

ASCC Social and Behavioral Sciences Subcommittee
Approved Minutes

Friday, May 10th, 2024

3:00-4:30 PM

Carmen Zoom

Attendees: Bitters, Dwyer, McKean, Nathanson, Smith, Steele, Vankeerbergen, Xiao

Agenda

- 1) Approval of 4-26-24 minutes
 - a) McKean, Dwyer; unanimously approved.
- 2) Speech and Hearing Science 3350 (existing course with GEL Social Science—Individuals and Groups and GEN Foundation Social and Behavioral Sciences; requesting 100% DL delivery)
 - a) **Contingency:** The Subcommittee asks that the department provide additional information in the syllabus about the discussion forums (pg. 3), including due dates (or a regular weekly schedule) for the initial discussion posts and students' responses to their peers' posts, information about the required length of the posts and responses, and guidelines regarding how the discussions will be assessed.
 - b) **Contingency:** The Subcommittee requests that the department provide additional information in the syllabus about the final exam (syllabus pg. 7) including details about the length of the exam, the format of the questions (e.g. essay, multiple choice, etc.), how the exam will be administered (e.g. take home, synchronously online, etc.), and how long students will have to complete the exam.
 - c) **Contingency:** The Subcommittee asks that the department alter the syllabus to clarify the format of the course for students. Pg. 2 of the syllabus explains that "There are no required sessions when you must be logged in to Carmen at a scheduled time" and pg. 2 of the Distance Learning Cover sheet says that "All required course content will be completed asynchronously." However, there are several references in the syllabus (pgs. 3, 8) to a synchronous meeting for the group presentations. The department is welcome to alter the course syllabus to incorporate a synchronous meeting for the presentation (as long as students receive clear, non-contradictory information about this); however, the Subcommittee offers the friendly suggestion that the presentations could be completed in an asynchronous format, thus providing some flexibility for students who are interested in a fully asynchronous experience.
 - d) **Contingency:** The Subcommittee recommends 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](#).
 - e) **Contingency:** The Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee recently (03-01-2024) updated the list of required syllabus statements for all syllabi to include a new statement on religious accommodations. The new version is a result of a directive by the Executive Vice President and Provost and can be found here on the [ASC Curriculum and Assessment Services website](#). The Subcommittee thanks you for adding this statement to your course syllabus. Please note that the link at the bottom of the statement ("Policy: Religious Holidays, Holy Days, and Observances") must be included with the statement to fully comply with the law.
 - f) **Recommendation:** The Subcommittee recommends that the department update the Title IX statement (syllabus pg. 13), as Kellie Brennan no longer works for the university. An updated statement can be found in an easy-to-copy/paste format on the [ASCCAS website](#).

- g) *Recommendation*: The Subcommittee recommends that the department use the most recent version of the Mental Health Statement (syllabus, pg. 13-14), as the name and phone number of the Suicide/Crisis hotline have changed. The updated statement can be found in an easy-to-copy/paste format on the [ASCCAS website](#).
- h) McKean, Xiao; unanimously approved with **five contingencies** (in bold above) and *two recommendations* (in italics above).

3) Revision of GIS in Demography

- a) Comment: The Subcommittee notes that a new course in the Geography Department, Geography 6286 (GIS in Social and Business Research), may be appropriate for this Graduate Interdisciplinary Specialization, and they ask that the proposing unit consider it for inclusion. More information on the course can be found here: <https://ascnet.osu.edu/request/4988>.
- b) **Contingency**: The reviewing faculty have noted a number of administrative errors in the proposal, and they ask that these be corrected prior to the revision being sent forward to the Office of Academic Affairs.
 - i) The courses listed below appear in the proposal, but there is no mention of their cross-listings in other departments. The Subcommittee asks that the cross-listings be included in the proposal so that students can properly plan their course of study given the rules about courses to be taken outside of the home graduate program (proposal pg. 4).
 - (1) Anthropology 5505 is cross-listed as EEOB 5505 and (starting in SP 2025) FABENG 5505.
 - (2) Anthropology 5510 is cross-listed as EEOB 5510, ENR 5510.
 - (3) Anthropology 7004 is cross-listed as ENR 7004.
 - (4) ESQUAL 7240 is cross-listed as ESPHE 7240.
 - (5) History 7087 is cross-listed as AFAMAST 7087.
 - (6) History 7303 is cross-listed as AFAMST 7303.
 - (7) Public Affairs 7574 is cross-listed as HTHRHSC 7574.
 - (8) Public Health Bio 7225 is cross-listed as Statistics 6510.
 - ii) The courses listed below appear in the proposal with the wrong title; the Subcommittee asks that this be corrected to alleviate student confusion.
 - (1) Anthropology 7001 is "Society and Environment"
 - (2) Geography 7102 is "Fieldwork in Human Geography"
 - (3) Human Development and Family Science 8862 is "Seminar in Human Development and Family Sciences".
 - (4) Sociology 7884.08 is "Seminar: The Family"
 - iii) The following course is currently in limbo; the Subcommittee asks that it be removed from the list of electives or be taken out of limbo by the Department of Sociology.
 - (1) Sociology 7884.03 (pg. 30 of proposal)
 - iv) The following courses have been withdrawn from the Course Catalog as of SU23; the Subcommittee asks that they be removed from the list of electives:
 - (1) Agriculture and Development Economics 7410
 - (2) Agriculture and Development Economics 7415
 - (3) Agriculture and Development Economics 7421
 - v) Rural Sociology 7560 is erroneously listed in the proposal as ENR 7560 (proposal pgs. 7 and 28); the Subcommittee asks that this be corrected. They note that ENR is the name of the unit, while Rural Sociology is the Course Bulletin Listing/Subject Area.
 - vi) ESQREM 8725 and 8895 are listed as additions to the GIS on pg. 7 of the proposal, but they do not appear in the Appendix at the end of the proposal.

- vii) Public Health HBP 7544 and Sociology 7884.15 are listed on the current version of the GIS, but they do not appear on the proposed version of the GIS found in the Appendix, nor did the department ask for them to be removed from the GIS.
 - c) Dwyer, McKean; unanimously approved with **one contingency** (in bold above) and one comment.
- 4) Psychology 3522 (existing course requesting course number change—from 4522—and change to prerequisites)
- a) **Contingency:** The Subcommittee appreciates the details provided for the students about the format and length of the exams (syllabus pg. 9), and they ask that the department provide similar information in the syllabus about the course’s other assignments and assessments, including the podcast, journal, scientific study report, weekly questions, and class participation.
 - b) **Contingency:** The Subcommittee asks that the department include in the course schedule (syllabus pg. 15) detailed information about the course’s readings, since these will play a part in determining what has changed in the course as a result of it being moved from the 4000 level to the 3000 level.
 - c) **Contingency:** The Subcommittee asks that the department amend the Religious Accommodations statement (syllabus, pg. 14) to include active links to the Office of Institutional Equity and the list of Religious Holidays, Holy Days and Observances, as this is required for the statement to be in compliance with the law. An easy-to-copy-paste version of the statement (with active links) is available on the [Arts and Sciences Curriculum and Assessment Services website](#).
 - d) **Contingency:** The Subcommittee requests that the department correct the heading for the Academic Misconduct Statement (syllabus pg. 12), removing the reference to “behavioral misconduct”, as Student Conduct violations of a non-academic nature are handled by a different administrative office and not related to the Committee on Academic Misconduct.
 - e) *Recommendation:* The Subcommittee recommends that the department reconsider the format of the syllabus. While they understand and appreciate the motivation to make it an interesting and engaging document for students to read, they note that it does not meet the university’s accessibility standards. Microsoft Word’s accessibility function reveals nearly 200 accessibility errors involving missing object descriptions, alignment issues, and hard-to-read text contrasts that could make using the syllabus difficult for students with disabilities.
 - f) *Recommendation:* The Subcommittee recommends that the department remove the reference to iPads (syllabus pg. 7), as students are no longer issued these devices.
 - g) *Recommendation:* The Subcommittee suggests that the department amend the statement regarding the grading scale on pg. 9 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.
 - h) *Recommendation:* The Subcommittee suggests that the department alter the listing of the grade components on pg. 8 of the syllabus to include a separate listing for all three exams, as the current notation of “3/90” could be confusing for students.
 - i) *Comment:* The Subcommittee respectfully observes that the image *Praying Hands (Study of the Hands of an Apostle)* by Albrecht Dürer, which is used on pg. 13 of the syllabus to accompany the Religious Accommodations Statement, has traditionally been viewed as a Christian image, and as such may not be the most ideal image to accompany a statement meant to foster religious inclusivity.
 - j) McKean, Dwyer; unanimously approved with **four contingencies** (in bold above), *four recommendations* (in italics above), and one comment.