

**From:** [Hilty, Michael](#)  
**To:** [Parece, Tammy](#); [Coleman, Mathew](#)  
**Cc:** [Roup, Christina](#); [Vankeerbergen, Bernadette](#); [Steele, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** New First-year Seminars: "Maps don't lie, or do they?" & "I am a spatial thinker, what about you?" - T. E. Parece  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 22, 2023 8:41:00 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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Good morning Tammy and Mat,

On Thursday, February 16<sup>th</sup>, the Social and Behavioral Sciences Panel of the ASC Curriculum Committee reviewed two new First-year seminars from Dr. Tammy E. Parece. Please see below for their feedback.

The Panel did not vote on the proposal for either new First-year seminars and would like to see the following feedback addressed in a revision:

- “Maps don’t lie, or do they?”
  - The Panel requests that the course syllabus more thoroughly explain the expectations of students, especially surrounding how a student will be graded and what they will be expected to complete each week. They ask that more information be provided on the following:
    - How the quizzes will be administered (such as if they will be taken online or in-person).
    - The expectations of the map activities and parameters on what students should be discussing in their presentations.
    - The expectations of the final project and the parameters on what students should be expected to complete, such as how they should find this map and what, exactly, “accuracy and precision” mean.
    - The weekly schedule should also be thoroughly developed to include required readings (including page numbers/length of readings) and any other relevant information.
  - The Panel recommends reviewing the following syllabus from Mat Coleman, Professor and Interim Chair of the Department of Geography, as they believe this to be a model First-year seminar syllabus:  
[https://ascnet.osu.edu/storage/request\\_documents/3712/Coleman\\_first%20year%20seminar%20proposal\\_AU2017.pdf](https://ascnet.osu.edu/storage/request_documents/3712/Coleman_first%20year%20seminar%20proposal_AU2017.pdf)
- “I am a spatial thinker, what about you?”
  - The Panel requests that the course syllabus more thoroughly explain the expectations of students, especially surrounding how a student will be graded and what they will be expected to complete each week. They ask that more information be provided on the following:
    - How the “Weekly Journaling Activity” will be assessed and what students should be expected to turn in every week.
    - The expectations of the “Leading a discussion” assignment and parameters on what students should be discussing in their presentations to the class (including how long they should be leading this discussion for).
    - The expectations of the “Mental Map Activities” assignment, such as when students will need to have completed their mental maps in weeks 1 and 6 (are these in-class activities or are students expected to complete them outside of class?) and any requirements of these mental maps.
    - The expectations of the final project and a comprehensive explanation of all student requirements.
    - The weekly schedule should also be thoroughly developed to required readings (include page numbers/length of readings) and any other relevant information.
  - The Panel recommends reviewing the following syllabus from Mat Coleman, Professor and Interim Chair of the Department of Geography, as they believe this to be a model First-year seminar syllabus:

[https://ascnet.osu.edu/storage/request\\_documents/3712/Coleman\\_first%20year%20seminar%20proposal\\_AU2017.pdf](https://ascnet.osu.edu/storage/request_documents/3712/Coleman_first%20year%20seminar%20proposal_AU2017.pdf)

When a revision is completed, please email a copy of the revised materials to me and I will work to ensure that they are submitted to the Panel for review.

Should you have any questions regarding this feedback, please do not hesitate to reach out to Christina Roup, faculty Chair of the Social and Behavioral Sciences Panel, or me.

All my best,  
Michael



**Michael Hilty**

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