

ASCC Themes 1 Subcommittee

Approved Minutes

Monday, April 14th, 2025

10:00-11:30 AM

CarmenZoom

Attendees: Andridge, Lower, Nagar, Neff, Rehbeck, Søland, Steele, Vaessin, Vankeerbergen

Agenda

1. Approval of 3-17-25 & 3-31-25 minutes
 - a. Søland, Rehbeck; unanimously approved.
2. Slavic 3370 (new course requesting GEN Theme Lived Environments with Global and Intercultural Learning: Abroad, Away, or Virtual HIP)
 - a. Theme Advisory Group: Lived Environments
 - i. *Recommendation:* The reviewing faculty recommend clarifying in the syllabus how students should engage with environmental representation in their assignments and reflections (ELO 4.2). This could be done by incorporating a more structured analysis of subjective versus ideological framings of environments. Reflection prompts such as “how is the environment being perceived?” or “what values shape this representation?” could help guide student analysis.
 - ii. *Recommendation:* The reviewing faculty recommend strengthening Theme ELO 4.3 in the course by more explicitly positioning the critical analysis of ideological frameworks as a key learning goal. A dedicated unit or assignment on competing environmental ideologies could offer structured engagement and valuable transnational perspectives, enhancing students’ ability to critically assess environmental narratives.
 - iii. Unanimously approved with *two recommendations*.
 - b. Themes Subcommittee
 - i. Comment: The reviewing faculty commend the department on this creative and engaging course. The interdisciplinary approach is compelling, and the glassmaking as a lens for exploring environmental and cultural themes will be a wonderful experience for students.
 - ii. *Recommendation:* The reviewing faculty note that the credit hour statement in the syllabus is currently written for a 3-credit course (9 weekly hours of engagement versus 12 for a 4-credit course). To ensure clarity and alignment with credit hour policies, the reviewing faculty recommend revising this statement to reflect that the engagement for the additional credit hour will be fulfilled through certain activities during the trip abroad (as is evidenced in the study abroad contact hours breakdown). [Syllabus p. 5]
 - iii. *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 land acknowledge statement. [Syllabus p. 15]
- iv. *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 replace the links in the Title IX and Religious Accommodations statements. Please note that the Religious Accommodations statement currently does not include the contact link at all, and the final syllabus should contain the hyperlink to the Office's website. [Syllabus pp. 15, 17]
 - v. Rehbeck, Nagar; unanimously approved with one comment and *three recommendations*.
- c. High-Impact Practice: Global and Intercultural Learning: Abroad, Away, or Virtual
 - i. Rehbeck, Nagar; unanimously approved.
3. History 3088 (new course requesting GEN Theme Traditions, Cultures, and Transformations)
- a. Theme Advisory Group: Traditions, Cultures, and Transformations
 - i. Comment: The reviewing faculty appreciate this new course, as it is timely, essential, and will resonate strongly with students.
 - ii. **Contingency**: The reviewing faculty request clearer alignment between the Theme specific learning outcomes and assessments in the syllabus. While ELO 3.1 is well-articulated with specific assignments, descriptions for ELOs 3.2 - 4 are more general and would benefit from a similar level of detail. The faculty note that the GE submission form includes helpful details about the presentation for ELO 3.2 and other assignment specifics for ELOs 3.4 and 4.1, which they ask be integrated into the syllabus. Clarifying in the syllabus where activities like quizzes, the reflection paper, historical essay, and presentations fit within these outcomes would enhance clarity for students and also support future instructors building on this strong course framework.
 - iii. Unanimously approved with **one contingency**.
 - b. Themes Subcommittee
 - i. **Contingency**: The reviewing faculty note that the course title listed in the syllabus does not match the official title recently changed in curriculum.osu.edu (Policing America: The Evolution of US Law Enforcement). They request that the department revise the syllabus to ensure the instructor uses the correct, updated course title. [Syllabus p. 1]
 - ii. *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 land acknowledge statement. [Syllabus p. 1]
 - iii. *Recommendation*: The reviewing faculty recommend that the department ensure the table of the Theme Goals and ELOs is fully accessible in order

- to support screen reader compatibility and improve readability for all users. [Syllabus pp. 2-3]
- iv. *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. [Syllabus pp. 13-14]
 - v. Rehbeck, Søland; unanimously approved with *three recommendations*.
4. 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) COURSE WAS APPROVED WITH CONTINGENCIES BY BOTH SUBCOMMITTEE & TAG; IT WAS REQUESTED THAT REVISION BE REVIEWED BY WHOLE SUBCOMMITTEE
- a. Theme Advisory Group: Traditions, Cultures, and Transformations
 - i. Approved.
 - b. Themes Subcommittee
 - i. **Contingency**: The reviewing faculty note that the revised syllabus is missing required information on contacts hours. The previous syllabus indicated course meetings times and frequency (TR 9:35-10:55) on the first page in order to satisfy this requirement, and the reviewing faculty request that this information be reinstated.
 - ii. **Contingency**: The reviewing faculty request that the most recent versions of the SLDS and Religious Accommodations statements be used in the revised syllabus, as they were in the previous version. The updated statements can be found in an easy to copy/paste format on the [Arts and Sciences Curriculum and Assessment Services website](#). [Syllabus p. 7]
 - iii. *Recommendation*: The reviewing faculty are concerned with the seemingly light reading load of this advanced Themes-level course. The faculty strongly recommend incorporating and assigning secondary sources for reading throughout the course. While the explanation of ELO 2.1 in the syllabus references engagement with a range of sources, this is not fully reflected in the current assigned readings. Expanding and clarifying the role of both primary and secondary texts would strengthen alignment with the Theme learning outcome. [Syllabus pp. 2, 9-11]
 - iv. Rehbeck, Andridge; unanimously approved with **two contingencies** and *one recommendation*.