**ASCC Themes 1 Subcommittee**

Unapproved Minutes

Monday, February 24th, 2025 10:00-11:30 AM

CarmenZoom

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

**Agenda**

1. Approval of 2/10/25 minutes
	1. Rehbeck, Søland; unanimously approved.
2. Theatre 4500 (new course requesting GEN Theme Lived Environments **with Research and Creative Inquiry** **High-Impact Practice**)
	1. Theme Advisory Group: Lived Environments
		1. Unanimously approved.
	2. Themes Subcommittee
		1. Nagar, Andridge; unanimously approved.
	3. High-Impact Practice
		1. Nagar, Søland; unanimously approved.
3. Pharmacy 3550 (new course approved for 100% DL; requesting GEN Theme Health and Wellbeing)
	1. Theme Advisory Group: Health and Wellbeing
		1. The reviewing faculty note that while the syllabus provides clear descriptions of most course assessments, there is a lack of clarity regarding how these assessments align with the course content in relation to the Theme and ELOs 3.1 & 3.2. The reviewing faculty request that the syllabus be revised to explicitly link each assessment to both the course content and the relevant Theme learning outcomes. It may be helpful to include examples of specific discussion or activity prompts that will be used in the course to demonstrate how these assessments directly contribute to student learning and engagement with the Theme.
		2. The reviewing faculty note that the syllabus outlines module activities that include components such as quizzes, discussions, and file uploads. However, they request that the syllabus include an explanation of how the module activities differ in purpose or execution from the other stand-alone quizzes and discussions as they relate to the Theme and ELOs. [Syllabus pp. 4-5]
		3. The reviewing faculty can see how three out of the five modules address the Health and Wellbeing Theme, but they request that the instructor revisit all modules to ensure that the Theme is being consistently integrated throughout the entire course.
		4. Declined to vote.
	2. Themes Subcommittee
		1. **Contingency**: The reviewing faculty request that the course description in both the syllabus and curriculum.osu.edu be revised to more accurately and comprehensively reflect the course objectives, thematic focus, and scope of the material covered.
		2. **Contingency**: The reviewing faculty appreciate the explanatory paragraphs provided in the syllabus that link the Theme ELOs to the course. However, they ask that these paragraphs be revised to include more specific and targeted language, perhaps drawing directly from the information presented in the GE submission form, to clearly demonstrate to students the course’s relationship to the Theme. [Syllabus pp. 3-4]
		3. **Contingency**: The reviewing faculty note that the grading structure allows for students to potentially pass the course without completing the final project. The reviewing faculty ask that a note be added to the syllabus explicitly stating that students must complete each assignment in order to pass the course. This adjustment would ensure that the role of the final project in terms of the Theme and ELOs is reinforced.
		4. **Contingency**: The reviewing faculty request that the College add the required religious accommodations statement into the syllabus. The Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee has updated the list of required syllabus statements for all syllabi to include a statement on religious accommodations. 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 [Office of Undergraduate Education website.](https://ugeducation.osu.edu/recommended-syllabus-statements-and-policies) 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.
		5. **Contingency**: The reviewing faculty request that the College 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 [Office of Undergraduate Education website.](https://ugeducation.osu.edu/recommended-syllabus-statements-and-policies) [Syllabus 17]
		6. *Recommendation*: The reviewing faculty recommend that the College 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 [Office of Undergraduate Education website.](https://ugeducation.osu.edu/recommended-syllabus-statements-and-policies) [Syllabus p. 15]
		7. *Recommendation*: The reviewing faculty recommend that the College 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 [Office of Undergraduate Education website.](https://ugeducation.osu.edu/recommended-syllabus-statements-and-policies) [Syllabus p. 16]
		8. Nagar, Søland; unanimously approved with **five** **contingencies** and *two* *recommendations*.
4. History 2231 (existing course with GEL Historical Study, GEL Diversity—Global Studies, and GEN Foundation Historical and Cultural Studies; course previously approved for 100% DL; request to remove GEN Foundation Historical and Cultural Studies and replace with GEN Theme Traditions, Cultures, and Transformations) (return) FULLY APPROVED BY ASCC THEMES; ONLY NEEDS TAG REVIEW
	1. **Contingency**: The reviewing faculty note that the department has removed the ELO explanation in the syllabus entirely as a result of the previous feedback suggesting that the language be shortened. They apologize for any confusion and request that the department include language in the syllabus that briefly ties the course assessments and activities to the ELOs. This will be especially helpful to instructors in the future who choose to design their own syllabus for this excellent course.
	2. *Recommendation*: The reviewing faculty recommend that the department remove the reference to Digital Flagship from the syllabus, as the initiative ended in 2023. [Syllabus p. 6]
	3. Unanimously approved with **one** **contingency** and *one* *recommendation*.
5. Islamic Studies 3501 (existing course with GEL Cultures and Ideas, GEL Diversity—Global Studies, and GEN Foundation Historical and Cultural Studies; request to remove GEN Foundation Historical and Cultural Studies & replace with GEN Theme Traditions, Cultures, and Transformations)
	1. Theme Advisory Group: Traditions, Cultures, and Transformations
		1. **Contingency**: The reviewing faculty believe that this course covers important topics that reach across several academic fields, but they request that there be a clearer connection between the course content and the ways in which students demonstrate the ELOs. The faculty ask that the syllabus, with attention to the assignments section, along with the GE submission form be revised to explicitly articulate how each assessment and activity aligns with the ELOs. [Syllabus pp. 4-5]
		2. Unanimously approved with **one contingency**.
	2. Themes Subcommittee
		1. **Contingency**: The reviewing faculty are concerned with the advancement of the course, specifically the writing components. They note that the current writing assignments seem relatively brief (four response essay at 750 words each) and may not provide the appropriate challenge for students that is expected of advanced Themes courses. The reviewing faculty request that the course be revised to include more rigorous writing expectations. [Syllabus pp. 4-5]
		2. **Contingency**: The reviewing faculty request that the department update the course title and description in curriculum.osu.edu, as they do not reflect the updates made to the course for the GEN Theme designation and do not match the syllabus.
		3. **Contingency**: The reviewing faculty note that the grading structure allows for students to potentially pass the course without completing the final exam. The reviewing faculty ask that a note be added to the syllabus explicitly stating that students must complete each assignment in order to pass the course. This adjustment would ensure that the role of the final exam in terms of the Theme and ELOs is reinforced.
		4. *Recommendation*: The reviewing faculty recommend 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](https://asccas.osu.edu/submission/development/submission-materials/syllabus-elements). [Syllabus p. 7]
		5. Rehbeck, Søland; unanimously approved with **three contingencies** and *one recommendation*.
6. Pharmacy 3710 (new course requesting GEN Theme Traditions, Cultures, and Transformations)
	1. Theme Advisory Group: Traditions, Cultures, and Transformations
		1. **Contingency**: The reviewing faculty view this as a very engaging course about the history of pharmaceuticals with a kaleidoscopic disciplinary focus and see how it matches the Theme well. However, the reviewing faculty request that the syllabus make more direct links between the course assignments and the Theme ELOs. While the reviewing faculty appreciate the inclusion of this information in the GE submission form, they request that these explicit connections be transferred into the syllabus (especially the assignments section) so that students can see how each assessment directly contributes to achieving the relevant ELOs. [Syllabus pp. 6-8]
		2. Unanimously approved with **one contingency**.
	2. Themes Subcommittee
		1. The reviewing faculty are excited by the potential of this course and the unique perspective it offers to students.
		2. The reviewing faculty note that the course schedule includes weeks with no assigned readings, which raises a concern regarding the fulfillment of Theme ELO 1.2. Without readings or other scholarly material in these weeks, and without it being entirely clear what and how much students are reading in other weeks, it is difficult to assess the depth and advancement of the course in terms of meeting the ELOs. The reviewing faculty request that the College review the course schedule to ensure that each week includes scholarly engagement that contributes to the advanced exploration of the Theme.
		3. It is clear that this course is designed to appeal to a broad audience, and the absence of a prerequisite makes it available to a wide range of students. However, the reviewing faculty are concerned that some of the course material appears to be more of an overview rather than engaging students in a deeper, scholarly exploration of the Theme (ELO 1.2). The reviewing faculty request that the College deepen the content and materials used in the course in order to better align with the expectations of an advanced Themes level course.
		4. The reviewing faculty request that the course incorporate a reflective component to address ELO 2.2., allowing students to synthesize their learning and experiences throughout the course.
		5. The reviewing faculty encourage the College to include a more diverse range of assignments in the course so that students can demonstrate their learning through multiple avenues.
		6. The reviewing faculty note that the course includes 2 hours and 45 minutes of weekly synchronous Zoom lecturing, which could pose challenges in terms of engagement. The faculty offer the friendly advice that perhaps breaking this session into two shorter blocks would help prevent fatigue for both students and the instructor.
		7. The reviewing faculty request that the Traditions, Cultures, and Transformations goals and ELOs be listed in the syllabus. The goals and ELOs can be found in an easy to copy/paste format on the [Arts and Sciences Curriculum and Assessment Services website](https://asccas.osu.edu/new-general-education-gen-goals-and-elos).
		8. The reviewing faculty request that the College update the religious accommodations statement in the syllabus. The new version of this required statement is a result of a directive by the Executive Vice President and Provost and can be found on the [Office of Undergraduate Education website.](https://ugeducation.osu.edu/recommended-syllabus-statements-and-policies) 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. [Syllabus p. 20]
		9. The reviewing faculty recommend that the College 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 [Office of Undergraduate Education website.](https://ugeducation.osu.edu/recommended-syllabus-statements-and-policies) [Syllabus pp. 20-21]
		10. Declined to vote.
7. Anatomy 2150 (new course requesting GEN Theme Health and Wellbeing) (return) FULLY APPROVED BY TAG; ONLY NEEDS ASCC THEMES REVIEW
	1. Comment: The reviewing faculty note and appreciate the addition of a life sciences prerequisite in the syllabus. However, they request that the College work with staff in the Arts and Sciences Curriculum and Assessment Services Office to include this prerequisite in curriculum.osu.edu so that it can be enforced when students are enrolling in the course.
	2. *Recommendation*: The reviewing faculty recommend that the College move the statement regarding the intent of this course as a GE course rather than in place of ANAT 2300/3300 or EEOB 2511/2520 to the first page of the syllabus, as it is important information for students. [Syllabus p. 3]
	3. Rehbeck, Søland; unanimously approved with one comment and *one recommendation*.