in consultation with ITL and Cyberlearning, will approve up to 5¹ courses (rubric and other criteria to be developed by GE and ITL)²

November 1: Applicants notified of status of proposed courses.

If approved:

- **Before January 2025:** Applicants are required to meet with ITL staff and with Cyberlearning staff at least once for consultation before January 2025.
- **Before Spring 2025 Gen Ed Course Approval Deadline:** Applicants required to submit request to GE committee for final approval of course.
- **May 2025:** Applicants awarded \$2,000/course for course development per Article 30 of YSU-OEA CBA, pending GE committee and Department of Cyberlearning/OAA final approval (if multiple applicants, course development stipend is split).

Fall 2025/Spring 2026: New courses taught.

Additional notes on Cyberlearning approval process:

Note: Due to the new YSU-OEA Agreement language, courses will not be compensated if they have been taught within the last 3 years as web-based (online asynchronous). Therefore, the application to develop an online course must be approved by the Provost or Provost's Designee prior to the start of the first term in which it will be taught as web-based. See the YSU-OEA Agreement for details.

1. The developer completes the [Application to Develop an Online Course](#). Include expected enrollment and reason for putting the course online as well as if it is part of an online program. The department Chair and Dean should sign, then forward to the Director of Cyberlearning. Send by email to jrchill@ysu.edu.
2. The Director of Cyberlearning will sign and forward the application to the provost for approval.
3. Once the Provost makes the final decision, the Director of Cyberlearning will reach out to the developer to discuss the approval status and whether it is okay to begin development. If approved, a Blackboard course shell will be issued, and an instructional designer will contact the developer to offer assistance with the development process. Development approval is good for six months from Provost (or Provost's designee) signature date. A new application must be submitted and approved to proceed with development beyond this point.
4. The developer registers for the required training for developing and teaching an online course if they have not completed it already. The internal training course is

titled "Preparing to Teach online at YSU" and registration can be completed through [YSU's Training & Development page](#). This can be done earlier in the process, but must be completed before development begins.

5. When the course is completed, the developer should let the Department of Cyberlearning know so that they can start the rubric review process. An email can be sent to jrchill@ysu.edu directly to the instructional designer they have been working with. The review process includes two reviews of the course, one from an instructional designer in the Department of Cyberlearning and one from a colleague of the developer's choice. Each review will evaluate several criteria based on our internal review rubric to determine whether the course is ready to be put online.

6. Once the rubric review is passed, the Department of Cyberlearning will complete the payment form and the compensation will be issued on the posted pay period dates through Payroll. The compensation amount is based on the current YSU-OEA contract.

The additional MCs to be developed include:

Professional Communication & Presentational Literacy: develop communication skills for the modern workplace through courses covering writing and communication, preparing professionals to communicate with impact in team settings, client interactions, and public presentations. LO: Demonstrate proficiency in crafting clear, concise, and persuasive written and spoken communication for diverse professional audiences, adhering to best practices in business writing and digital communications. Aligns with UWLO 3

Leadership: introduction to principles of and skills for effective leadership, including interpersonal and group communication, team building, ethical decision-making, and strategies for inspiring and motivating others. LO: Articulate and model ethical leadership practices, including transparent communication, responsible decision-making, and inclusive behavior, while demonstrating the ability to inspire and motivate others towards shared goals and organizational success. Aligns with UWLO 3

Digital Citizenship: addresses issues related to digital ethics, online privacy, and responsible online behavior, preparing students for the digital age. LO: Analyze and evaluate ethical dilemmas in digital environments, demonstrating the ability to make informed decisions that balance personal, professional, and societal interests in online spaces. Aligns with UWLO 1 & 2

Global Engagement: prepare to be a leader in an increasingly interconnected world, integrating writing, communication, and social science courses to equip students with the skills and knowledge needed for effective cross-cultural leadership. LO: Demonstrate intercultural competence by analyzing complex global issues from multiple cultural perspectives, synthesizing diverse viewpoints to develop nuanced, culturally sensitive solutions. Aligns with UWLO 3 & 4.

Adam Earnhardt, Chair, General Education Committee (2024-2025)