

**From:** [Steele, Rachel](#)  
**To:** [Kwiek, Nicole](#); [Bowman, Michael](#); [Jackman, Jane](#); [Ramirez, Ana](#)  
**Cc:** [Fredal, James](#); [Downing, Molly N.](#); [Vankeerbergen, Bernadette](#); [Steele, Rachel](#); [Hilty, Michael](#); [Neff, Jennifer](#)  
**Subject:** Chemistry/Pharmacy 3301  
**Date:** Friday, October 27, 2023 4:47:56 PM  
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Good afternoon,

On Tuesday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>, the Themes I Subcommittee of the ASC Curriculum Committee and the Theme Advisory Group for Health and Wellbeing reviewed a course proposal for Chemistry/Pharmacy 3301.

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

- i. The reviewing faculty asks that the units indicate on the syllabus (pg. 3) whether the textbooks are required or recommended.
- ii. The reviewing faculty note that using different colors of text on syllabi as the sole indicator of meaning is not in line with the university's accessibility standards, and they recommend that the units reconsider the use of color coding in the syllabus.
- iii. The reviewing faculty found the course to be intriguing and feel that it could be an excellent addition to the GEN themes. However, they ask that the units reconsider the level at which the course is taught. Although GEN Themes courses are intended to be taught at a higher level than the Foundations, this course engages with the stated concepts and topics at a pace and a level that may make the course inaccessible to the general student population. One possible solution may be to rely less on pre-requisites and/or to alter the course content so that it is accessible to a wider variety of students.
- iv. The reviewing faculty note that the responses on the GEN Submission Form rely heavily on the analysis of clinical drug trial results to satisfy the ELOs of the category. However, this activity only accounts for one class meeting on the Course Schedule (syllabus pg. 4). This example speaks to the larger issue of the alignment of the course topics with the goals and ELOs of the GEN Themes category, as the majority of topics covered in the course do not seem to pertain to the Health and Wellbeing Theme. The Subcommittee asks that the unit reconsider the courses readings, topics, and activities so that the majority of the course aligns with the goals and ELOs of the category.
- v. The reviewing faculty observe that the course seems to cover a wide variety of complex topics. With the limited time on each topic, they are concerned that there will not be enough time for "advanced, in-depth scholarly exploration" or "critical...thinking about the topic or idea of the theme", especially for students who do not have a strong background in the sciences, or those who have met the re-requisites via Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate or A-Level exams. For example, the reviewing faculty note that the subject of enzyme inhibitors is only covered for two class sessions in Week 11 of the Course Schedule (syllabus pg. 4), but it could easily be the subject of an entire semester of study. They ask that the course be modified to cover fewer topics, focusing on those topics that most closely align with the goals and ELOs of the Theme and the interaction between the different topics. The reviewing faculty offer the friendly observation that refraining from trying to align the course so closely with the textbook might be one possible way to address this concern.

- vi. The reviewing faculty ask that the units give greater attention to the fulfillment of ELO 2.2, creating more opportunity for reflection and self-assessment via course assignments and activities.
- vii. The reviewing faculty ask that the units include a cover letter explaining what has been changed in response to the committee's feedback.

I will return Chemistry/Pharmacy 3301 to the department queue via curriculum.osu.edu in order to address the reviewing faculty's requests.

Should you have any questions about the feedback of the reviewing faculty,, please feel free to contact Jim Fredal, Molly Downing (faculty Chair of the Themes I Subcommittee and the Health & Wellbeing TAG [respectively]; cc'd on this e-mail), or me.

Best,  
Rachel



**Rachel Steele, MA**

(Pronouns: she/her/hers / Honorific: Ms.)

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