

Course syllabus updates

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Syllabuses for the following 30 courses have been accredited by Curriculum Council and are finalised for introduction in the school curricula in 2009:

Ancient History	Human Biological Science
Animal Production Systems	Indonesian
Automotive Engineering and Technology	Integrated Science
Biological Science	Japanese
Building and Construction	Literature
Business Management and Enterprise	Mathematics
Chemistry	Mathematics: Specialist
Children, Family and the Community	Modern History
Design	Music
Economics	Physics
Food Science and Technology	Politics and Law
French	Religion and Life
Geography	Visual Arts
German	Workplace Learning
Health Studies	

Accounting and Finance

The Accounting and Finance course was endorsed by the large majority of teachers at the end of last year, and pending a positive outcome from the independent review, Council agreed that this course could be accredited for implementation in 2009.

In response to requests from the industry associations, the independent review of the syllabus by three independent university educators is now taking place and their report is due shortly. Teachers will be informed of their report, including any recommendations. Depending on the outcome of this review, the course syllabus may be presented to Council in March for accreditation and for implementation in 2009.

New courses in 2008

The following 21 courses are being offered and running in schools this year:

Aboriginal & Intercultural Studies	Engineering Studies
Aboriginal Languages of WA	EAL/D
Applied Information Technology	Italian
Aviation	Marine & Maritime Technology
Career and Enterprise	Materials Design & Technology
Computer Science	Media Production and Analysis
Chinese	Outdoor Education
Dance	Philosophy & Ethics
Drama	Psychology
Earth and Environmental Sciences	Physical Education Studies
English	

Syllabus review

Syllabuses for the following courses are currently being reviewed in response to recommendations from the final round of teacher juries in 2007:

Applied Information Technology (AIT)
Earth and Environment Sciences
(EES)
English as an Additional
Language/Dialect (EAL/D)

Engineering Studies
English
Media Production and Analysis (MPA)
Physical Education Studies (PES)

All syllabus review is coordinated through the relevant course Reference Group or Assessment Review and Moderation (ARM) panel, comprising mainly teachers of the course. All syllabus review is undertaken as part of a formal process. For any minor review, teachers and schools receive six months' notice before implementation. For any major review, 18 months' notice is provided before implementation. Revisions to syllabus and all draft work will be available for comment on the relevant course page on the Council's website

(http://www.curriculum.wa.edu.au/internet/Senior_Secondary/Courses/) under "Jury report and response"

English

In response to teacher jury recommendations, syllabus amendments were agreed for 2008 and further work, including additional stage 2 units, is being undertaken for 2009.

Engineering Studies/Physical Education Studies

In response to teacher jury recommendations, syllabus revisions are being undertaken this term and shared with teachers for feedback during Term 2. These revisions are scheduled for implementation in 2010.

Applied Information Technology (AIT) / Earth and Environment Sciences (EES) / English as an Additional Language/Dialect (EAL/D) / Media Production and Analysis (MPA)

Teachers of these courses provided feedback on proposed revisions in response to teacher jury recommendations and other teacher feedback during Term 4, 2007. The revised syllabuses will be available to teachers before the end of Term 1 for implementation in 2009.

Aviation

Revisions to this course syllabus were made and agreed to by all teachers last year and the reviewed syllabus was reaccredited at the end of 2007 for introduction to Year 11s in 2008 and Year 12s in 2009.

Independent validation of teacher jury advice

Teacher juries were established last year to provide independent advice to the Curriculum Council.

The Department of Premier and Cabinet, through Dr Christina Gillgren, followed up with an independent review to validate that the teacher jury recommendations were implemented. This external validation is an ongoing process. The independent reports, including the validation reports, are available on the Council's website at http://www.curriculum.wa.edu.au/Senior_Secondary/Jury_Reports.