



Date: November 15, 2023

To: Felicia Song, Chair of the GE Committee

From: Alastair Su

Re: HIS008

Dear Professor Song and Members of the GE committee,

Thank you for your memo dated November 6, 2023. Please see my responses to your concerns below:

- (a) In response to your comments, I have included three new readings that explicitly address JRD's first certification criterion to help students "develop biblically and theologically grounded understandings of justice, reconciliation and diversity." The first is an excerpt from Walter Rauschenbusch's *Christianity and the Social Crisis* (1907). The second is a chapter from Anne Blankenship's *Christianity, Social Justice and the Japanese American Incarceration during World War II* (2016). The third is the opening chapter from Charles Marsh's *The Beloved Community: How Faith Shapes Social Justice From the Civil Rights Movement to Today* (2005). Each of these readings—and the responses I will have students prepare for class—provide critical reflections about how the Christian faith informs racial and social justice in three different contexts (immigrant poverty in the Progressive Era; the incarceration of Japanese-Americans and the Christian response; the reinterpretation of the Civil Rights Movement as a religious event). I have updated the syllabus accordingly.
- (b) After some reflection, I would like to modify my response in Section F to "template" instead of "individual course." With its thematic emphasis on teaching race and racism in US history from a Christian liberal arts perspective, my hope is for HIS 008 (and HIS 007) to form a part of the core JRD offerings in Westmont's catalog. Should I move on from my current position, I am confident that future search committees will ensure that my successors are well-equipped to teach in this subject.

Thank you again. Please let me know if you have any further questions.

