

From: [Cody, Emily](#)
To: [Getson, Jennifer](#); [Soland, Birgitte](#)
Cc: [Fredal, James](#); [Cohen, Jeffrey](#); [Vankeerbergen, Bernadette](#); [Steele, Rachel](#); [Hilty, Michael](#); [Cody, Emily](#)
Subject: History 3265 & 3676
Date: Thursday, December 1, 2022 12:00:00 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Good afternoon,

On Friday, October 28, the Themes Panel 1 of the ASC Curriculum Committee reviewed requests for History 3265 & 3676. Please see below for the Panel's feedback on these proposals. {N.B. **Contingencies (bolded)** require revision and resubmission to the Panel chair, while *recommendations (italicized)* or comments are suggestions from the Panel that an instructor can implement at their discretion when the course is taught.}

HISTORY 3265 | Unanimously approved with *four (4) recommendations*

- *RECOMMENDATION: The Panel strongly recommends that the department consider reviewing the grading policy (found on page 4 of the syllabus) for this course. The Panel is aware that the course was previously approved as a Legacy General Education (Historical Study) course, but notes that it has not been reviewed since before semester conversion and that the grading policy of the course was likely different at that time. Since the course will now be a Themes course, it will be open to most students at the university, some of whom may have never taken a Department of History course at Ohio State. To that end, they bring the following to the department's attention:*
 - *The policy of only giving a final grade based on one large writing portfolio turned in at the end of the semester (rather than assessing smaller assignments throughout the semester) does not allow for students to note their deficiencies in relation to the instructor's expectations and make improvements. A student may believe that they are turning in "B" caliber work but have no idea that their professor would actually consider their work to be insufficient to pass the course.*
 - *The Initiative Points (earned by students for participating in outside events, peer review, class discussion, office hours and/or turning in rough drafts for comments) are used as a strong determiner of final grades, but students have no way of knowing the expectations for earning these points. The syllabus states that "There is no set number of initiative points that you should aim to earn", making it difficult for students to know what the professor's expectations are and what they must do to earn their desired grade. (Should they turn in rough drafts of all writing assignments? Attend office hours every week? Will doing so earn them a bump of one letter grade? Three letter grades?) Additionally, the instructor does not divulge in the syllabus how they will keep track of these points, so students have no way of verifying that the instructor was aware of their level of participation in these activities.*
 - *The instructor has not provided students with information regarding what percentage of the overall grade will be accounted for by each class assignment, which is a required syllabus element (<https://asccas.osu.edu/curriculum/syllabus-elements>). Additionally, they note that the inclusion of a grading scale in the final syllabus that is distributed to students will be expected.*
- *RECOMMENDATION: The reviewing faculty kindly suggest that the department consider modifying their prerequisite of English 1110 to be "Completion of GE Foundation Writing and Information Literacy course," as English 1110 is not the only writing course available*

to students to take within the new GE program. Of course, the reviewing faculty recognize that some departments and programs may wish to keep their prerequisite of strictly English 1110 and merely offer this as a friendly suggestion.

- *RECOMMENDATION: The Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee recently approved newly updated standard syllabus statements. The reviewing faculty kindly note that the SLDS and mental health statements provided (found on page 7 of the syllabus) are not the latest versions, and suggest revising them accordingly to ensure that the most current language and information appear for these student resources. 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>*
- *RECOMMENDATION: The Panel suggests that the department include the most up-to-date version of the University's Title IX statement (found on pages 7-8 of the syllabus), which can be found here: <https://asccas.osu.edu/curriculum/syllabus-elements>*

HISTORY 3676 | Unanimously approved with *three (3) recommendations*

- *RECOMMENDATION: The reviewing faculty kindly suggest that the department consider modifying their prerequisite of English 1110 to be "Completion of GE Foundation Writing and Information Literacy course," as English 1110 is not the only writing course available to students to take within the new GE program. Of course, the reviewing faculty recognize that some departments and programs may wish to keep their prerequisite of strictly English 1110 and merely offer this as a friendly suggestion.*
- *RECOMMENDATION: The Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee recently approved newly updated standard syllabus statements. The reviewing faculty kindly note that the mental health statement provided (found on page 11 of the syllabus) is not the latest version, and suggest revising it accordingly to ensure that the most current language and information appear for this student resource. 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>*
- *RECOMMENDATION: The Panel suggests that the department include the most up-to-date version of the University's Title IX statement (found on page 12 of the syllabus), which can be found here: <https://asccas.osu.edu/curriculum/syllabus-elements>*

History 3265 & 3676 will continue through the approval process.

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



Emily K. Cody, Ph.D.

Curriculum and Assessment Assistant

ASC Curriculum and Assessment Services The College of Arts and Sciences

306 Dulles Hall, 230 Annie and John Glenn Ave., Columbus, OH 43210

614-247-9106 Office

cody.50@osu.edu / ascas.osu.edu

Pronouns: she/her/hers / Honorific: Dr.