

ASCC Themes I Subcommittee

Approved Minutes

Monday, September 30th, 2024

2:00PM - 3:30 PM

CarmenZoom

Attendees: Andridge, Kantor, Nagar, Neff, Rehbeck, Sølund, Steele, Vaessin, Vankeerbergen

1. Approval of 9/16/24 minutes
 - a. Nagar, Sølund; approved with one abstention.
2. History 3552 (existing course with GEL Historical Study; requesting GEN Theme Traditions, Cultures, and Transformations) CARRIED OVER FROM LAST TIME; ONLY NEEDS ASCC THEMES SUBCOMMITTEE REVIEW
 - a. Theme Advisory Group Traditions, Cultures, and Transformations:
 - i. Declined to vote at previous meeting on September 16th. The feedback from the TAG for History 3552 can be found on [this ASCNet meeting site](#).
 - b. Themes Subcommittee
 - i. The reviewing faculty are unclear on where the students will receive the training and expectations regarding the completion of the research project and ask that this be made clear in the syllabus.
 - ii. The reviewing faculty note that the syllabus explanation for how the course meets the Goals and ELOs of the Theme has been copied and pasted from the GE submission form and, while this is certainly acceptable, it is not necessary to include it in its entirety and may be overwhelming to students. [Syllabus pp. 3-5]
 - iii. The reviewing faculty ask that the department remove the reference to digital flagship from the syllabus as this initiative ended in 2023. [Syllabus p. 7]
 - iv. The reviewing faculty recommends that the department use the most recent version of the mental health statement if they wish 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 an easy to copy/paste format on the [Arts and Sciences Curriculum and Assessment Services website](#). [Syllabus p. 12]
 - v. Declined to vote.
3. French 3802 (new course requesting 100% DL and GEN Theme Traditions, Cultures, and Transformations)
 - a. Theme Advisory Group Traditions, Cultures, and Transformations:
 - i. *Recommendation:* The reviewing faculty echo the feedback of the Arts and Humanities 1 Subcommittee regarding the group final project, as they feel it may not work well for the asynchronous mode of delivery.
 - ii. Unanimously approved with *one recommendation*.
 - b. Themes Subcommittee

- i. *Recommendation:* The reviewing faculty recommend that the department use the most recent version of the university's recently updated 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 pp. 25-26]
 - ii. Søland, Rehbeck; unanimously approved with *one recommendation*.
- 4. German 3434 (new course requesting GEN Theme Traditions, Cultures, and Transformations)
 - a. Theme Advisory Group Traditions, Cultures, and Transformations:
 - i. The reviewing faculty commend that department on what they view as an incredibly engaging and original course.
 - ii. The reviewing faculty ask that the syllabus include concrete examples of course assignments and assessments in connection to a Theme specific ELO. For example, the language of assessment could be more direct and committed, explaining exactly what students will do in the course. Connecting each assignment in some particular way to an ELO would not only help tie the course to the Theme but would also validate the richness of the assessments.
 - iii. Declined to vote.
 - b. Themes Subcommittee
 - i. *Recommendation:* The reviewing faculty notice that the Theme generic Goals and ELOs are listed twice in the syllabus, with different explanations in each place, and they recommend that the department remove the appropriate set. [Syllabus pp. 2-4]
 - ii. *Recommendation:* The reviewing faculty note that the proposal mentions that the course will include discussion of the impact of the contributions of women scientists, and they ask that this aspect of the course be made more explicit in the syllabus (e.g., class time and materials designated to the study of scientists such as Lise Meisner).
 - iii. *Recommendation:* The reviewing faculty recommend that the department use the most recent version of the university's recently updated 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. 9]
 - iv. Nagar, Andridge; unanimously approved with *three recommendations*.
- 5. History 3282 (existing course with GEL Historical Studies, GEL Diversity—Global Studies, GEN Foundation Historical and Cultural Studies; requesting to remove GEN Foundation Historical and Cultural Studies and instead add GEN Theme Traditions, Cultures, and Transformations)
 - a. Tabled.
- 6. Art 3204 (new course requesting GEN Theme Traditions, Cultures, and Transformations) (return) FULLY APPROVED BY THE TAG, ONLY NEEDS THEMES SUBCOMMITTEE REVIEW

- a. Comment: The reviewing faculty note that the A- mark is missing from the grading scale and simply want to point this out to the department as it appears it was an oversight. [Syllabus p. 10]
 - b. Comment: The reviewing faculty advise the department to remove the paragraph concerning the pace of activities, as this is unnecessary language to include in a syllabus for an in-person course. [Syllabus p. 8]
 - c. *Recommendation*: The reviewing faculty recommend that the department use the most recent version of the university's recently updated 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. 14]
 - d. Rehbeck, Søland; unanimously approved with two comments and *one recommendation*.
7. Molecular Genetics and Philosophy 2690 (existing cross-listed and team-taught courses; requesting GEN Theme Traditions, Cultures, and Transformations with Interdisciplinary and Integrated Collaborative Teaching High-Impact Practice)
- a. Theme Advisory Group Traditions, Cultures, and Transformations:
 - i. Comment: The reviewing faculty believe that this highly ambitious course represents something like the best spirit of interdisciplinary pedagogy at the university. They also think that GE students could meet the challenge of its formidable content.
 - ii. **Contingency**: The reviewing faculty ask that the course activities listed for the Theme specific ELOs (3.1, 3.2, 4.1, & 4.2) in the GE submission form be added into the syllabus itself so that this information is also conveyed to students.
 - iii. **Contingency**: The reviewing faculty ask that the departments include more specificity in the ELO explanations on the GE submission form regarding how students will be assessed. The current form includes broad claims about discussions and readings, but the reviewing faculty ask that the department relate each ELO to a specific discussion, reading, or activity that shows how the assessment speaks to the outcome in question.
 - iv. Unanimously approved with one comment and **two contingencies**.
 - b. Themes Subcommittee
 - i. *Recommendation*: The reviewing faculty recommend that the department 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 p. 8]
 - ii. *Recommendation*: The reviewing faculty recommend 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, they recommend that the link below also be a hyperlink to OAA's site. 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. 7]

1. **(Policy: [Religious Holidays, Holy Days and Observances](#))**

iii. Andridge, Søland; unanimously approved with *two recommendations*.

8. History 2206 (existing course with GEL Historical Studies, GEN Foundation Historical and Cultural Studies, and previously approved for 100% DL; requesting to remove GEN Foundation Historical and Cultural Studies and instead add GEN Theme Lived Environments) (return) FULLY APPROVED BY TAG; ONLY NEEDS ASCC THEMES VOTE

- a. **Contingency:** The Subcommittee requests that the department add the required religious accommodations statement into the syllabus. This required statement is a result of a directive by the Executive Vice President and Provost and can be found in an easy to copy/paste format on the [Arts and Sciences Curriculum and Assessment Services website](#). Please note that the link to religious holidays, holy days and observances at the end of the statement is also required to be included in the syllabus.
- b. *Recommendation:* The Subcommittee asks that the department 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 p. 19]
- c. *Recommendation:* The reviewing faculty recommend that the department use the most recent version of the university's recently updated 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. 17]
- d. *Recommendation:* The reviewing faculty recommends that the department use the most recent version of the mental health statement if they wish 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 an easy to copy/paste format on the [Arts and Sciences Curriculum and Assessment Services website](#). [Syllabus p. 18]
- e. Rehbeck, Andridge; unanimously approved with **one contingency** and *three recommendations*.