

ASCC Themes 1 Subcommittee

Approved Minutes

Monday, November 25th, 2024

2:00-3:30 PM

CarmenZoom

Attendees: Andridge, Daly, Downing, Kantor, Neff, Rehbeck, Søland, Steele, Vaessin, Vankeerbergen

1. Approval of 10/28/24 minutes
 - a. Rehbeck, Søland; unanimously approved.
2. Communication 2985 (new course approved for 100% DL delivery mode; requesting GEN Theme Health and Wellbeing)
 - a. Theme Advisory Group: Health and Wellbeing
 - i. **Contingency:** The reviewing faculty note that the overall structure of the course schedule is consistent and well-organized; however, they struggle to see a strong connection to the Theme in the first half of the course schedule compared to the second half. The integration of the Theme in the first half of the course is somewhat vague and generalized, which hinders students' ability to grasp the relevance of the Theme throughout the entire course. The reviewing faculty request that the unit more intentionally weave the intersection of health, wellbeing, and media into assignments throughout the first half of the course to not only reinforce thematic consistency, but also ensure that students are achieving the ELOs in a continuous manner. The reviewing faculty suggest this could be accomplished through integrating specific dimensions of well-being within Modules 2-5, similar to the modules in the second half of the course.
 - ii. Unanimously approved with **one contingency**.
 - b. Themes Subcommittee
 - i. *Recommendation:* The reviewing faculty note that there is language in the syllabus (p. 12 in quizzes section; "Assignment #2 name and/or category") which appears to have been carried over from another course that they recommend be removed.
 - ii. *Recommendation:* The reviewing faculty recommend that the unit 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 pp. 17-18]
 - iii. Rehbeck, Søland; unanimously approved with *two recommendations*.
3. Chemistry and Pharmacy 3301 (new cross-listed courses requesting GEN Theme Health and Wellbeing) (return) ONLY ASCC THEMES SUBCOMMITTEE NEEDS TO REVIEW THIS COURSE

- a. Themes Subcommittee
- i. **Contingency:** The reviewing faculty request that the following changes be made regarding the course prerequisites in the syllabi (p. 1) and curriculum.osu.edu (please note that the units can work with ASCCAS staff to make these adjustments in curriculum.osu.edu without delaying the approval process, though the units will still need to update their final syllabi as a recommendation):
 1. While the units mentioned in the cover letter that they have added Chemistry 1250 as an alternative prerequisite, it is not included in the prerequisites in curriculum.osu.edu. As the curriculum form is what is used to enforce prerequisites, the reviewing faculty request that Chemistry 1250 be added to the curriculum.osu.edu prerequisites as well.
 2. The reviewing faculty ask that the prerequisites be revised to include Chemistry 1620 and 1920H in order to account for students who complete the honors version of general chemistry or those who take general chemistry intended for chemistry and biochemistry majors.
 3. The reviewing faculty encourage the units to make it very clear that the chemistry *and* biology prerequisites are required, not one or the other.
 - ii. *Recommendation:* The reviewing faculty recommend that the units clearly label the course learning outcomes as such (so as not to be confused with the GEN Themes ELOs) and reposition them within the syllabi. Specifically, they suggest moving the course learning outcomes out from between the Theme Goals and ELOs to create a clear flow. [Syllabi p. 2]
 - iii. *Recommendation:* The reviewing faculty recommend removing the reference to “direct instruction” in the credit hour statement, as this could imply that the course is delivered online. The faculty recommend replacing this reference with “contact hours”. [Syllabi p. 5]
 - iv. *Recommendation:* The reviewing faculty recommend that the units remove the references to the OSU grading scale, as the university does not use a standard grading scale. [Syllabi p. 7]
 - v. *Recommendation:* The reviewing faculty note a small discrepancy in the grade breakdown. The grade chart states that the four quiz and exam reflections will be worth 15 points each, totaling 60 points, while the assignment description states that the reflections will be worth 10 points each. The reviewing faculty recommend aligning the points listed in the table and the description to avoid confusion among students. [Syllabi p. 8]
 - vi. Rehbeck, Søland; unanimously approved with **one contingency** and *four recommendations*.
4. German 3434 (new course requesting GEN Theme Traditions, Cultures, and Transformations) (return) ONLY TAG NEEDS TO REVIEW THIS COURSE

- a. Theme Advisory Group: Traditions, Cultures, and Transformations
 - i. *Recommendation:* The reviewing faculty recommend that the course materials overall describe a more uniform connection between Theme content and proposed assignments, especially in ELOs 3.1, 3.2, and 4.1.
 - ii. *Recommendation:* The reviewing faculty recommend 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 an easy to copy/paste format on the [Arts and Sciences Curriculum and Assessment Services website](#). [Syllabus p. 9]
 - iii. *Recommendation:* The reviewing faculty ask that the link below be added to the bottom of the religious accommodations statement, as it is a part of the required text. Please feel free to copy and paste the link into the statement directly from the feedback. Otherwise, the full statement with the link can be found in an easy to copy/paste format on the [Arts and Sciences Curriculum and Assessment Services website](#). [Syllabus p. 11]
 - 1. **(Policy: [Religious Holidays, Holy Days and Observances](#))**
 - iv. Unanimously approved with *three recommendations*.
- 5. French 3804 (new course with 100% DL; requesting GEN Theme Traditions, Cultures, and Transformations)
 - a. Theme Advisory Group: Traditions, Cultures, and Transformations
 - i. *Recommendation:* The reviewing faculty commend the department for this engaging, well-thought-out online course. They note that the syllabus includes a clear ELO “map” and nicely references assignments aligned with those outcomes. However, for future syllabi and the benefit of different instructors who adapt a syllabus, the faculty recommend that course designers specify the connection between the content of individual assignments and the corresponding Theme ELOs in the GE submission form. A brief sentence for each ELO would suffice to explicitly link assignments to the intended learning outcome.
 - ii. Unanimously approved with *one recommendation*.
 - b. Themes Subcommittee
 - i. Rehbeck, Sølund; unanimously approved.
- 6. History 3552 (existing course with GEL Historical Study; requesting GEN Theme Traditions, Cultures, and Transformations) (return)
 - a. Theme Advisory Group: Traditions, Cultures, and Transformations
 - i. Unanimously approved.
 - b. Themes Subcommittee
 - i. **Contingency:** The reviewing faculty note that students do not necessarily have to complete every assignment in order to pass the course, especially given the opportunity for extra credit. This is specifically a concern in terms of assignments related to the research essay, which the faculty view as essential for students to complete to help achieve an advanced

experience. To remedy this, the reviewing faculty ask that the department add a statement in the syllabus indicating that students must complete every assignment in order to pass the course. [Syllabus p. 5]

- ii. **Contingency:** The reviewing faculty note that the cover letter provided by the department mentions that a streamlined description of how the course meets the GEN Theme Goals and ELOs has been included in the syllabus, in response to the previous feedback from the Subcommittee. However, this section now appears to be missing from the syllabus altogether. As this information is a syllabus requirement for all Themes courses, the faculty request that this brief explanatory paragraph that addresses how the course meets the ELOs of the Theme be added into the syllabus. Additionally, the reviewing faculty recommend that the department refrain from stating in the syllabus that the course *fulfills* the GEN Theme: TCT, as one 3-credit course is not sufficient to fulfill the GEN Theme: TCT requirement [Syllabus p. 2]
- iii. *Recommendation:* The reviewing faculty recommend removing the mention of “direct instruction” in the credit hour statement. The faculty recommend replacing the reference to direct instruction with “contact hours”. [Syllabus p. 5]
- iv. Rehbeck, Andridge; unanimously approved with **two contingencies** and *one recommendation*.