

ASCC Themes 1 Subcommittee

Approved Minutes

Monday, March 31st, 2025

10:00-11:30 AM

CarmenZoom

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

Agenda

1. History 3085 (existing course with GEL Historical Study and GEL Diversity—Social Diversity in the US; requesting GEN Theme Traditions, Cultures, and Transformations)
 - a. Theme Advisory Group: Traditions, Cultures, and Transformations
 - i. Comment: The reviewing faculty appreciate this conceptually rich course that teaches history through African American cinema. It is refreshing to see this approach, especially for faculty who teach film through history. They also appreciate how the course offers vibrant and diverse assessment opportunities and nicely detailed assignment structure.
 - ii. *Recommendation:* While the Theme ELOs are effectively aligned with the course content, the reviewing faculty recommend incorporating specific references to assessments within the early ELO descriptions in the syllabus for students to see. The clear examples provided in ELOs 1-2 can serve as models for ELOs 3-4. [Syllabus pp. 3-4]
 - iii. *Recommendation:* The reviewing faculty recommend that the assignments relevant to each ELO also be transferred into the GE submission form to possibly assist future instructors in adapting the course.
 - iv. Unanimously approved with one comment and *two recommendations*.
 - b. Themes Subcommittee
 - i. The reviewing faculty are concerned with the absence of assigned readings within the course. While the focus on film as the primary medium is understandable and engaging, the reviewing faculty request clarification on how exclusive reliance on films aligns with the standards of an advanced Themes course. It is not the intention of the reviewing faculty to suggest that films alone cannot engage students in a scholarly exploration of the theme. Rather, they seek a more thorough explanation of how the use of films will be contextualized within the broader academic framework of the course (e.g., critical theory, historical context, and scholarly discourse) which would typically be supported by supplementary readings.
 - ii. The reviewing faculty request clarification on the structure of the class sessions and the level of instructor presence, as it appears that a significant portion of the time is devoted to film screenings, leaving limited opportunities to engage with all of the materials (including out-of-class materials) presented each week.

- iii. The reviewing faculty note that the class discussions are not a graded component of the course, despite the essential role they play in analyzing the various films. They encourage the department to incentivize these discussions to ensure that students are impelled to engage with peers and the instructor.
 - iv. The reviewing faculty recommend that the durations of each assigned film be indicated in the course calendar so that students can assess the out-of-classroom workload and understand how the viewing times correlate with the credit hours of the course. [Syllabus pp. 12-14]
 - v. The reviewing faculty note a discrepancy in the syllabus between the stated time that the Critical Analysis Paper #2 is due. The assignment description indicates that the paper must be uploaded by 11:59 pm on the due date, while the course schedule lists the deadline as 5:00 pm on the due date. To avoid confusion, they recommend aligning these times so that they are consistent throughout the syllabus. [Syllabus pp. 5, 13]
 - vi. The reviewing faculty note that the grading scale for the D+ range appears incomplete (stated as 67-6). While the range could be inferred, they recommend correcting this to reflect the proper 67-69 for clarification. [Syllabus p. 7]
 - vii. 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]
 - viii. 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](#). [Syllabus pp. 9-10]
 - ix. Due to the recent renaming of the Office of Institutional Equity to the [Office of Civil Rights Compliance](#), the reviewing faculty recommend that the department update the links in the Title IX and Religious Accommodations statements in the syllabus. The full statements with the updated links can be found in an easy to copy/paste format on the [Arts and Sciences Curriculum and Assessment Services website](#). [Syllabus pp. 9-11]
 - x. Declined to vote.
2. NELC 3804 (new course requesting GEN Theme Traditions, Cultures, and Transformations with Research and Creative Inquiry HIP)
- a. Theme Advisory Group: Traditions, Cultures, and Transformations
 - i. Comment: The reviewing faculty appreciate the broad and engaging overview of ancient Egypt that this course offers through material culture.

They are particularly enthusiastic about the Object Recreation assignment, which is both original and highly relevant.

- ii. **Contingency:** The reviewing faculty request that the Theme ELO explanation in the syllabus incorporate references to specific assignments, as the descriptions for ELOs 3-4 are somewhat detached from the actual assignments and activities. While there is language about assignments in the GE submission form, including this information in the syllabus would help students better understand connections to the Theme learning outcomes. [Syllabus p. 3]
- iii. Unanimously approved with one comment and **one contingency**.
- b. Themes Subcommittee
 - i. Comment: The reviewing faculty commend the department on this fascinating course with an exceptionally strong High-Impact Practice aspect.
 - ii. *Recommendation:* The reviewing faculty note two small discrepancies between the assignment weights in the descriptions and the grade calculation summary that should be addressed for clarity. Specifically, the Ancient Artifact Midterm Paper is listed in the assignment description as being worth 20%, while the grade calculation summary lists it as 25%. Similarly, the Culture and Society Conference is listed as 20% in the description and 15% in the summary. [Syllabus pp. 9-11]
 - iii. *Recommendation:* The reviewing faculty note that the grading scale for the higher end of each letter grade leaves out a range of .4 points. If it is the intention of the instructor to round up grades that fall within this range, the reviewing faculty recommend articulating this policy in the syllabus as students will likely have questions regarding how final grades are determined. [Syllabus p. 11]
 - iv. *Recommendation:* Due to the recent closure of the Student Life Center for Belonging and Social Change and the Office of Diversity and Inclusion, the reviewing faculty recommend removing the links to their websites from the syllabus. [Syllabus p. 12]
 - v. *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 department update the links in the Title IX and Religious Accommodations statements in the syllabus. The full statements with the updated links can be found in an easy to copy/paste format on the [Arts and Sciences Curriculum and Assessment Services website](#). [Syllabus pp. 12-13, 16]
 - vi. Rehbeck, Andridge; unanimously approved with one comment and *four recommendations*.
- c. High-Impact Practice: Research and Creative Inquiry
 - i. Rehbeck, Andridge; unanimously approved.

3. Art & Molecular Genetics 3011 (new cross-listed courses requesting GEN Theme Lived Environments with Interdisciplinary and Integrated Collaborative Teaching HIP)
 - a. Theme Advisory Group: Lived Environments
 - i. *Recommendation:* The reviewing faculty recommend that the syllabi provide slightly more detailed explanations on how various course elements align with the Theme ELOs 3-4, allowing students to better understand the connections with the coursework (e.g., additional details on how field trips and experiments will address the complexity of human-environment interactions, and how course activities will promote reflection). [Syllabi pp. 4-6]
 - ii. Unanimously approved with *one recommendation*.
 - b. Themes Subcommittee
 - i. *Recommendation:* The reviewing faculty note that the prerequisites listed in the syllabi do not align with those indicated on the form in curriculum.osu.edu, which the departments have confirmed are correct. They recommend that the departments ensure that the prerequisites in the syllabi properly reflect the prerequisites that will be enforced for the course. [Syllabi p. 1]
 - ii. *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 in the syllabi. The reviewing faculty also ask that the link below be added to the bottom of the religious accommodations statement, as it is a part of the required text. The full statements with the updated links can be found in an easy to copy/paste format on the [Arts and Sciences Curriculum and Assessment Services website](#). [Syllabi pp. 10, 15]
 1. (Policy: [Religious Holidays, Holy Days and Observances](#))
 - iii. *Recommendation:* Due to the recent closure of the Student Life Center for Belonging and Social Change (formerly the Multi-Cultural Center) and Office of Diversity and Inclusion, the reviewing faculty recommend removing the links to their websites from the syllabi. [Syllabi p. 15]
 - iv. Rehbeck, Søland; unanimously approved with *three recommendations*.
 - c. High-Impact Practice: Interdisciplinary and Integrated Collaborative Teaching
 - i. Rehbeck, Søland; unanimously approved.
4. Plant Pathology 3920 (existing course requesting GEN Theme Health and Wellbeing) (return)
 - a. Theme Advisory Group: Health and Wellbeing
 - i. *Recommendation:* The reviewing faculty recommend revisiting the document to replace the term "wellness" with "well-being" to ensure consistency with terminology.
 - ii. *Recommendation:* The reviewing faculty recommend that the course description in the syllabus be reviewed to ensure a clear, logical

connection to the Health & Wellbeing Theme. The reviewing faculty offer the friendly advice that a more concise revision of the description may also enhance clarity for students.

iii. Unanimously approved with *two recommendations*.

b. Themes Subcommittee

- i. **Contingency:** The reviewing faculty request that the unit use the most recent versions of the Religious Accommodations and Student Life Disability Services statements in the syllabus. Up-to-date versions of university syllabus statements can be found in an easy to copy/paste format on the [Office of Undergraduate Education website](#). [Online syllabus pp. 21-22, in-person syllabus p. 20-21]
- ii. *Recommendation:* The reviewing faculty note that Proctorio is referenced for the online exam, but OSU now uses Honorlock as proctoring software. They recommend updating this policy in the syllabus. [Online syllabus pp. 13, 21]
- iii. *Recommendation:* The reviewing faculty note that the syllabus states that the window for the final exam will be open for 3 days, while the course schedule indicates that the final will follow the OSU exam schedule (limiting it to a single day/window). The reviewing faculty recommend clarifying this to avoid confusion among students. [Syllabus pp. 13, 23]
- iv. *Recommendation:* The reviewing faculty note that there is a section in the syllabus that includes a link to outdated information regarding COVID-19. Given that this information is no longer relevant, it is recommended that this section be removed. [Online syllabus p. 19, in-person syllabus p. 18]
- v. *Recommendation:* Due to the recent closure of the Student Life Center for Belonging and Social Change and the Office of Diversity and Inclusion, the reviewing faculty recommend removing the links to their websites from the syllabus. [Online syllabus p. 20, in-person syllabus p. 19]
- vi. Rehbeck, Nagar; unanimously approved with **one contingency** and *four recommendations*.