

From: [Okpalaoka, Chinwe](#)
To: [Birgitte Soland](#)
Cc: [Vankeerbergen, Bernadette](#)
Subject: Freshnam seminar proposal update
Date: Friday, April 23, 2010 12:48:03 PM

Dear Brigitte,

I am writing to let you know that your Freshman seminar, Once Upon a Time: The History of Children in the Western World, has been approved by the Curriculum subcommittee. The syllabus contains wonderful readings and the scholarship component is clearly visible. They have the following recommendations for you:

- **The workload is difficult to assess because the number of pages for reading assignment is not given. Please add these to the syllabus.**
- **No specifics are provided for take-home assignment and final exam: Please add these to the syllabus.**
- **There was some concern that a third of the final grade is riding on just one previous take home assignment- that students will need to turn in final exam (35%) when there has only been one take-home assignment before this. The committee is encouraging you to remove some of the emphasis on final grade- maybe ask students to submit final paper drafts or an outline for feedback before final take home assignments are due. This way you may reward this particular effort as part of the final grade.**
- **Syllabus indicates that more than 2 unexcused absences leads to a grade of 0 for the class participation component of the student's grade. Since class participation accounts for 50% of the grade, students can fail class for missing 2 classes. Class only meets once a week. Two unexcused absences is 20% of the class time. The committee suggests that the importance of this clause be emphasized and specify what an unexcused absence is.**

Please let me know if you have any questions concerning this.

Best,

Chinwe

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*Grace isn't a little prayer you chant before receiving a meal. It's a way to live.
~Attributed to Jacqueline Winspear*

He is a wise man who does not grieve for the things which he has not, but rejoices for those which he has. ~Epictetus

Faith enables persons to be persons because it lets God be God. ~Carter Lindberg

Adopt the pace of nature: her secret is patience. ~Ralph Waldo Emerson