

ASCC Social and Behavioral Sciences Subcommittee

Approved Minutes

Monday, August 26th, 2024

3:00PM – 4:30PM

CarmenZoom

Attendees: Dwyer, McKean, Nathanson, Neff, Steele, Valle, Vankeerbergen, Xiao

Agenda

1. Welcome back!
2. Approval of 5-10-24 minutes
 - a. Xiao, McKean; unanimously approved.
3. Geography 3703 (new course requesting GEN Theme Lived Environments)
 - a. *Recommendation:* The Subcommittee notes that the syllabus does not clearly define which aspects of AI will be addressed in the course and suggests that the syllabus make clear to students the specific focus or perspective of the course within AI.
 - b. *Recommendation:* The Subcommittee recommends that the grade breakdown in the syllabus also indicate that the attendance grade will be modified depending on students' participation throughout the semester, as is noted earlier in the syllabus. [Syllabus p. 10]
 - c. *Recommendation:* The Subcommittee recommends that the course calendar include the page numbers of the readings assigned to students for each class session or, alternatively, that the list of readings be moved closer to the course calendar. This would make it easier for students to find information about the readings without going back and forth between the syllabus pages. [Syllabus pp. 6-9, 15-17]
 - d. *Recommendation:* The Subcommittee recommends that the department clearly indicate in the AI policy in the syllabus whether or not this instructor permits the use of AI in the course. The current language suggests that generative AI tools should be used only with the explicit permission of each individual instructor but does not plainly state if this instructor grants permission. Simply given the topics of the course, the Subcommittee recommends the syllabus be very clear about AI policy. [Syllabus pp. 18-19]
 - e. *Recommendation:* The Subcommittee recommends that the syllabus specify that this course is part of the *New* General Education (GEN) curriculum in the language preceding the course-based goals. [Syllabus p. 2]
 - f. *Recommendation:* The Subcommittee recommends that the department use the most recent version of the Student Life Disability Services Statement, which was updated in May 2024. The updated statement can be found in easy to copy/paste format on the [Arts and Sciences Curriculum and Assessment Services website](#). [Syllabus p. 20]

- g. *Recommendation*: The Subcommittee recommends that the department use the most recent version of the mental health statement if it wishes to keep the statement in the syllabus. The statement was updated to include the new Suicide and Crisis Lifeline number. The updated statement can be found in copy/paste format on the [Arts and Sciences Curriculum and Assessment Services website](#). [Syllabus pp. 20-21]
 - h. *Recommendation*: The Subcommittee recommends that the following link be added to the bottom of the religious accommodations statement, as it is a part of the required text: **Policy: [Religious Holidays, Holy Days and Observances](#)**. [Syllabus p. 22]
 - i. Xiao, McKean; unanimously approved with *eight recommendations*.
4. Economics 4410 (new course)
- a. **Contingency**: The Subcommittee requests that the department modify the prerequisites for the course, as there are a number of issues with what is currently listed:
 - i. Econ 3400 should be listed as Econ/IntStd 3400, as it is cross listed between Economics and International Studies.
 - ii. It will not be clear to students or advisors what the department considers equivalent to Econ/IntStd 3400. If the department has specific courses in mind, these should be listed as well.
 - iii. BS students in Economics are required to take Statistics 2450 or higher. However, since Statistics 2450 is an exclusion for Econ/IntStd 3400, most BS students will be unable to take this course without permission of the instructor due to the current structuring of the prerequisites. Additionally, BA students are required to take Statistics 1450 or Econ/IntStd 3400; those who choose to take Statistics 1450 will not be able to take Econ/IntStd 3400 due to a similar exclusion.
 - iv. The recommendation to take Economics 4400 or 5410 before or concurrently with this course should be phrased as: Recommended prerequisite or concurrent: Econ 4400 or 5410.
 - v. Since this course seems to include similar levels of mathematical concepts as Econ 4400 and 5410, the Subcommittee strongly recommends that the department consider a mathematics prerequisite as advisors generally encourage students to have as much math as possible for these courses.
 - vi. The Subcommittee appreciates the need for familiarity with Python programming language prior to taking the course, and recommends that the department do one of the following:
 - 1. Require CSE 1224 and note in the course description in curriculum.osu.edu that students with experience with Python programming language outside of coursework may speak with the instructor to enroll.
 - 2. Keep experience with Python as a recommended prerequisite but incorporate significant coverage of basic Python concepts in the

first half of the course to introduce students to the skills they will need to be successful.

- b. *Recommendation:* The Subcommittee recommends that the department specify in the letter grade distribution in the syllabus if percentages will be rounded to the nearest whole number. If not, the Subcommittee recommends that the grade scale include the precise numbers that are assigned to each letter grade. (e.g., 87 – 89.9, B+). [Syllabus p. 2]
 - c. *Recommendation:* The Subcommittee recommends that the department use the most recent version of the Student Life Disability Services Statement, which was updated in May 2024. The updated statement can be found in easy to copy/paste format on the [Arts and Sciences Curriculum and Assessment Services website](#). [Syllabus pp. 4-5]
 - d. Dwyer, Xiao; unanimously approved with **one contingency** and *two recommendations*.
5. Communication 2985 (new course requesting 100% DL delivery mode & GEN Theme Health and Wellbeing)
- a. The Subcommittee asks that the department address the following points regarding the course assignments:
 - i. The Subcommittee is unclear on how the assignments to write practice quizzes and a rubric are beneficial to students and what students will take away from completing these assignments. The Subcommittee notes that the syllabus states that students will respond to at least two classmates' quiz questions and requests that the department clarify what exactly this response entails.
 - ii. The Subcommittee asks that the standards for the discussions be more specific – are the prompts two pages or should students' responses be two pages? Additionally, the Subcommittee is unclear on what the two minutes of video is referring to. [Syllabus p. 12]
 - iii. The Subcommittee notes that the nature of the assignments in this course will require a great deal of instructor feedback and participation. The Subcommittee certainly trusts the department and the instructor's willingness to dedicate such time to the course but would simply like to ensure that the instructor is comfortable with the level of involvement required.
 - iv. The Subcommittee notices that the practice quiz questions are due on Tuesdays and the quizzes themselves on Wednesdays; they wonder if students will have completed the full module in time to complete these assignments so early in the week. [Syllabus p. 7]
 - b. The Subcommittee notes that the course calendar seems to begin a week later than the official start of the spring semester, which is the second week of January (Monday, 1/6 in the case of 2025). With that, the grade breakdown table in the syllabus states that there will be 13 discussions due, but the calendar only includes

12. The Subcommittee asks that the department include the missing week in January in the course calendar to resolve this issue. [Syllabus pp. 11, 22-31]
- c. The Subcommittee requests that the four goals listed underneath “General Education Goals” be removed from the syllabus, as these are not the Goals and ELOs specific to the Theme. The Theme category Goals and ELOs listed under the language referencing the Health and Well-being Theme should remain in the syllabus. Additionally, the Subcommittee asks that the short explanatory paragraphs under Health and Well-being ELOs 1.1 and 1.2 refer to them as “this ELO” rather than “this goal”. Lastly regarding the Goals and ELOs, the Subcommittee recommends that the syllabus state that this course is part of the *New General Education (GEN)* curriculum in the language preceding the GEN Theme Health and Wellbeing Goals and Expected Learning Outcomes. [Syllabus pp. 3-4]
 - d. The Subcommittee requests that the department seek concurrence with the Department of Psychology, as there is potential for topic overlap considering that the course touches on topics such as mental health and the effects of social media on teens.
 - e. The Subcommittee recommends that the department use the most recent version of the Student Life Disability Services Statement, which was updated in May 2024. The updated statement can be found in easy to copy/paste format on the [Arts and Sciences Curriculum and Assessment Services website](#). [Syllabus p. 19]
 - f. Declined to vote.
6. Political Science 3275 (new course)
- a. **Contingency:** The Subcommittee suggests that the department seek concurrence with the Department of Sociology, as their course Sociol 4655: Sociology of Sport has significant topic overlap.
 - b. *Recommendation:* The Subcommittee notes that, according to the syllabus, quizzes are due before the start of class and recommends that the syllabus also state when these quizzes will open for students to complete. [Syllabus p. 2]
 - c. *Recommendation:* Given the length and complexity of the assignment, the Subcommittee recommends that the department scaffold the final research paper throughout the course.
 - d. *Recommendation:* The Subcommittee recommends that the department use the most recent version of the Student Life Disability Services Statement, which was updated in May 2024. The updated statement can be found in easy to copy/paste format on the [Arts and Sciences Curriculum and Assessment Services website](#). [Syllabus p. 12]
 - e. *Recommendation:* The Subcommittee recommends that the following link be added to the bottom of the religious accommodations statement, as it is a part of the required text: **Policy: [Religious Holidays, Holy Days and Observances](#)**. [Syllabus p. 13]
 - f. McKean, Dwyer; unanimously approved with **one contingency** and *four recommendations*.

7. Civil Discourse for Citizenship (new 1B undergraduate certificate)
 - a. **Contingency:** The Subcommittee notes a possible issue in regard to the submission and approval timeline of the short portfolio required of students at the end of the certificate program. The proposal states that students will be notified of the approval of the portfolio within 30 days of submission and that students must submit the portfolio upon completion of the full 12 credits hours. The Subcommittee is concerned of the problems this could cause for graduating students and asks that the proposing faculty consider allowing the portfolio to be turned in during students' second to last semester or even during instead of after their final semester. [Proposal p. 4 & advising sheets]
 - b. **Contingency:** The Subcommittee requests that the advising sheets be altered to reflect that students will need to select 3-4 rather than 3-5 elective courses to complete the certificate, as there does not seem to be a combination that would require students to complete 5 of the listed elective courses.
 - c. Xiao, Dwyer; unanimously approved with **two contingencies**.