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**To:** [Shank, Barry](#); [Marsch, Elizabeth](#)  
**Cc:** [Heysel, Garrett](#); [Aski, Janice](#)  
**Subject:** Religious Studies 2370  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 18, 2017 3:12:00 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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Dear Barry and Elizabeth,

On Tuesday, October 10, the Arts and Humanities 1 Panel of the ASC Curriculum Committee considered a request to offer Religious Studies 2370 (an existing course with GE Cultures and Ideas & Diversity-Global Studies) in 100% distance learning format.

The Panel did not vote on the course request but would like the following points addressed first:

**Assignments:**

- Why was the first field experience (interviewing someone from another religion) removed in the distance learning version?
- P. 5: What are students graded on for primary readings (worth 500 points)?
- P. 5: What is group project (worth 50 points)? It is not explained on p. 3.
- Likewise, on p. 10, what about group projects? (“Formal collaboration with classmates” is also mentioned in the paragraph on “Collaboration and informal peer-review” on that page.)
- Are weekly quizzes (p. 3) the same as video reviews (p. 5)? But then if that is the case, the points do not match since weekly quizzes add up to 50 points while video reviews add up to 150 points.
- P. 3: Do video reviews count for both weekly quizzes and class participation? If so, videos count for two grades—which should not be the case.

**Issues with GE assessment plan:**

- Not linked to GE expected learning outcomes (ELOs) for GE Cultures and Ideas & GE Diversity-Global Studies. A few specifics are listed here (list may not be comprehensive):
  - Document with sample assessment questions does not link the questions to the GE ELOs.
  - The rubric used to grade field exercise is not linked to GE ELOs.
  - The student evaluation of comprehension is not linked to GE ELOs.
  - The online discussion board rubric is not linked to GE ELOs.
  - The actual “Assessment plan” document mentions SEI feedback (which is not used for GE assessment) and Writing and Related Skills GE Learning Objectives (which is not at all related to GE Cultures and Ideas or GE Diversity—Global Option).
  - Percentage of students participating (on assignments or exams) cannot be used for GE assessment.
  - Assignment scores/grades are usually not appropriate for GE ELO assessment (since grades include many other factors than the effectiveness of the course in achieving the GE ELOs).
  - Students commenting on each other’s threaded discussion is not an indirect method of assessment.
- Not linked to Distance Learning course. For example:

- How can one have “in-class short writing assignments” for distance learning course?
- There are references to “capstone research project on a non-western religion,” which is not an assignment in the distance learning syllabus reviewed by the Panel.

(The Department of Comparative Studies has submitted good assessment plans/reports in the past. The Panel requests that the instructor work with the department to redo GE assessment plan.)

I will return the course via [curriculum.osu.edu](http://curriculum.osu.edu) in a minute to enable the department to address the points above.

Should you have any questions about this feedback, please contact Janice Aski (cc'd here), faculty Chair of the Arts and Humanities 1 Panel, or me.

My best,  
Bernadette



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