

**From:** [Oldroyd, Shelby Q.](#)  
**To:** [Sawyer, Audrey](#)  
**Cc:** [Vaessin, Harald](#); [Haddad, Deborah](#); [Vankeerbergen, Bernadette](#); [Saltzman, Matthew](#)  
**Subject:** New First-Year Seminar - Thirsty Planet: Water in a Changing World  
**Date:** Friday, January 31, 2020 3:51:00 PM

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Dear Professor Sawyer,

On Monday, January 27, the Natural and Mathematical Sciences Panel of the ASC Curriculum Committee reviewed your proposal for a new first-year seminar, "Thirsty Planet: Water in a Changing World."

The Panel unanimously approved the proposed seminar with one contingency and six recommendations:

- Contingency: Request concurrence from the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences.
- Recommendation: The OSU grading scheme mentioned in the syllabus is not an official grading scale. Provide the grading scale on the syllabus.
- Recommendation: The Panel recommends asking students to opt-in to having their stories shared on the @osuwaterissues Twitter page.
- Recommendation: The requirements for assignments and the structure of the course policies could be clearer. The Panel recommends breaking up "Course Policies" and "Assignments" into two sections, and providing more information on grading.
- Recommendation: The course policies and assignments mention "week 10," but the course is a first-session offering.
- Recommendation: The Panel recommends adjusting some of the readings from sources like the "Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences" if they are journal articles rather than commentary articles. These readings may be beyond the level of a first-year seminar.

Please feel free to send a revised syllabus to me with the concurrence from FAES, and I will then submit it for final approval.

Should you have any questions about this feedback, do not hesitate to contact Harald Vaessin (faculty Chair of the Natural and Mathematical Sciences Panel, cc'd here), or me.

Best,  
Shelby

**Shelby Oldroyd**  
Curriculum and Assessment Assistant  
College of Arts and Sciences  
154E Denney Hall, 164 Annie & John Glenn Ave.  
Columbus, OH 43210  
Phone: 614-292-6248  
<http://ascas.osu.edu>