

## ASCC Natural and Mathematical Sciences Subcommittee

### Approved Minutes

Wednesday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2025

12:30PM – 2:00PM

CarmenZoom

**Attendees:** Barker, Carlson, Cole, Dinan, Hadad, Hilty, Lee, Mick

- 1) Approval of 12/05/2025 Minutes
  - Barker, Lee, **unanimously approved**
- 2) Biology 1111 (new course) (return)
  - Lee, Barker, **unanimously approved**
- 3) Biology 1112 (new course requesting GEN Foundation: Natural Sciences) (return)
  - *The Subcommittee recommends removing the Legacy General Education information, found on page 2 of the course syllabus, given that this course will not have GEL status.*
  - Lee, Barker, **unanimously approved** with *one recommendation* (in italics above)
- 4) Physics 1125 (new course requesting GEN Foundation: Natural Sciences)
  - The Subcommittee notes that the credit hour expectations for this course are not in-line with the expectations for a 4-credit hour course (as discussed on page 1 of the syllabus under “Credit hours and work expectations). In total, a student should be expected to have 12 total hours in order to earn a grade of “C” within the course. On page 1 of the syllabus, and in the cover letter provided, this course is mentioned to be a laboratory course with no formal lectures. However, in curriculum.osu.edu, this course is marked as being predominately a lecture course. If it is, indeed, the case that the course is asking to be a full laboratory experience, the course would be required to meet for 8 total hours *each week* and students should expect to have 4 hours of outside work *each week* in order to obtain a letter grade of “C”. More commonly for courses within the GEN Foundation: Natural Sciences category, however, courses divide their time by having 3 credit hours of the course being a “lecture” portion and 1 credit hour being a “laboratory” experience. This would mean that the course would need to meet for 5 total hours *each week* and have 7 hours of outside work *each week* for students to

earn a letter grade of “C”. The Subcommittee ask that the course readjust the contact hours in the course to meet the requirement for a 4-credit hour course. Additionally, if there are particular concerns regarding how contact hours are determined, please do not hesitate to reach out to ASC Curriculum and Assessment Coordinator Michael Hilty.70.

- The Subcommittee would like additional information and guidelines/expectations regarding the “Project” assignment, as discussed on page 6 of the syllabus. Specifically, they would like to see further specificity on what students are expected to submit, as well as the nature of the assignment (is this assignment meant to be formal scientific writing or casual writing?). The Subcommittee notes that some of this information appears within the GEN Foundation: Natural Sciences submission form, but would like to see it reflected within the syllabus for both their own clarity and for the benefit of students.
- The Subcommittee requests additional expectations and guidelines be provided for the “Video Homework group assignments”, as found on page 6 of the syllabus. They would like to see what the minimum acceptable submission should include and what standards student will be beholden to. Additionally, they would like to recommend (but not require) that a rubric be developed and shared for this assignment and/or incorporating peer grading into the assignment.
- The Subcommittee notes that throughout the syllabus (such as on page 2 under “Course Description”) there is mention of students working in groups. They were unsure how these groups would be formed and request that additional information be provided within the syllabus. Are these groups formed by the instructor or are students self-selecting themselves? And, do the groups change during the term?
- The Subcommittee asks that the GEN Foundation: Natural Science Goals be provided in the course syllabus, as this is a requirement of all General Education courses. While they note and appreciate the ELOs and explanatory paragraphs on pages 2-4, the goals do not appear present. The Goals and ELOs for all General Education categories can be found on the [ASC Curriculum and Assessment Services website](#).
- The Subcommittee asks that a cover letter be provided that explains all changes made as a result of their feedback.
- **Declined to vote**

- 5) Chemistry 3573 (new course requesting GEN Theme: Citizenship for a Diverse and Just World & High-Impact Practice: Interdisciplinary and Integrated Collaborative Teaching) (Return)
- Barker, Lee, **unanimously approved**
- 6) Microbiology 5130 (new course)
- The Subcommittee asks that a statement be developed and included within the course syllabus that discusses any software that may be required for students to be successful within this course. They are concerned that there may be an expectation of students to utilize software applications that either students may be unfamiliar/untrained with or could incur additional costs. Since this course will be enrolled by undergraduate and graduate students, such minimum expectations will be critical to ensure student success, especially for graduate students who come from other institutions.
  - The Subcommittee asks that the course proposer consider adding flexibility into the late policy for homework assignments (as discussed on page 3 of the syllabus). They kindly note that it may be possible for a student to have a potentially excusable absence which they are unable to report to the course instructor ahead of time.
  - The Subcommittee notes that the course grading scale includes grades of “A+, D-, and F”. The Ohio State University does not officially award letter grades of “A+”, “D-“, or “F”. They ask that that the grading scale be adjusted to remove “A+” and “D-“, and to change “F” to “E”.
  - The Subcommittee recommends updating the Diversity statement, as found on page 9 of the course syllabus. This statement was updated for the 2024-2025 academic year and can be found on the [ASC Curriculum and Assessment Services website](#).
  - **Declined to vote**
- 7) Earth Sciences 2207 (new course requesting 100% DL and GEN Theme: Origins and Evolution) (Return)
- *The Subcommittee recommends that the course proposer consider utilizing an open-source text or set of readings that provide students with content on foundational concepts within the discipline. They note that not all General Education students will have a background in the field and this may prove beneficial to them as they seek to bridge any knowledge gaps during the course of the semester.*
  - *The Subcommittee recommends clarifying within the course syllabus what types of lectures will be provided. On page 6 of the syllabus, there is mention*

*of both video lectures and introductory lectures, and the Subcommittee was unsure if these were the same or separate lecture materials.*

- Barker, Lee, **unanimously approved** with *two recommendations* (in italics above)