

From: [Cody, Emily](#)
To: [Griffith, Elizabeth M.](#); [Griffith, W. Ashley](#); [Pinsonneault, Marc](#); [Gaudi, Scott](#); [Terndrup, Don](#)
Cc: [Fredal, James](#); [Vankeerbergen, Bernadette](#); [Steele, Rachel](#); [Hilty, Michael](#); [Cody, Emily](#)
Subject: Earth Sciences and Astronomy 5205
Date: Thursday, October 20, 2022 10:41:00 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Good morning,

On Friday, September 30, the Themes Panel 1 of the ASC Curriculum Committee reviewed the course proposal for Earth Sciences and Astronomy 5205. Please find below the Panel's feedback for the course.

The Panel did not vote on the proposal as they would like the following points addressed:

- The reviewing faculty thank the School of Earth Sciences and the Department of Astronomy for submitting a request for Planetary Science to receive designation as a GEN Theme: Origins and Evolution course. The committee agrees that the topic seems appropriate for this theme and is intrigued at the prospect of what a course like this could offer students as part of the New General Education. However, the reviewing faculty note that, in its current form, Planetary Science has too specialized of a prerequisite to qualify as a GE course — the prerequisite of Calculus II indicates that the class would only be a feasible class for students in the major. For a course to be considered accessible at the GEN level, a student based outside of the School of Earth Sciences and the Department of Astronomy (or adjacent areas of study) should be able to enroll, with few to no prerequisites, and still successfully navigate the class. While the committee cannot approve the present version of Planetary Science for the GEN Theme: Origins and Evolution, the reviewing faculty are encouraged by the course content's potential. If the department feels that students outside of the major can be successful within a hypothetical, revamped model of this course that does not rely on the prerequisite of Calculus II, the Panel would welcome the opportunity to review this revised version of the class. An alternative iteration of the course — one that approaches the same topics, but reframed with an eye to engaging a population of multidisciplinary General Education students — could be an indispensable contribution to the new curriculum.
- Should the School of Earth Sciences and Department of Astronomy decide to revise and resubmit Planetary Science for consideration as a GEN Theme: Origins and Evolution, the reviewing faculty also kindly request the following:
 - The reviewing faculty ask that the most up-to-date, full and complete GEN Goals and ELOs for the Origins and Evolution theme be included in the course syllabus, per a requirement of General Education courses. The GEN Goals and ELOs can be found here on the ASC Curriculum and Assessment Services website: <https://asccas.osu.edu/new-general-education-gen-goals-and-elos>
 - The reviewing faculty ask that further clarification be made within the syllabus regarding how readings, assignments, and other content will allow the course to examine the concept of Origins and Evolution in service of the theme's goals and ELOs. To this purpose, the committee encourages the department to actively and directly use the language of the theme throughout the proposal materials in order to make these implicit elements of the class manifest more explicitly.
 - Do students need previous coding experience in order to enroll and be successful in this course? Certain assignment descriptions on page 4 of the syllabus mention

submitting “original code,” but the current proposal materials are unclear about whether or not students need to enter the course with some background in coding and/or any specific coding languages.

- The Panel recommends including Github software on the list of required resources for the course.
- The Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee recently approved newly updated standard syllabus statements; the Panel kindly recommends double-checking the syllabus document to ensure that the most current language and information appears for these student resources. For instance, the reviewing faculty note that the statements on pages 7-9 of the syllabus are not the latest versions, and suggest revising them accordingly. The link to these updated syllabus statements can be found here on the ASC Curriculum and Assessment Services website: <https://asccas.osu.edu/curriculum/syllabus-elements>
- The reviewing faculty request a cover letter that details all changes made in response to this feedback.

I will return Earth Sciences and Astronomy 5205 to the departmental queue via curriculum.osu.edu in order to address the Panel’s feedback.

Should you have any questions regarding this feedback, please do not hesitate to contact Jim Fredal, faculty Chair of the ASCC Themes Panel; Jeff Cohen, faculty Chair of the Theme Advisory Group: Citizenship for a Diverse and Just World; or myself.

Best,
Emily



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