

History Program Review, August 23, 2024.

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## Responses to Score Card

### Directives (Score Card):

**1. Too many courses in catalog and on HIS elective list in major.**

- ***Provide staffing plan for course offerings utilizing full-time faculty.***

*Response:* Only full-time VTSU faculty will teach HIS courses.

We have no control over VTSU Online faculty who are given courses not approved by the VTSU History program.

- ***Courses should be offered a minimum once every two years; more popular courses will likely be offered more frequently.***

*Response:* See *Staffing Plan* and *Catalog Course Rotation*.

- ***Plan on no more than total of 20 HIS courses offered per semester based on current enrollments (may need fewer sections in spring, 18 might be more appropriate).***

*Response:* See *Staffing Plan* and *Catalog Course Rotation*. No more than 20 HIS courses will be offered per semester, with fewer courses in the Spring. See *Staffing Plan*.

Note: The *Staffing Plan* takes into account current course releases and outside teaching. *Catalog Course Rotation* cannot do so, but the Spring rotation includes one fewer elective than the Fall.

In addition, one elective will be sacrificed each semester by the faculty member teaching the capstone sequence (HIS 4601 History Research Seminar and HIS 4602 History Thesis Seminar). This rotates, so it is unpredictable in terms of longer-term planning per the catalog.

- ***Trim major elective list and catalog offerings accordingly.***

*Response:* Catalog revision:

- We have removed electives that do not comply with the required two-year course rotation.
- To create a clearer scaffolded path through the major, we have increased our 2000-level electives and reduced 3000-level courses:
  - 1000-level courses are required introductory surveys in the core.
  - Electives are offered at the 2000 and 3000 level.
    - 2000-level courses are regional or topical surveys and include the development of critical reading and writing skills.
    - 3000-level courses are typically topical. They include a focus on historiography and the critical analysis of primary sources.
- We have streamlined the regional course offerings to support our global perspective and simplify the process of selecting courses that meet our elective requirements.

Note: Apart from the capstone sequence (HIS 4601 and HIS 4602), most of our courses are offered not only to History majors and Minors, but also to students in Early Childhood & Special Education and Inclusive Adolescent Education, as well as all students in the General Education: Connections program.

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***2. Full-time faculty may need to develop more asynch online courses to meet demand (2 courses offered each semester should be short-term goal, adjust as needed).***

*Response:*

The *Staffing Plan* indicates that we are planning for two asynch online courses per semester in the next two years. All full-time faculty are willing to develop asynch online courses if warranted, dependent on low enrollments of courses in other modalities.

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***3. Full-time faculty may need to consider a minimal number of teaching assignments outside the Dept in order that all full-time faculty meet load. Maybe a couple of Dept members could consider participating in professional development to teach Connections 2 Reading/Writing in the Curriculum.***

*Response:*

- See *Staffing Plan*.
- Faculty will explore participation in the Connections program.

- Course releases and outside teaching cannot be predicted in the longer term, so this is not reflected in the Catalog.
- HIS Coordinator receives 2.5 credits of compensation for serving in this role. The current coordinator is offering a one-credit outside course which allows for the consolidation of one 3 credit course release in Spring 2025 (with one half credit of overload). However, normally the coordinator will have to teach a full load plus the 2.5 credits for serving as coordinator.