**ASCC Themes I Subcommittee**

Approved Minutes

Tuesday, November 14th, 2023 2:30-4:00 PM

CarmenZoom

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

**Agenda:**

1. Approval of 10-17-2023 and 10-31-23 minutes
	1. Vaessin, Rehbeck; unanimously approved.
2. Slavic 4595 (new course requesting GEN Theme TCT)
	1. TAG
		1. The reviewing faculty ask that the department provide more information on the syllabus (pg. 5-6 ) and the GEN Submission Form about how the assignments connect to the goals and ELOs of the GEN Theme: Traditions, Cultures, and Transformations category (especially ELO 3.1), so that students will have a better understanding of how the assignments will allow them to demonstrate their mastery of the GEN goals and ELOs.
		2. The reviewing faculty ask that the department provide more information in both the syllabus and the GEN Submission Form about what aspect(s) of Southeastern European culture are the focus of the course .
		3. The reviewing faculty request that the department provide more information in both the syllabus and the GEN Submission Form about how the course will address the representation of the culture’s dominant and subdominant groups.
		4. The TAG declined to vote on the course at this time.
	2. Themes
		1. The reviewing faculty ask that the department include in the syllabus some information about how and/or when students will be introduced to the format of the final Digital Project (as described on pg. 5 of the syllabus) and instructed in the methodology required to make the timelines and story maps that the instructor has assigned. In addition to providing information about this instruction, the reviewing faculty ask that the department include in the assignment description information for students about how this assignment will align with the goals and ELOs of the GEN category.
		2. The reviewing faculty re quest that the department amend the course description on pg. 1 of the syllabus to include further discussion of the Traditions, Cultures, and Transformations theme, taking care to engage with the language of the ELOs and be more specific about which aspects of culture will be the focus of the course.
		3. The reviewing faculty note that the department has listed the first two goals of the GEN Theme: Traditions, Cultures, and Transformations category (and their corresponding ELOs) on the syllabus twice, once on pg. 2 and then again on pg. 3 of the syllabus, each with different explanations of how the course will meet these ELOs. The reviewing faculty ask that the department eliminate the repetition, keeping the version that they believe best articulates the course’s methods and topics.
		4. The reviewing faculty request that the department rephrase the sentence on pg. 1 of the syllabus that reads “This course fulfills the general requirements and expected learning outcomes for GE Themes.”, as they feel it may imply that the course completes the requirements for the entire theme, causing confusion for students. Instead, they suggest the following wording (or similar): “This course is approved as a part of the GEN Theme: Traditions, Cultures, and Transformations category.”
		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 declined to vote on the course at this time.
3. Classics 3700 (new course requesting GEN Theme Lived Environments)
	1. TAG
		1. The TAG was unable to vote on the course at this time due to lack of quorum; tabled.
	2. Themes
		1. The Themes I Subcommittee declined to vote on the course pending the comments of the TAG.
4. Kinesiology: Spt Indsty Spt Mgt 3100 (new course requesting GEN Theme Lived Environments)
	1. TAG
		1. The TAG was unable to vote on the course at this time due to lack of quorum; tabled.
	2. Themes
		1. The Themes I Subcommittee declined to vote on the course pending the comments of the TAG.
5. Slavic 3310 (existing course with GEL VPA and Diversity—Global Studies; requesting GEN Theme Origins and Evolution)
	1. TAG
		1. The reviewing faculty ask that the course’s connection to ELOs 3.1 and 3.2 be more clearly articulated in the syllabus and the GEN Submission Form. Currently, the reviewing faculty are unable to see how models illustrating the time depth of the Earth, the age of the universe, life on Earth, etc. are incorporated as part of the course. They note that reading some portions of Darwin's "On the Origin of Species" will provide an allusion to time depth of the Earth, and life on Earth, but without the best current understanding of the science in this area. Furthermore, they ask that the course provide additional and more advanced engagement with the scientific method.
		2. The reviewing faculty request that the department consider reducing the number of texts and films covered in the course, allowing more time for an in-depth and critical study of the modern scientific research.
		3. The reviewing faculty offer the friendly suggestion that this course might be an excellent opportunity for a teaching partnership with another department. If this is not possible, they note that the scientific material in the course could also be enhanced by the presence of guest lecturers. Should the department choose the latter approach, they note that it will be important to ensure that engagement with scientific knowledge and scientific topics is consistently integrated throughout the semester. In short, it is imperative that students understand and are able to demonstrate mastery of the scientific concepts addressed by the theme, in addition to the strong coverage of humans’ cultural response to science and technology.
		4. The reviewing faculty declined to vote on the course at this time.
	2. Themes
		1. The reviewing faculty ask that the department provide more information on how the material in this course connects to “out-of-classroom experiences” (GEN Goal 2).
		2. The reviewing faculty request that the department provide a clearer articulation of how this course constitutes an advanced study of the theme, especially regarding the course’s specific readings/films and activities. However, they acknowledge that, in addressing the comments above, the level of the course may be elevated and/or its advanced nature may become clearer in the revised submission.
		3. The reviewing faculty ask that the department amend the statement regarding the grading scale on pg. 1 of the syllabus, as OSU does not have a standard grading scale; instructors are welcome to use any scale that best fits the needs of their course.
		4. The reviewing faculty observe that the department has added a third paragraph to the university’s required Religious Accommodations statement (syllabus pgs. 6-7). Since this statement was developed in response to recent legislative action, the reviewing faculty request that this third paragraph be eliminated. If the department feels strongly about its inclusion, the reviewing faculty ask that it be listed under its own heading or moved to a different part of the syllabus.
		5. The reviewing faculty declined to vote on the course at this time.