

**From:** [Vankeerbergen, Bernadette](#)  
**To:** [Liu, Morgan](#); [Smith, Jeremie S.](#)  
**Cc:** [Wilson, Luke](#); [Hilty, Michael](#)  
**Subject:** NELC 3105 & Jewish Studies 3220  
**Date:** Thursday, February 4, 2021 3:26:00 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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Dear Morgan and Jeremie,

Recently the Arts and Humanities Panel 2 of the ASC Curriculum Committee (ASCC) considered a proposal for two new courses out of the department of NELC: NELC 3105 (with GE Diversity—Global Studies & GE Social Science-Individuals and Groups) and Jewish Studies 3220 (with GE Cultures and Ideas & Diversity-Global Studies).

Please find below the feedback of the panel:

1. NELC 3105: unanimously approved with three contingencies and one recommendation
  - Contingencies:
    - The current language surrounding the absence policy (as found on page 4 of the syllabus) is confusing and generally unclear for students. Under the Course Requirements section on page 4 of the syllabus, the syllabus states, “More than two unexcused absences will affect your attendance” while under the official attendance policy, also on page 4, it states, “For every absence after 2 (excused or unexcused) you will lose a point.” The Panel would like clarification on what types of absences affect a student’s grade within the course: both excused and unexcused or just unexcused? If it is the former, the instructor might want to reconsider whether he/she really wants to penalize students for excused absences.
      - The Panel also recommends checking to see if the NELC Department has any official departmental standardization policies around attendance in their courses. This may also alleviate the confusion within the syllabus.
    - The Panel has questions regarding course assignments and grading in the syllabus. The Panel kindly requests that the assignments be consistent throughout the syllabus. Discrepancies include:
      - Under the Course Requirements section on page 4, it is mentioned that there will be five (5) exercises during the semester, yet under the Explanation of Assignments section on pages 4 and 5, these exercises are not mentioned. The five exercises are also not mentioned on p. 3 in the grading section.
      - The Explanation of Assignments section does not have information regarding the midterm exam mentioned on p. 3 in the grading section. Is there actually a midterm in the class? The schedule does not mention a midterm.
      - Written assignments are mentioned on p. 3 but not on p. 5.
      - Does the “Final project” on p. 3 cover both the Final Presentation and the Final Paper on p. 5?
      - What are the 4 quizzes mentioned on p. 5 under Weekly Assignments? Do they not get a grade (p. 3)?

In sum, please make sure that all the assignments use identical names and align in the grading section (p. 3), the explanation of assignments (pp. 4-5), and the schedule (pp. 7-9).

- The Panel discussed the course's requested GE Diversity-Global Studies status. They noted that in the revised submission the Department of NELC has further explained some of the aspects of the course to support its request for the GE Diversity-Global Studies category. Nonetheless, the Panel is still not clear how the two ELOs are actually fulfilled in the course. For ELO#1, the GE rationale does list three statements referring to the social, political, religious cultural etc, but it is not clear from the syllabus where those topics are discussed in the course and that what extent. The course description on p. 1 of the syllabus focuses on writing systems and the schedule does not clearly indicate where those topics are included. For ELO#2, the three points listed in the GE rationale do not seem to be clearly related to "the role of national and international diversity in shaping [students'] *own* attitudes and values as global citizens." (There is a mention of how colonialism shaped stereotypes about pre-modern writing cultures and civilizations, but societal stereotypes may not equate students' attitudes and values.)
- Recommendation:
  - P. 6 in syllabus: Title IX statement: Kellie Brennan no longer works for Ohio State.

2. Jewish Studies 3220: The Panel did not vote on the course request but would like the following points addressed first:

- On page 2 of the syllabus, there is an incomplete section titled "HOW THIS COURSE WORKS: MODES OF DELIVERY, FORMAT". Since the course is an in-person course, this section does not appear to be necessary.
- There was a concern and request for clarification about the late assignment policy on page 2 of the syllabus, especially regarding the requirement of a physician's note for accepting late assignments. The Panel feels this may be too punitive for students (what if a student has a valid excuse that is not medical?) and also recommends checking to see if there are any departmental policies surrounding the acceptance of late assignments.
- There is a repeated section on page 3 of the syllabus, under the final exam section with the sentence "If you study with classmates for the final exam, please do not write identical essays...".
- The Panel would like to see dates and due dates added to the syllabus to help with clarification of assignments and student expectations of due dates. There is concern that students will face confusion about when assignments are due based on the current schedule, such as when on page 7, under the week 10, it says "Homework questions due".
  - The Panel suggests separating the calendar into two days a week, as presumably this course would meet twice a week.
- Regarding the GE ELO Assessment, the Panel raises some concerns:
  - For both categories, in the table, written assignments are mentioned as direct methods of assessment. However, it is not clear which written assignments in the syllabus are here referred.

- Some of the sample questions do not seem to pertain to the specific GE ELOs, especially since the sample questions are the same for both GE categories. Is this an unintended cut/paste? Please make sure that the sample questions actually address the specific ELOs of each GE category.
- There is a typo in the GE: Cultures and Ideas assessment plan as it mentions ELOs 1, 2 and 3 but there are only two (2) ELOs for Cultures and Ideas.

I will return both courses to the department queue in curriculum.osu.edu so that the department can address the feedback of the Panel.

If you have any questions about the feedback of the Panel, do not hesitate to contact Luke Wilson, faculty Chair of the A&H2 Panel (cc'd here), or me.

Best wishes,  
Bernadette



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