

**From:** [Beach, Alison L.](#)  
**To:** [Vankeerbergen, Bernadette](#)  
**Subject:** Re: New Freshman Seminar "The Second Crusade: The War Council of Acer, 1148"  
**Date:** Monday, June 27, 2016 4:24:38 AM  
**Attachments:** [Beac Freshman Seminar Syllabus Revised.pdf](#)

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Dear Bernadette:

Sorry to be slow with the revisions to my Freshman Seminar syllabus. I was resident director of OSU's Learning Abroad program in Ireland with no time to spare for the past month.

Please find attached my syllabus for the proposed course. I have adjusted it for the contingencies noted below. The longer time was a typo (left over from my first version, which I had organized for a semester-length course). I have added page numbers for the readings, and removed the (outdate) GE text.

With regard to the reminders — the whole purpose of the course is to introduce the students to this wide range of critical sources — the bread and butter of medieval history — and I have no doubt (if they are like the many OSU freshman I have been lucky to teach!) that they are up to it. The guidance is my job and I do it well :-) I will, of course, offer a detailed handout with the instructions for the short papers, but this is not normally a part of a syllabus.

The point about absences is a good one. I increased the class participation to 50% of the grade, and I will make clear that absences during the debate days are not acceptable (short of a verified medical emergency). I may ask one of my current undergraduates (or one of my grad students) to sit in (they have expressed interest in this pedagogical method) with the notion that one of them could step in in the event that a key player is absent. I will offer a pep talk on day one about the need to commit, even though this is 'only' a 1-credit course.

Let me know if I have left anything unanswered. I hope there is still time to get into the enrollment system!

All the best,

Alison

On May 23, 2016, at 9:50 PM, Vankeerbergen, Bernadette  
<[vankeerbergen.1@osu.edu](mailto:vankeerbergen.1@osu.edu)> wrote:

Dear Professor Beach,

The ASC Curriculum Committee has reviewed your proposal for a new freshman seminar, "The Second Crusade: The War Council of Acer, 1148."

I am happy to report that the proposal was approved with three contingencies, one reminder, and one question—all of which I list below:

Contingencies

- Syllabus lists 2 meetings/week at 80 minutes/meeting for 7 weeks. This is approximately 50% more class time that is necessary. A single term 1-credit hour freshman seminar should meet twice 55 minutes for 7 weeks. Class times should be reduced—which may affect how much work can be done.
- In schedule, please provide weekly assignments in enough detail to judge the workload (e.g., provide page intervals within each source for the class meetings).
- This course is not a GE Historical Study course so the expected learning outcomes for Historical Study on p. 1 should be removed. (Also, please note that these are outdated/pre-semester conversion learning outcomes. The most up-to-date GE goals and expected learning outcomes are posted here: <http://asccas.osu.edu/curriculum/ge-goals-and-learning-outcomes#Historical%20Study> )

Reminder & question

- Students will be non-Honors, first-year students, so they may not be prepared to cope with – and fully exploit – the broad range of resources identified in the syllabus. Likewise, the students will likely need guidance about expectations (e.g., for the three short papers).
- How will student absences be dealt with once groups are identified and the role-playing begins? Will the absence of one person in an important role make a meeting unproductive?

Should you have any questions about the feedback, I encourage you to contact Meg Daly, faculty Chair of the ASC Curriculum Committee (cc'd here), or me.

Please feel free to send a revised syllabus to me and I will then submit it for final committee approval.

Best wishes,  
Bernadette

<image001.png>

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