

Undergraduate Curriculum Committee

Meeting Minutes

April 8, 2026

Chair: Jason Davis (Acting, on behalf of Chelsie Dubay)

Format: Virtual

Recorder: Transcript-based minutes

Attendance

Melessia Webb, Evelyn Roach, William Flora, Julie Fox-Horton, Christiana Keinath, Teresa Taylor, Brad Edwards, Mike Stoots, Cindy Phillips, Stacie Hill, Cynthia Edwards, Jason Davis, Allen Coates, Kevin C Reaves, Myra Jones, Richard Carter, Mallory Nischan, Daniel Hedden

Summary of Actions

All six French course proposals presented by Dr. Mallory Nischan were approved unanimously, contingent on minor grading scale corrections already applied by reviewers. The approvals support reinstatement of the French major concentration previously passed by the committee.

1. Propose New Course, ARTA - 4082 -, Kevin Reaves
2. Revise Curriculum: Non-Substantive, Biology Major, B.S. (Biology Concentration), Richard Carter

Course	Title	Type	Outcome
ARTA 4082	Digital Jewelry Design and Casting	New Course	Approved unanimously
FREN 3320	French and Francophone Cinema	Course Edit	Approved unanimously
FREN 3710	Global French Literature	New Course	Approved unanimously
FREN 4127	Francophone Pop Culture and Contemporary Media	Course Edit	Approved unanimously
FREN 4327	The Long 19th Century in French Literature	New Course	Approved unanimously
FREN 4427	Francophone Women Writers	New Course	Approved unanimously
FREN 4527	Francophone African Literature	New Course	Approved unanimously
Curriculum Revision – Non-Substantive	Biology Major, B.S. (Biology Concentration)	Curriculum Edit	Approved unanimously

Course Proposals

FREN 3320 - French and Francophone Cinema (Course Edit)

Presenter: Dr. Mallory Nischan

- Course returns as a standard offering supporting the reinstated French major concentration after multiple prior deliveries as a special topics section.
- Positioned at the 3000 level as a survey of French and Francophone cinema, addressing both cultural study and upper-intermediate language practice.
- Reviewers: Christiana Keinath, Cindy Phillips, Daniel Hedden.
- Edit applied prior to the meeting: F grade range corrected to "less than 60" to match house style (Keinath).
- Motion to approve: Cindy Phillips. Second: Christiana Keinath. Passed unanimously, no abstentions.

FREN 3710 - Global French Literature (New Course)

Presenter: Dr. Mallory Nischan

- Addresses a gap in French programs where literary study often centers on France despite French being a global language.
- Currently delivered as a special topics course with units on North Africa, West and Central Africa, the Caribbean, and Quebec. Course title intentionally broad to allow future units such as Southeast Asia or Louisiana.
- Reviewers: Christiana Keinath, Cindy Phillips, Daniel Hedden. Reviewers noted the course is a strong addition to the major.
- Dr. Hedden confirmed student engagement with North African literature in related English offerings.
- Motion to approve: Christiana Keinath. Second: Cindy Phillips. Passed unanimously.

FREN 4127 - Francophone Pop Culture and Contemporary Media (Course Edit)

Presenter: Dr. Mallory Nischan

- Replaces the previously approved but never taught Modern French Cuisine course. Original course was developed in Fall 2022 by a faculty member no longer at ETSU.
- Revised scope covers social media, news outlets, graphic novels (bandes dessinées), and a food unit retained within a broader pop culture frame.
- Reviewers: Julie Fox-Horton, Melissa (WEBBM).
- Fox-Horton corrected the undergraduate grading scale to "below 60."
- Prerequisite discussion: FREN 2020 is listed as a prerequisite without an undergraduate or graduate designation. Stacie Hill confirmed dual-listed courses are not required to designate undergraduate versus graduate prerequisites and that current catalog records

show FREN 2020 or equivalent for the graduate section. The modify-prerequisites field was left at No and the existing prerequisite retained.

- Evelyn Roach noted that language course placement is often determined by departmental testing, which provides flexibility for students entering at varied skill levels.
- Melissa confirmed implementation date of Fall 2026 is acceptable for a course proposal (courses may enter the catalog year-round). SLOs for this course were reviewed and judged appropriately Bloom's-aligned for the 4000 level.
- Motion to approve: Julie Fox-Horton. Second: Melissa. Passed unanimously.

FREN 4327 - The Long 19th Century in French Literature (New Course)

Presenter: Dr. Mallory Nischan

- Covers the period from the French Revolution through the beginning of World War I, a foundational era for the French novel, multiple literary movements, and early mass media. Also engages the development of French colonial empire.
- Standard content for a French major, though typically combined into a single 19th century course in peer programs.
- Reviewers: Julie Fox-Horton, Melissa (WEBBM). Fox-Horton applied the same grading scale correction as on 4127.
- SLO discussion: Melissa raised a question about Bloom's level alignment given verbs such as read, identify, analyze, demonstrate. Dr. Nischan explained that language programs must serve students entering across a wide skill range, from FREN 1010 beginners through students testing into upper-division work. SLOs intentionally scaffold continued language development alongside disciplinary content. Committee accepted the rationale.
- Motion to approve: Melissa. Second: Mike Stoots. Passed unanimously.

FREN 4427 - Francophone Women Writers (New Course)

Presenter: Dr. Mallory Nischan

- Addresses the male-dominated French literary canon by centering women authors. Parallels existing offerings in the Spanish and English departments.
- Reviewers: Mike Stoots, Teresa Taylor. Reviewers reported only minor edits resolved prior to the meeting. Stoots applied the grading scale correction.
- Motion to approve: Teresa Taylor. Second: Cindy Phillips. Passed unanimously.

FREN 4527 - Francophone African Literature (New Course)

Presenter: Dr. Mallory Nischan

- Distinguished from FREN 3710 (Global French Literature) by its deeper, more focused treatment rather than survey scope. Positioned at a higher literature level.
- Title deliberately broad rather than region-specific (e.g., North or West African) to allow flexibility across semesters. Dr. Nischan noted her own research specialization in North African literature.
- Reviewers: Mike Stoots, Teresa Taylor. No additional edits beyond those addressed prior to the meeting.
- Motion to approve: Teresa Taylor. Second: implied by Chair. Passed unanimously.

Other Business

Concentration Contingency

Evelyn Roach confirmed these six courses were associated with the new French concentration approved at the prior meeting, which was contingent on course approval. With all six now approved, the concentration and courses may advance to the catalog together. Final approval sign-off will be completed by Chelsie Dubay on her return.

Committee Chair Rotation

Jason Davis noted that he is scheduled to rotate off the committee for the first time in 16 years unless reappointed. He asked members to consider nominations for the incoming chair; the topic will be opened formally at the next meeting under Chelsie Dubay.

End-of-Year Tradition

Evelyn Roach reminded the committee of the long-standing tradition of end-of-year cookies, previously shared in person. Jason Davis committed to baking for the final meeting, with Evelyn Roach volunteering to distribute to each department.

Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Minutes prepared from session transcript. Subject to committee approval at the next meeting.