

**Senate Curriculum Committee Meeting**  
**December 16, 2016 8:30 am in 324 ECH**

1. The Chair will invite feedback from members regarding expectations of a reasonable timeline for the vetting of SCC proposals and subsequent revisions made to submitted proposals.

An update will be provided on determining a SCC monthly meeting schedule for the Winter 2017 term.

**Materials:**

**Department of Anthropology (7 items)**

**1. Proposal for Changes to Course Titles: ANTH 2633, ANTH 3673, ANTH 4023**

This proposal is submitted for the purpose of changing three course titles taught by Dr. Peter Toner. The proposed changes are:

<b>Existing title</b>	<b>Proposed new title</b>
<b>ANTH 2633 - Issues in Ethnomusicology</b>	<b>ANTH 2633 - Anthropology of Music and Sound</b>
<b>ANTH 3673 - World Music</b>	<b>ANTH 3673 - Music and Globalization</b>
<b>ANTH 4023 - Celtic Musics in Atlantic Canada</b>	<b>ANTH 4023 - Celtic Musics and Invented Traditions in Atlantic Canada</b>

Rationale:

**ANTH 2633** - The rationale for changing this course title is to provide additional clarity for students concerning course content, as well as to identify the course more clearly at the 2nd-year level. The current title, "Issues in Ethnomusicology", provides little guidance for most of our students looking to enrol, as few if any of them have any pre-existing knowledge of ethnomusicology as a discipline. Additionally, the phrase "Issues in..." too closely parallels our department's 4th-year course "Issues in Anthropology", which may lead some students to expect a more open-ended, advanced, seminar-style course. The new proposed title, "Anthropology of Music and Sound", is a better reflection of the actual course content, and uses a more familiar "Anthropology of..." form that situates the course appropriately with a cluster of comparable courses like "Anthropology of Gender" or "Anthropology of Religion".

**ANTH 3673** - The term "world music" describes a music industry niche that has provided a very useful lens through which to examine a range of anthropological issues. However, over the years the course has examined a range of musical traditions and practices that do not fit as comfortably within that industry niche, and yet are inherently involved in processes of globalization. Therefore, the new title "Music and Globalization" is a more general and accurate reflection of the course content. Additionally, there may be some confusion that the label "World Music" is in fact a survey course along the lines of FNAR 1073 "Exploring Musics of the World", which is not the case.

**ANTH 4023** - The existing title, "Celtic Musics in Atlantic Canada", contains no indication of the fact that the course is an examination of cultural processes underlying the contemporary production of

Celtic folk musics in our region and not merely an examination of those musics themselves, and indeed that the course is an anthropological one rather than a musicological one. Adding the phrase “invented traditions” points to an important critical tradition in anthropology and other disciplines that musical and other “traditions” are always “invented” through ongoing cultural practices. This will allow students to more clearly identify course content prior to enrolment.

Please note that these proposed changes to the course titles do not involve changes to the course content, nor do they require any change to existing calendar descriptions.

## **2. Proposal for Changes to Course Prerequisites for ANTH 2633**

This proposal is submitted for the purpose of changing two course prerequisites for courses taught by Dr. Peter Toner in the Department of Anthropology.

ANTH 2633 currently has ANTH 1013 as a prerequisite. I would like to remove this prerequisite for the following reasons:

- the course is an introduction to subject matter not typically covered in ANTH 1013, and so having complete ANTH 1013 is not necessary to succeed in the course
- it is my intention to attract students from other departments and programs, especially Fine Arts, and having ANTH 1013 as a prerequisite is an impediment for those students
- removing the prerequisite will allow an “opening up” of the course and an increase in enrolment over previous years

## **3. Proposal for Changes to Course Prerequisites for ANTH 4023**

ANTH 4023 currently has for a prerequisite “ANTH 3913 or permission of the instructor”. My original intention in setting this prerequisite was to limit enrolment to upper-year anthropology students, or upper-year students from other departments and programs. However, my solution has proven to be unwieldy, partly because many anthropology majors take ANTH 3913 in their 4th year of study, and partly because it discourages capable students from other disciplines from considering the course. The majority of the ethnographic and theoretical content of the course would be new even to anthropology students, and there is no necessary link between ANTH 3913 and ANTH 4023 except a certain minimum amount of total credits taken.

Given that my real objective in having a prerequisite for this course is to limit enrolment to upper-year students, I would like the prerequisite to be: **“Prerequisite: at least 15 credit hours in ANTH, or permission of the instructor.”**

## **4. Request to change the course title and course Calendar description for ANTH 2413**

Current course title and Calendar description:

### ANTH-2413. Human Biological Diversity

This course will study the biological basis for human diversity. The goal is to understand why biological variations exist and how these variations help populations adapt to varying environments. The course will examine many of these population variations such as distribution of eye, hair and skin colour, blood groups, thermal acclimatization, disease adaptations and demographic population variation. The format of the course will be a combination of in-class lab work/exercises and lectures. Prerequisite: ANTH 1023.

### ANTH 2413 **Human Biological Variation** [changes in bold].

The goal of this course is to understand why biological variations exist and how these variations help populations adapt to varying environments. **The course will examine visible human adaptations (e.g. differences in skin pigmentation) and invisible adaptations (e.g. thermal acclimatization, blood groups). An important component of the course will be anthropological demography, i.e. the study of population structure and cultural/historical influences on health and mortality.** The format of the course will be a combination of in-class lab work/exercises and lectures. **Not open to first-year students.** Prerequisite: ~~ANTH 1023~~

#### Rationale

The name and the description of the course have been altered to reflect both recent approaches in this area of physical anthropology and the nature of the course as it is now taught.

The pre-requisite has been removed in order to make the course available to all second-, third-, and fourth-year students without restriction. Both the size and nature of the student population has changed in the past few years and it seems appropriate to provide more courses to more students and to open up this area of physical anthropology to all students above the first-year level.

Students with ANTH 1023 will encounter both new material and review material, and students without the first-year course will have the opportunity to learn about human variation taught in a broad but challenging way.

#### **5. Request to remove the Prerequisite for ANTH 2423**

Proposed modified Calendar description indicating the removal of the prerequisite by a strikethrough.

### ANTH 2423 Human Evolution: Fact and Theory

This course is a study of the current knowledge and scientific debate regarding the origins and development of the human species. Fossil evidence and evolutionary theory from a historical and modern perspective are emphasized. Not open to first-year students. Prerequisite: ~~ANTH 1023.~~

#### Rationale

In this case the only change is the removal of the pre-requisite for the same reasons as stated above for ANTH 2413.