

From: [Krabacher, Anne](#)
To: [Fink, Steven](#); [Vankeerbergen, Bernadette](#)
Cc: [Van Woerkom, Linn](#)
Subject: FW: Political Science 4305E
Date: Thursday, December 17, 2015 12:15:47 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Hi Steve and Bernadette,

Greetings! I have followed up with Jennifer directly (we actually had a chance to talk) but I realized that I had not notified you of our faculty committee's final decision. They ultimately decided not to approve the embedded class, largely because there was no extra meeting time for Honors students to have discussion with one another (they did not feel that the advising on the research paper sufficed for this).

Linn and I would like to bring a discussion of embedded classes to the ASC Honors Committee next semester. We have received very mixed reviews of the HE option from across campus (frankly, very few people seem to be fans of them), so we feel it may be an topic we want to revisit. I will keep you posted!

Thanks for all your help!

Happy Holidays,
Anne



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“Helping high-ability students focus their ambitions and achievements to transform themselves and their world”

From: Mitzen, Jennifer
Sent: Wednesday, December 02, 2015 2:44 PM
To: Krabacher, Anne
Cc: Van Woerkom, Linn; Vankeerbergen, Bernadette; Fink, Steven
Subject: RE: Political Science 4305E

Hello again –

I also just realized there is a typo in my first note: Prof Wendt is willing to meet *biweekly*, ie, every

other week (not semi-weekly, which would mean twice per week), with each Honors student individually to consult on a topic and offer guidance throughout the research process.
Sorry for the confusion!
Best, Jennifer



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From: Mitzen, Jennifer
Sent: Wednesday, December 02, 2015 2:30 PM
To: Krabacher, Anne
Cc: Van Woerkom, Linn; Vankeerbergen, Bernadette; Fink, Steven
Subject: RE: Political Science 4305E

Thanks, Anne, and I conveyed the wrong impression – sorry! The seminar paper would be just that: a seminar paper for that particular class. There would not be a formal commitment to subsequent thesis advising (although that might be a result, it isn't a guarantee). What I meant to convey was the sense that writing a seminar paper can be a 'gateway': getting some experience with writing a research paper demystifies the process, and latching onto a theme or idea while developing a working rapport with a faculty member might make it more likely a student will pursue an idea in depth through a thesis down the line.

I hope that's helpful, and thank you very much for considering this request.

Best wishes,
Jennifer



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From: Krabacher, Anne
Sent: Wednesday, December 02, 2015 2:04 PM
To: Mitzen, Jennifer
Cc: Van Woerkom, Linn; Vankeerbergen, Bernadette; Fink, Steven
Subject: RE: Political Science 4305E

Thank you for your e-mail, Jennifer. I am going to send your comments back to our committee for their review.

Linn Van Woerkom and I just briefly discussed your comments. We are confused by the use of an embedded course as a vehicle for advising honors research, largely because the appropriate course number for this is either 4998H or 4999H. Will Prof. Wendt's advising continue after the course ends? Are they expecting him to become their thesis advisor?

I hope to hear back from the committee members in the next day (I have let them know this is time-sensitive), so I will get back to you shortly.

Thanks,
Anne



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From: Mitzen, Jennifer
Sent: Wednesday, December 02, 2015 1:33 PM
To: Krabacher, Anne

Cc: Van Woerkom, Linn; Vankeerbergen, Bernadette; Fink, Steven
Subject: RE: Political Science 4305E

Dear Anne,

Thank you for the clarification. I've consulted with the faculty member and while he is willing to meet regularly – in his words, “semi-weekly” – with each Honors student individually to consult on a topic and offer guidance throughout the research process, he is not willing to offer, in addition to that, a separate weekly discussion section for those students. His rationale is that his teaching style in the lecture is discursive, leaving much room for Q&A and discussion, and the commitment to individualized advising for a term paper translates to several additional one on one hours for each student. As such, Honors students would have a distinctive discussion, mentoring, and advising experience, one that the other students in the class would not have.

To require that he commit to provide, on top of that, an additional discussion hour would entail about another hour of course prep on top of that. In his view, given the structure of the course and his teaching style, the added pedagogical benefit to the student from this particular practice of group discussion is not sufficient to justify the additional time/prep commitment beyond teaching this as a 75+ student course, managing a TA, and advising all of the individual research papers. His willingness to apply to add an “E” component to the class came out of a willingness and desire to advise on undergraduate research and potentially help students work their way toward graduating with (Honors) Research Distinction. We are working hard to build the research culture in the department, and offering a few “E” courses with top instructors, which can expose students to research opportunities, is one of the strategies through which we are hoping to do so.

If both changes – greater specification regarding paper advising and a dedicated discussion section – are required by the Honors/Scholars Advisory Board in order for us to offer this particular course, then I'm afraid we will have to withdraw the application. However, I'd urge the board to reconsider, since this means that some of our best undergraduate students will not have the opportunity to work with Prof Wendt at all. If the Advisory Board will permit the course to have the research paper component but not the discussion section, then he would be happy to specify the advising process in greater detail in the syllabus. If the Board is willing to consider this latter possibility and needs any additional information, please let me know and I'm happy to talk further.

Best wishes,

Jennifer



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From: Krabacher, Anne
Sent: Wednesday, December 02, 2015 10:17 AM
To: Mitzen, Jennifer
Cc: Van Woerkom, Linn; Vankeerbergen, Bernadette; Fink, Steven
Subject: RE: Political Science 4305E

Dear Jennifer,

Thank you for your e-mail message. Any feedback (and perhaps that was the wrong word for me to use in my original e-mail, so I apologize for any confusion it caused) that our Honors & Scholars Faculty Advisory Board offers when we contact departments regarding courses or programs is official in that they expect it to be incorporated into the course for it to be approved for Honors or Embedded status (in other words, in most cases, the committee will not approve the course unless the items are added). At the same time, the committee also recognizes the constraints of the unusually short time-frame of this particular course approval process and understands that there is not the normal time allotted for revisions.

I have consulted with the faculty on our advisory board regarding your e-mail message and how to proceed in this situation. Given the fact that you would like the course to be offered next semester and we are pressed for time, the committee has agreed to go ahead and approve the course so that it can officially be added to the registrar's course listing and students may be enrolled. This approval is made with the understanding that Prof. Wendt will make the changes to the course and syllabus listed below before the start of Spring semester. They have asked me to e-mail you in early January to get the updated syllabus so that this can be put into curriculum.osu.edu website so that the officially approved syllabus is on record. From a technical standpoint, I think that Charles Smith will need to re-submit the course by clicking the appropriate buttons in the on-line system (when we sent it back for changes, it leaves my worklist on curriculum.osu.edu).

Please feel free to contact me if you have further questions. You can feel free to e-mail me or call my direct line (292-3951).

Best,

Anne Krabacher



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“Helping high-ability students focus their ambitions and achievements to transform themselves and their world”

From: Mitzen, Jennifer

Sent: Monday, November 30, 2015 10:12 AM

To: Krabacher, Anne

Subject: RE: Political Science 4305E

Dear Anne,

Thank you for your note. I agree that weekly hour-long recitations with a faculty member are desirable and also that it would have been helpful for the faculty member to write into the syllabus the steps of research paper writing and the nature of his interaction with students in that process. I will pass along the feedback to Prof Wendt; also, thinking ahead, I will be sure to stipulate both of these to any faculty member willing to propose an “E” version of her or his course.

For now, as I think about enrolling for spring semester 2016, I’m wondering whether you mean these two pieces of feedback as official contingencies, so that students will not be able to enroll in the course until Prof Wendt finds a time for such a weekly meeting and gets in a scheduling /room request (which might make us unable to offer the course for winter at this point) and/or until he specifies on the syllabus precisely how he will advise the project? I hope this is not the case, since I know of 3-4 students who have been eagerly awaiting the opportunity to take this course for Honors credit (Prof Wendt teaches only one undergrad course per year, and so our best undergraduates rarely have the opportunity to take classes with him). But if it is the case then could you let me know relatively soon so we can try to make it happen?

Best wishes,

Jennifer



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From: Krabacher, Anne
Sent: Monday, November 23, 2015 9:24 PM
To: Mitzen, Jennifer; Smith, Charles William
Subject: Political Science 4305E

Dear Dr. Mitzen and Dr. Smith,

Greetings! The Honors & Scholars Faculty Advisory Committee has reviewed the proposed embedded course, Political Science 4305E. The committee offered two pieces of feedback for additional items that they would like to see in the syllabus.

1. Typically with Honors Embedded courses, there is an additional meeting between the faculty and Honors students each week for more in-depth discussion, advising, mentoring, etc. This is not mentioned in the syllabus, so the faculty committee would like this added.
2. There is no mention of advising for the research project, and the committee would like a bit more discussion about this in the syllabus.

I am happy to talk to you further about the committee's feedback. I will return the course to you in the curricular approval system which notes in the comments section that I have sent you and e-mail. Please let me know if you have questions.

Sincerely,
Anne Krabacher



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