

## ASCC Social and Behavioral Sciences Subcommittee

### Approved Minutes

Monday, March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025

3:00PM – 4:30PM

CarmenZoom

**Attendees:** Dwyer, Neff, Raadschelders, Valle, Vankeerbergen, Xiao

### Agenda

1. Approval of 3-17-25 minutes
  - a. Raadschelders, Xiao; unanimously approved.
2. Speech and Hearing Science 7550 (new course also requesting 100% DL)
  - a. **Contingency:** The Subcommittee is concerned regarding the integration of [Regular Substantive Interaction \(RSI\)](#) in this advanced, distance learning course. To ensure that there is meaningful interaction taking place between students and the instructor and to provide a better idea of the instructor's presence in the course, the Subcommittee requests additional information regarding the lectures, specifically the number/frequency of lectures provided throughout the course as well as their overall structure.
  - b. **Contingency:** The Subcommittee notes that, per the Distance Learning Cover Sheet, there is expected to be a significant amount of discussion taking place in the course. However, this is not fully reflected in the syllabus. The Subcommittee requests that the department include details in the syllabus on how discussions will be incorporated throughout the course in order to provide a stronger sense of the collaborative elements.
  - c. *Recommendation:* The Subcommittee offers the friendly recommendation that giving students until Sunday to submit their work perhaps aligns better with practices in online course design, as it provides them with greater flexibility. [Syllabus p. 6]
  - d. *Recommendation:* Due to the recent renaming of the Office of Institutional Equity to the [Office of Civil Rights Compliance](#), the reviewing faculty recommend that the departments update the links in the Title IX and Religious Accommodations statements. [Syllabus pp. 18-19]
  - e. *Recommendation:* Due to the recent closure of the Student Life Center for Belonging and Social Change (formerly the Multi-Cultural Center), the reviewing faculty recommend removing the link to their website from the syllabus. [Syllabus p. 19]
  - f. *Recommendation:* The Subcommittee recommends that the department use the most recent version of the Student Life Disability Services Statement 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. 20]

- g. *Recommendation:* The Subcommittee notes that the syllabus contains two different diversity statements, one on page 17 and one on page 19. If the department wishes to include a diversity statement in the syllabus, the Subcommittee recommends that they remove one of the statements and revise the remaining one to align with the language of the most recent version of the university's diversity statement. 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, 19]
  - h. *Recommendation:* The Subcommittee recommends that the department use the most recent version of the mental health statement if they wish to keep it 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 pp. 19-20]
  - i. Xiao, Raadschelders; unanimously approved with **two contingencies** and *six recommendations*.
3. Atmospheric Sciences 5450 (new course)
- a. *Comment:* The Subcommittee notes that there are several prerequisites, although it appears that the information necessary for student success is nicely embedded within the course. If possible, they offer the friendly advice that reconsidering these prerequisites could help increase enrollment by making the course more accessible.
  - b. **Contingency:** The Subcommittee requests that the department seek concurrence with the College of Engineering, as they offer courses on the fundamentals of radar.
  - c. **Contingency:** The Subcommittee notes that the course calendar lists relevant readings that appear to be optional, given that the textbook is recommended. The Subcommittee seeks clarification on whether there are any mandatory readings and requests further details on what students will be expected to engage with outside of class. [Syllabus p. 1, 7]
  - d. **Contingency:** The Subcommittee notes that the syllabus mentions two different start times for the course and requests that the incorrect time (12:00 pm) be adjusted to avoid any confusion. [Syllabus p. 3]
  - e. *Recommendation:* The Subcommittee recommends avoiding any references to remote attendance in the syllabus, particularly since the course is not approved for distance learning. While exceptions can certainly be made, including such references may set a precedent that could lead to attendance complications. [Syllabus pp. 1, 3]
  - f. *Recommendation:* The Subcommittee notes that there is overlap in the grading scale that they recommend adjusting. For example, an 82.5% could result in either a B- or a B according to the syllabus. Additionally, the syllabus includes a reference to a standard grading scale that they recommend be removed, as the university does not have a standard grading scale. [Syllabus p. 2]

- g. *Recommendation:* The Subcommittee notes that there is a reference to “Blackboard” which they recommend updating to “Carmen” for consistency throughout the syllabus. [Syllabus p. 3]
  - h. *Recommendation:* The Subcommittee recommends incorporating a boilerplate AI statement (such as the one provided on the [Office of Undergraduate Education website](#)) in the syllabus that offers more specific information regarding the use of AI tools in the course. [Syllabus p. 4]
  - i. *Recommendation:* Due to the recent renaming of the Office of Institutional Equity to the [Office of Civil Rights Compliance](#), the reviewing faculty recommend that the departments update the links in the Title IX and Religious Accommodations statements. [Syllabus pp. 4-5]
  - j. *Recommendation:* 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. 5]
  - k. Raadschelders, Xiao; unanimously approved with one comment, **three contingencies**, and *six recommendations*.
4. First-Year Seminar Paulus – Coping with Cancer (new)
- a. Tabled.