

**From:** [Vankeerbergen, Bernadette](#)  
**To:** [Vankeerbergen, Bernadette](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Requested concurrence from Communication for EEOB 5610  
**Date:** Friday, March 23, 2018 4:37:26 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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**From:** Hamilton, Ian  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 21, 2018 3:58 PM  
**To:** Haddad, Deborah <[haddad.2@osu.edu](mailto:haddad.2@osu.edu)>  
**Subject:** FW: Requested concurrence from Communication for EEOB 5610

Hi Deborah:

We have now heard back from Communication regarding the proposal for EEOB 5610 (please see below).

Best,  
Ian

Ian M Hamilton  
Associate Professor  
Department of Evolution, Ecology and Organismal Biology  
Department of Mathematics  
Vice Chair of Undergraduate Studies, Evolution, Ecology and Organismal Biology  
The Ohio State University

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**From:** Slater, Michael  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 21, 2018 3:52 PM  
**To:** Hamilton, Ian <[hamilton.598@osu.edu](mailto:hamilton.598@osu.edu)>  
**Cc:** Kline, Susan <[kline.48@osu.edu](mailto:kline.48@osu.edu)>  
**Subject:** Requested concurrence from Communication for EEOB 5610

Concurrence Statement

We have received the proposed syllabus for “EEOB 5610 Translating Evolution” and faculty members have evaluated its overlap with our existing course COMM 4240 Science Communication.

COMM 4240 is a general overview of science communication that focuses on “the theory and practice of science communication to public audiences, designed for both communication majors and non-majors.” It has a considerable focus on information learning about science and exposes students to the extensive social science literature on science communication and science education. The course also involves a semester-long research and evaluation group project with COSI or other informal science learning organizations. Students learn about the organizations’ informal learning activities/operations, engage in data collection and evaluation in tandem with organization staff, and

present their findings/insights at the end of the semester.

Thus, there are significant similarities in some course content and the group project between COMM 4240 and the proposed content and student activities in EEOB 5610. However, while EEOB 5610 is a domain-centric course focusing specifically on communication/learning about evolution, COMM 4240 is more general as it has a substantially wider focus on science learning and communication theory and practice that cuts across different science topics, and perhaps a more intensive emphasis on research and evaluation of such efforts. We presume that COMM 4240 exposes students to significantly more social science theory on informal science learning/communication and evaluation as compared to the proposed EEOB 5610 syllabus (though specific readings in the EEOB 5610 syllabus were not provided, so we are not sure about this).

We understand the motivation and need to develop a domain-specific practicum course such as EEOB 5610 for EEOB undergraduate and graduate students that provide hands-on training and pathways to careers in biology education, outreach, or communication. However, we believe that such courses should not replace existing courses in social science that also address the same topics more broadly and likely with more theoretical depth. Courses that address informal learning/science communication in the social sciences and perhaps education are therefore appropriate prerequisites or foundational courses for upper-level practicums such as EEOB 5610. Conversely, we can imagine students from Comm and SENR who've taken such courses being interested in taking further practicum-type coursework in science education by taking EEOB 5610.

We are willing to provide our concurrence to the proposed course EEOB 5610 but strongly recommend that the course requires as a prerequisite a foundational course in science or environmental communication (e.g. COMM 4240, COMM 3340, or ENR 3400) or appropriate preparatory coursework from education.

Mike



**Michael D. Slater**

Director

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