

**From:** [Vankeerbergen, Bernadette](#)  
**To:** [Brenner, Naomi](#); [Smith, Jeremie S.](#)  
**Cc:** [Heysel, Garett](#); [Taleghani-Nikazm, Carmen](#)  
**Subject:** NELC 3111  
**Date:** Thursday, September 27, 2018 10:04:00 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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Dear Naomi and Jeremie,

On Wednesday, September 19, the Arts and Humanities 2 Panel of the ASC Curriculum Committee reviewed a proposal to reduce the credit hours of NELC 3111 (an existing course with GE Historical Study) from 4 to 3 credit hours.

The Panel unanimously approved the course change with two contingencies and three recommendations:

Contingencies:

- Form in curriculum.osu.edu:
  - The course description says, “Introduction to the history and cultures of the ancient empires of southwestern Asia, focusing on the period from the Assyrian and Persian Empires to the establishment of Islam (ca 900 BCE–ca 750 CE).” This no longer appears to match the updated content of the course. Indeed the first line of the revised syllabus says, “This is an introduction to the history and cultures of the ancient empires of southwestern Asia, focusing on the period from the Akkadian empire to the establishment of Islam (ca 2340 BCE–ca 750 CE).” Thus, if nothing else, the timeframe has been expanded, and the course description in the catalog should be adjusted in some manner.
  - The course components still lists a recitation. Request to remove.
- The GE assessment plan that is provided goes with the old version of the course. Please update. For example:
  - The passage for ELO1 that says that “Students study primary sources translated into English from different languages, and one of their analyses is presented as a second essay (term paper)” no longer applies in the updated version of the course. Indeed, the second essay about the Chronicle of Joshua the Stylite has been removed from the updated syllabus.
  - The explanation for ELO3 refers to recitation sections. However, these have been eliminated in the revised version of the course.

Recommendations:

- On the syllabus, also include the GE Historical Study goals (not just the expected learning outcomes).
- The schedule seems to include some inaccuracies perhaps due to the original syllabus having been adjusted. For example:
  - Week 3 in the original syllabus has now become the content of Week 7. In the original course, there was a map quiz #1 that week in discussion section. The

following week, there was a map quiz #2. In the revised version of the course, there is map quiz 1 in Week 3 but the schedule does not ever mention a map quiz #2.

- o Is the mid-term really going to take place in Week 11? Perhaps it just appears in that week because in the original syllabus, Rome, the Parthians, and the Buffer States were discussed the same week as the mid-term. However, in the original syllabus all of that took place in Week 8 (i.e., around the middle of the semester). Now, that no longer is the case & waiting until Week 11 to give a midterm is quite late.
- p. 4: "More than three absences will result in a grade of "EN" for the course." EN is used for students who do not attend or stop attending altogether. However, in the case of this particular course where more than 3 absences would result in a failing grade (even, presumably, if a student subsequently comes back to class), it would be preferable to use "E."

I will return NELC 3111 via curriculum.osu.edu in a minute to enable the department to address the Panel's feedback.

If you have any questions about the feedback above, do not hesitate to contact Carmen Taleghani-Nikazm (faculty chair of the A&H2 Panel; cc'd here), or me.

Best,  
Bernadette



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