**ASCC Themes I Subcommittee**

Approved Minutes

Tuesday, September 5th, 2023 8:30 – 10:00 AM

CarmenZoom

**Attendees**: Andridge, Daly, Fredal, Hilty, Neff, Palazzi, Rehbeck, Steele, Tanner, Vaessin, Vankeerbergen

**Agenda:**

1. Welcome and introductions.
2. Overview of the work of the subcommittee.
3. Approval of 04/28/2023 & 05/12/2023 minutes
   1. Vaessin, Rehbeck; unanimously approved.
4. History 3260 (existing course with GEL Historical Study & GEN Foundation Historical and Cultural Studies; request to remove the GEN Foundation Historical and Cultural Studies & instead add GEN Theme Traditions, Cultures, and Transformations)
   1. TAG
      1. Approved via e-vote.
   2. Themes
      1. *Recommendation:* The reviewing faculty recommend that the department clarify for students which GE ELOs (Legacy General Education or New General Education) are being addressed by each individual assignment (Syllabus pg. 4 under “How the assignments fulfill the GE ELOs”). The Subcommittee assumes that these relate to the GEN given the numbering system used; if that is the case, they also encourage the unit to include information on how the assignments meet the 3 goals of the GEL.
      2. *Recommendation*: The reviewing faculty recommend that the department use the most recent version of the Student Life Disability Services Statement (syllabus, pg. 5), which was updated to reflect the university’s new COVID-19 policies in August 2023. The updated statement can be found in an easy-to-copy/paste format on the [Arts and Sciences Curriculum and Assessment Services website](https://asccas.osu.edu/submission/development/submission-materials/syllabus-elements).
      3. *Recommendation*: The reviewing faculty recommend that the department use the most recent version of the Mental Health Statement (syllabus, pg. 5), as the name and phone number of the Suicide/Crisis hotline has changed. The updated statement can be found in an easy-to-copy/paste format on the [ASCCAS website.](https://asccas.osu.edu/submission/development/submission-materials/syllabus-elements)
      4. Rehbeck, Andridge; unanimously approved with *3 recommendations* (in italics above).
5. History 3253 (existing course with GEL Historical Study & approved for 100% DL; request to add GEN Theme Traditions, Cultures, and Transformations)
   1. TAG –
      1. The reviewing faculty ask that the department provide (in both the syllabus and the GEN Submission Form) more detailed information about how specific readings, topics, and assignments in the course will address the ELOs of the GEN Theme: Traditions, Cultures and Transformation category.
      2. The reviewing faculty ask that the unit provide a cover letter outlining the changes that are made to the proposal as a result of this feedback.
      3. The reviewing faculty declined to vote on the course at this time.
   2. Themes
      1. The reviewing faculty ask that the department be more specific (in both the syllabus and the GEN Submission Form) regarding how this course defines “traditions, cultures, and transformations” and how the aspects of European culture that are examined in the course relate to that definition and the goals and ELOs of the GEN category.
      2. The reviewing faculty request that the department revise the description of the “Final Portfolio Self-Assessment and Proposed Final Grade” on pg. 7 of the syllabus. Specifically, they note that all students should be asked to “consider the ways that this course connects with the core ideas of this General Education Theme…”, as it is not always clear (to either the student or the instructor) at the time a student is taking a course whether they are utilizing the course for a particular GE plan (Legacy or New) or GEN category.
      3. The reviewing faculty ask that the department re-phrase the statement which describes the way in which this course fits into the new General Education Curriculum (syllabus pg. 1 under “Course Description”). Since this is a 3-credit hour course, it does not, in and of itself, “fulfill” the “general requirements and expected learning outcomes for the new General Education Theme…”, as the requirement is for students to earn 4-6 credit hours in this category; stating that a single course fulfills the requirement can be confusing or misleading for students. Instead, the reviewing faculty suggest wording such as “For those students who are following the New General Education curriculum, History 3253 is an approved course in the GEN Theme: Traditions, Cultures and Transformations category. For those students who are following the Legacy General Education curriculum, History 3253 is an approved course in the GEL Historical Study category.”
      4. The reviewing faculty recommend that the department use the most recent version of the Student Life Disability Services Statement (syllabus, pg. 9-10), which was updated to reflect the university’s new COVID-19 policies in August 2023. The updated statement can be found in an easy-to-copy/paste format on the [Arts and Sciences Curriculum and Assessment Services website](https://asccas.osu.edu/submission/development/submission-materials/syllabus-elements).
      5. The reviewing faculty ask that the unit provide a cover letter outlining the changes that are made to the proposal as a result of this feedback.
      6. The reviewing faculty declined to vote on the course at this time.
6. SASIA 5241 (existing course requesting to add GEN Theme Traditions, Cultures, and Transformations)
   1. TAG
      1. The reviewing faculty ask that the department include more information in both the syllabus and the GEN Submission form regarding how the ELOS correspond with the themes of the course. Specifically, they would like more information about how the course fulfills ELOs 3.1, 3.2 and 3.4, with special attention to aspects of culture and tradition beyond militarization.
      2. The reviewing faculty ask that the unit provide a cover letter outlining the changes that are made to the proposal as a result of this feedback.
      3. The reviewing faculty declined to vote on the course at this time.
   2. Themes
      1. The reviewing faculty ask that the department remove from the syllabus and the GEN Submission Form language that describes the course as “introductory” or “an introduction”, as courses in the GEN Themes category are intended as an advanced, rather than introductory, study of a topic.
      2. The reviewing faculty request that the department provide more details in both the syllabus and the GEN Submission form about the specific assignments and activities that will allow students to demonstrate mastery of ELOs 1.1, 1.2, 2.1, and 2.2.
      3. The reviewing faculty ask that the department correct the GEN Goals (syllabus pg. 1-2) to remove mention of the “Lived Environment” Theme. The GEN Goals and ELOs for all categories are available in an easy-to-copy/paste format on the [Arts and Sciences Curriculum and Assessment Services website](https://asccas.osu.edu/new-general-education-gen-goals-and-elos).
      4. The reviewing faculty request that the department review the syllabus for inconsistencies, errors, and incomplete sections. For example, they note that the GEN explanatory paragraph on pg. 2-3 of the syllabus concludes with “Students will also”.
      5. The reviewing faculty recommend that the department use the most recent version of the Student Life Disability Services Statement (syllabus, pg. 6), which was updated to reflect the university’s new COVID-19 policies in August 2023. The updated statement can be found in an easy-to-copy/paste format on the [Arts and Sciences Curriculum and Assessment Services website](https://asccas.osu.edu/submission/development/submission-materials/syllabus-elements).
      6. The reviewing faculty ask that the unit provide a cover letter outlining the changes that are made to the proposal as a result of this feedback.
      7. The reviewing faculty declined to vote on the course at this time.
7. Slavic 2365.99 (existing course with GEL Cultures and Ideas & GEL Diversity—Global Studies; requesting GEN Theme: Traditions, Cultures, and Transformations; this is the 100% DL version of Slavic 2365.01 <https://ascnet.osu.edu/request/5551>, a course that is already approved for the GEN Theme: Traditions, Cultures, and Transformations) BOTH THEMES SUBCOMMITTEE AND THE TAG SHOULD REVIEW AND CONFIRM THAT THIS VERSION OF THE COURSE IS ALSO A VALID THEMES COURSE (THIS SHOULD NOT TAKE MUCH TIME)
   1. TAG
      1. **Contingency:** The reviewing faculty ask that the department clarify the syllabus in regard to the course’s Distance Learning status. Specifically, they request that the department review the syllabus for artifacts of the course’s previous status as an in-person course, such as references to in-class activities. They also ask that the course’s status as synchronous or asynchronous course be clearly stated using that language, as it is the most common and clear terminology for students.
      2. **Contingency:** The reviewing faculty ask that the unit provide a cover letter outlining the changes that are made to the proposal a result of this feedback.
      3. Approved with **two contingencies** (in bold above) via e-vote.
   2. Themes
      1. **Contingency:** The reviewing faculty ask that the department clarify the syllabus in regard to the course’s Distance Learning status. Specifically, they request that the department review the syllabus for artifacts of the course’s previous status as an in-person course, such as references to in-class activities. They also ask that the course’s status as synchronous or asynchronous course be clearly stated using that language, as it is the most common and clear terminology for students.
      2. **Contingency:** The reviewing faculty ask that the unit provide a cover letter outlining the changes that are made to the proposal as a result of this feedback.
      3. *Recommendation:* The reviewing faculty recommend that the department use the most recent version of the Student Life Disability Services Statement (syllabus, pg. 13), which was updated to reflect the university’s new COVID-19 policies in August 2023. The updated statement can be found in an easy-to-copy/paste format on the [Arts and Sciences Curriculum and Assessment Services website](https://asccas.osu.edu/submission/development/submission-materials/syllabus-elements).
      4. Rehbeck, Andridge; approved with **two contingencies** (in bold above) and *one recommendation* (in italics above).
8. Philosophy 3210.02 (“new” course; 4-credit Research and Creative Inquiry High Impact version of Philosophy 3210.01 <https://ascnet.osu.edu/request/5249>, a previously approved course for GEN Theme: Traditions, Cultures, and Transformations)  THE TCT THEME IS ALREADY APPROVED FOR THE 3210.01 VERSION; ONLY THEMES SUBCOMMITTEE SHOULD BE REVIEWING THE HIP ASPECT OF THIS VERSION OF THE COURSE
   1. TAG
      1. TAG noted that the research component seemed a bit light for an HIP Research course, but deferred to the Themes Subcommittee as this is not their purview.
   2. Themes HIP
      1. **Contingency:** The reviewing faculty ask that the department clarify how the research paper assignment in this course differs from a research paper assignment that would be given in a typical 3-credit hour, 3000 level philosophy course; they are trying to ascertain how students’ research in this course will be qualitatively different. To this end, they ask that the department include in the syllabus a paragraph that explains to students (many of whom will be from majors outside of the Department of Philosophy) what research consists of in the field of philosophy, what methodologies are employed, and how students will conduct philosophy research and utilize some of those methodologies in this course.
      2. **Contingency:** The reviewing faculty ask that the unit provide a cover letter outlining the changes that are made to the proposal a result of this feedback.
      3. *Recommendation:* The reviewing faculty recommend that the department use the most recent version of the Student Life Disability Services Statement (syllabus, pg. 13), which was updated to reflect the university’s new COVID-19 policies in August 2023. The updated statement can be found in an easy-to-copy/paste format on the [Arts and Sciences Curriculum and Assessment Services website](https://asccas.osu.edu/submission/development/submission-materials/syllabus-elements).
      4. *Recommendation*: The reviewing faculty suggest that the department update their curriculum map to reflect the renumbering of Philosophy 3210 to 3210.01 and 3210.02.
      5. Rehbeck, Palazzi; unanimously approved with **two contingencies** (in bold above) and *two recommendations* (in italics above.)
9. EEOB 2250 (existing course requesting GEN Theme: Origins and Evolution) THIS COURSE IS PRE-APPROVED FOR THE THEME--IT ONLY NEEDS TO BE REVIEWED BY THE THEMES SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS (return)
   1. Themes
      1. **Contingency:** The reviewing faculty ask that the standard version of the goals and ELOs for the GEN Theme: Origins and Evolutions be utilized on the syllabus. These are available in an easy-to-copy/paste format on the [Arts and Sciences Curriculum and Assessment Services website](https://asccas.osu.edu/new-general-education-gen-goals-and-elos).
      2. *Recommendation:* The reviewing faculty recommend that the department clarify whether the midterms are to be completed online (as stated on pg. 6 of the syllabus) or in-person during class (as stated pg. 10 of the syllabus).
      3. *Recommendation*: The reviewing faculty recommend that the department use the most recent version of the Student Life Disability Services Statement (syllabus, pg. 16), which was updated to reflect the university’s new COVID-19 policies in August 2023. The updated statement can be found in an easy-to-copy/paste format on the [Arts and Sciences Curriculum and Assessment Services website](https://asccas.osu.edu/submission/development/submission-materials/syllabus-elements).
      4. *Recommendation*: The reviewing faculty recommend that the department use the most recent version of the Mental Health Statement (syllabus, pg. 15), as the name and phone number of the Suicide/Crisis hotline has changed. The updated statement can be found in an easy-to-copy/paste format on the [ASCCAS website.](https://asccas.osu.edu/submission/development/submission-materials/syllabus-elements)
      5. Rehbeck, Palazzi; unanimously approved with **one contingency** (in bold above) and *three recommendations* (in italics above).
10. Earth Science 2205 (existing course with GEL Natural Science—Physical Science & approved for 100% DL; when course was first submitted in AU21, it was requesting GEN Theme: Lived Environments & Sustainability; School of Earth Sciences has now dropped this request and is instead requesting the GEN Theme: Origins and Evolution)
    1. TAG
       1. Approved via e-vote.
    2. Themes
       1. Comment: The ASC CAS Office will update the course description in curriculum.osu.edu to say “Add EarthSc 1200 for ***Legacy GE*** Physical Science lab credit” to clarify that this course CANNOT be used as a GEN Foundation Natural Science course. The Office suggests that the unit update the syllabus (pg. 1) similarly to help alleviate student confusion.
       2. *Recommendation*: The reviewing faculty recommend that the department use the most recent version of the Student Life Disability Services Statement (syllabus, pg. 15), which was updated to reflect the university’s new COVID-19 policies in August 2023. The updated statement can be found in an easy-to-copy/paste format on the [Arts and Sciences Curriculum and Assessment Services website](https://asccas.osu.edu/submission/development/submission-materials/syllabus-elements).
       3. *Recommendation*: The reviewing faculty recommend that the department use the most recent version of the Mental Health Statement (syllabus, pg. 15), as the name and phone number of the Suicide/Crisis hotline has changed. The updated statement can be found in an easy-to-copy/paste format on the [ASCCAS website.](https://asccas.osu.edu/submission/development/submission-materials/syllabus-elements)
       4. Andridge, Vaessin, unanimously approved with *two recommendations* (in italics above) and one comment.
11. Sociology 4629 (course change from 5000 to 4000-level; increase credit hours from 3 to 4; requesting new GE Theme Health & Wellbeing with Research & Creative Inquiry high-impact practice) THEME FULLY APPROVED BY BOTH TAG AND THEMES SUBCOMMITTEE. NEEDS TO GO BACK TO SUBCOMMITTEE TO APPROVE HIP
    1. HIP
       1. *Recommendation*: The reviewing faculty recommend that the department move the study of ethics from Weeks 9 and 11 to an earlier date on the course calendar so that students have a chance to engage with this important material before conducting their neighborhood observations.
       2. *Recommendation*: The reviewing faculty recommend that the department use the most recent version of the Student Life Disability Services Statement (syllabus, pg. 7), which was updated to reflect the university’s new COVID-19 policies in August 2023. The updated statement can be found in an easy-to-copy/paste format on the [Arts and Sciences Curriculum and Assessment Services website](https://asccas.osu.edu/submission/development/submission-materials/syllabus-elements).
       3. *Recommendation*: The reviewing faculty recommend that the department use the most recent version of the Mental Health Statement (syllabus, pg. 7-8), as the name and phone number of the Suicide/Crisis hotline has changed. The updated statement can be found in an easy-to-copy/paste format on the [ASCCAS website.](https://asccas.osu.edu/submission/development/submission-materials/syllabus-elements)
       4. *Recommendation:* The reviewing faculty suggest removing the language on pg. 6 of the syllabus that references “the standard OSU grading scale”, as Ohio State does not have a standard grading scale; instructors may choose to use whatever scale works best for their course.
       5. Rehbeck, Andridge; unanimously approved with *4 recommendations* (in italics above.)