

ASCC Social and Behavioral Sciences Subcommittee

Approved Minutes

Monday, January 13th, 2025

3:30PM – 4:30PM

CarmenZoom

Attendees: Dwyer, McKean, Nathanson, Neff, Raadschelders, Valle, Xiao

1. Approval of 11-18-24 minutes
 - a. Raadschelders, McKean; unanimously approved.
2. Anthropology 5605 (new course requesting 100% DL and GEN Theme Traditions, Cultures, and Transformations)
 - a. The Subcommittee acknowledges that there is substantial peer interaction in the course, but it is unclear in the syllabus how instructor presence will be integrated. Currently, the Subcommittee is unclear as to whether consistent lecture material will be provided throughout the course or if students will learn from the instructor via other consistent means. As Regular Substantive Interaction (RSI) is a required component of distance education, the Subcommittee requests that the instructor's role in the course be strengthened to ensure that students are meaningfully and consistently engaged. Detailed guidance on Regular Substantive Interaction can be found on the [ASC Office of Distance Education website](#).
 - b. The Subcommittee notes and appreciates the instructor's commitment to providing individual feedback on each assignment. However, the Subcommittee requests that this be further explained in the syllabus with more specific information regarding the type of feedback students can expect on various assignments.
 - c. The Subcommittee recommends that the department make it clearer in the syllabus that the final paper draft is a required component of the course, as the language in the assignment description welcoming students to submit a draft to the instructor could suggest that it is optional. [Syllabus p. 7]
 - d. The Subcommittee appreciates that labeling of Monday and Thursday at the beginning of the course calendar in the syllabus and recommends that this be implemented throughout the entire schedule, as is done in the in-person syllabus. This will provide students with clear reference points for course activities and deadlines. [Syllabus pp. 12-13]
 - e. The Subcommittee recommends that the AI policy in the syllabus provide greater clarity on what constitutes generative AI. For example, it would be helpful to students to specify whether tools like Grammarly or similar software fall under this category. [Online syllabus pp. 6-7; in-person syllabus pp. 5-7]
 - f. The reviewing faculty recommend that the department 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. 9]

- g. The Subcommittee recommends that the department use the language of the most recent version of the Student Life Disability Services Statement in the syllabus, as it is currently missing the information in the boilerplate language regarding viral infection and fever. The statement can be found in an easy to copy/paste format on the [Arts and Sciences Curriculum and Assessment Services website](#). [Syllabus p. 10]
 - h. Declined to vote.
3. Revision to the Psychology minor
- a. **Contingency:** The Subcommittee notes that the requirement of Psych 2220: Data Analysis in Psychology has been eliminated in this revision, but the rationale for this particular change has not been provided. The reviewing faculty understand the effort to condense the credit hours in the process of moving to one minor, but there is concern regarding the removal of a course that was required and clearly essential to the programs. There is also concern that eliminating this requirement will limit the courses students can take at the 4000-level and above due to prerequisites, therefore reducing rather than increasing course flexibility. The Subcommittee requests clarification regarding this change, including its impact on course options.
 - b. **Contingency:** The Subcommittee requests an explanation of the statement on the first page of the proposal that “courses will only count on the minor if prerequisite coursework has been successfully completed ahead of time”. They are uncertain whether this can be retroactively enforced, as there are several courses (e.g., GEN Themes courses [Psych 2303](#) and [2311](#)) that could apply to the minor but do not have the Psych 1100 prerequisite. The Subcommittee is unclear on how this policy will be applied and if exceptions will be made.
 - c. **Contingency:** The Subcommittee asks for more detailed reasoning regarding the decision to eliminate all six of the existing Psychology minors. Given that the department has a substantial student population and that many of the minors are well-attended, the Subcommittee would appreciate more information on how the decision to fully eliminate rather than retain certain options will serve students.
 - d. Raadschelders, Dwyer; unanimously approved with **three contingencies**.