

From: Vankeerbergen, Bernadette
To: [McGraw, William S. \(Scott\)](#); [Freeman, Elizabeth](#)
Cc: [Vaessin, Harald](#); [Haddad, Deborah](#)
Subject: Anthropology 3597.04
Date: Thursday, November 13, 2014 1:18:00 PM

Scott and Elizabeth,

On Monday, the NMS Panel of the ASC Curriculum Committee reviewed a request to add GE Natural Science—Biological Science to Anthropology 3597.04.

The Panel did not vote on the proposal but would like the following points to be addressed first:

- Evolutionary Studies Minor currently does not accept new students. The statement about Anthropology 3597.04 being a core course in the minor should be removed from the syllabus.
- Concern: Change in number (from 4597.04 to 3597.04) to enable first- and second-year students to take the course. If course level changes, there should be change in content, but that is not the case here.
- Without any prereqs, the revised course will be open to first- and second-year students. Given that students will not be expected to have any scientific background, how can they do well in this course? How will students be able to read primary literature? How will students be helped? E.g., week 1 is very ambitious. How will students understand these advanced principles?
- What GE expected learning outcomes are thoroughly covered in the course? The GE rationale document is very general/needs to be more specific. As far as the Panel can see, ELOs 1 and 2 are not covered by course (except for very brief references). For example, for ELO 1: It would seem that students will have basic *exposure* but will not *understand* the basic facts, principles, theories and methods of modern science. ELO 3 might potentially be covered. Only ELO 4 seems to be truly covered with respect to amount of time, percent of the grade, and emphasis of the course.
- This is a GE Cross-Disciplinary Seminar. The current GE status seems at odds with request for GE Natural Science—Biological Science. By definition, a Cross-Disciplinary Seminar looks at a topic from a variety of disciplines. Requesting the GE Natural Science—Biological Science status would make this course less cross-disciplinary (i.e., would require substantial changes to the actual course). Current GE Cross-Disciplinary Seminars do not have another GE category, except for GE Diversity.
- Suggestion: The course as it currently exists should be more broadly advertised in other departments, especially the life sciences departments—which did not know of the course until now. For example, EEOB students or FAES students would have an interest in this course. Making this course a GE Natural Science—Biological Science course will make it less likely to be appealing to FAES and the life sciences departments.
- Proposal should have GE ELO-specific assessment plan. The current assessment plan is a course assessment plan, not a GE assessment plan. (Please also see feedback for other two Anthropology courses submitted recently.)

I will return the course via curriculum.osu.edu in a minute to enable the Department to address the

points above.

Should you have any questions about this feedback, please feel free to contact Harald Vaessin (Chair of the NMS Panel), or me.

Best,
Bernadette

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