

ASCC Natural and Mathematical Sciences Subcommittee

Approved Minutes

Thursday, November 21st, 2024

1:15PM – 2:45PM

CarmenZoom

Attendees: Carlson, Cole, Dinan, Hadad, Lee, Neff, Vankeerbergen

Agenda

1. Approval of 11/7/24 minutes & 9/26/24 E-vote minutes
 - a. Cole, Lee; unanimously approved.
2. Astronomy 4810 (new course)
 - a. Comment: Given that the title of this course is “Order of Magnitude: 2”, the Subcommittee requests that the course title for Astronomy 3810 be revised with a course change request to “Order of Magnitude: 1”, in order to reflect its place as the first course in the sequence.
 - b. Comment: The Subcommittee encourages the department to critically review the syllabus to remove typing errors. The Subcommittee also recommends that the department refrain from using the term "COVID-19" in the syllabus, opting instead for simply "COVID" to ensure that the language aligns with evolving terminology. [Syllabus p. 2]
 - c. **Contingency:** The Subcommittee asks that the department include a direct PDF link to *Street-Fighting Mathematics* by Sanjoy Mahajan from MIT's website in the course syllabus to streamline access for students. [Syllabus p. 2]
 - d. **Recommendation:** The Subcommittee recommends that the department ensure that the reference to the [Office of Institutional Equity](#) in the religious accommodations statement is a hyperlink to the office’s email. Additionally, the Subcommittee recommends that the department ensure that the link below works as a hyperlink in the syllabus. Please feel free to copy and paste these two links into the statement directly from the Subcommittee’s feedback. Otherwise, the full statement with the links can be found in an easy to copy/paste format on the [Arts and Sciences Curriculum and Assessment Services website](#). [Syllabus p. 5-6]
 - i. **(Policy: [Religious Holidays, Holy Days and Observances](#))**
 - e. Lee, Cole; unanimously approved with one comment, **two contingencies**, and *one recommendation*.
3. Biology 1111 (new course)
 - a. The Subcommittee asks that the absence/make-up work policies be streamlined to avoid overwhelming students with any excessive information, making it more reader friendly. [Syllabus pp. 5-6]
 - b. The Subcommittee notes that the absence policy states that make-up work must be completed within one week, which could present challenges for students who are working with Student Life Disability Services. The Subcommittee encourages that

the Center take this into consideration and allow for flexibility in the deadline, ensuring that students with accommodations have sufficient time to complete make-up work. [Syllabus p. 5]

- c. The Subcommittee asks that the Center collaborate with their advisors to ensure that the appropriate math placement level is included in the course prerequisites.
 - d. The Subcommittee recommends that the Center use the most recent version of the Student Life Disability Services Statement, which was updated in summer of 2024. The updated statement can be found in an easy to copy/paste format on the [Arts and Sciences Curriculum and Assessment Services website](#). [Syllabus pp. 6-7]
 - e. The Subcommittee recommends that the Center use the most recent version of the university's diversity statement if they wish to keep it in the syllabus. The updated statement can be found in an easy to copy/paste format on the [Arts and Sciences Curriculum and Assessment Services website](#). [Syllabus p. 10]
 - f. Declined to vote.
4. Biology 1112 (new course requesting GEN Foundation Natural Sciences)
- a. The Subcommittee wonders if the Center has considered the scenario in which students transfer in with credit for Biology 1111 and are only required to take Biology 1112. They request clarification on whether this situation has been fully accounted for in the course structure to avoid complications for transfer students.
 - b. The Subcommittee notes a discrepancy in the syllabus: the final grade is stated to be based on a total of 895 points, yet the grade breakdown table lists the course total as 905 points. They ask that the Center ensure the grade breakdown aligns with the 895-point total. [Syllabus pp. 4, 6]
 - c. The Subcommittee asks that the absence/make-up work policies be streamlined to avoid overwhelming students with any excessive information, making it more reader friendly. [Syllabus pp. 6-9]
 - d. The Subcommittee notes that the absence policy states that make-up work must be completed within one week, which could present challenges for students who are working with Student Life Disability Services. The Subcommittee encourages that the Center take this into consideration and allow for flexibility in the deadline, ensuring that students with accommodations have sufficient time to complete make-up work. This is especially important for this course, given the nature of the assignments. [Syllabus p. 7]
 - e. The Subcommittee notes a typo in the prerequisite section of the syllabus (p. 1) and in curriculum.osu.edu. Instead of Math 1048, the prerequisite should be Math 1148. Additionally, the Subcommittee asks that the Center collaborate with their advisors to ensure that the appropriate math placement level is included in the course prerequisites.
 - f. The Subcommittee recommends that the Center use the most recent version of the Student Life Disability Services Statement, which was updated in summer of 2024. The updated statement can be found in an easy to copy/paste format on the

[Arts and Sciences Curriculum and Assessment Services website](#). [Syllabus pp. 9-10]

- g. The Subcommittee recommends that the Center use the most recent version of the university's diversity statement if they wish to keep it in the syllabus. The updated statement can be found in an easy to copy/paste format on the [Arts and Sciences Curriculum and Assessment Services website](#). [Syllabus p. 13]
- h. Declined to vote.