Distance Approval Cover Sheet

For Permanent DL/DH Approval | College of Arts and Sciences

Course Number and Title:

Carmen Use

When building your course, we recommend using the ASC Distance Learning Course Template for CarmenCanvas. For more on use of Carmen: Common Sense Best Practices.

☐ A Carmen site will be created for the course, including a syllabus and gradebook at minimum.

If no, why not?

Syllabus

☐ Proposed syllabus uses the ASC distance learning syllabus template, includes boilerplate language where required, as well as a clear description of the technical and academic support services offered, and how learners can obtain them.

☐ Syllabus is consistent and is easy to understand from the student perspective.

☐ Syllabus includes a schedule with dates and/or a description of what constitutes the beginning an end of a week or module.

☐ If there are required synchronous sessions, the syllabus clearly states when they will happen and how to access them.

Additional comments (optional):

Instructor Presence

For more on instructor presence: About Online Instructor Presence.

Students should have opportunities for regular and substantive academic interactions with the course instructor. Some ways to achieve this objective:

☐ Regular instructor communications with the class via announcements or weekly check-ins.

☐ Instructional content, such as video, audio, or interactive lessons, that is visibly created or mediated by the instructor.

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☐ Regular participation in class discussion, such as in Carmen discussions or synchronous sessions.

☐ Regular opportunities for students to receive personal instructor feedback on assignments.

Please comment on this dimension of the proposed course (or select/explain methods above):

Delivery Well-Suited to DL/DH Environment

Technology questions adapted from the Quality Matters rubric. For information about Ohio State learning technologies: Toolsets.

☐ The tools used in the course support the learning outcomes and competencies.

☐ Course tools promote learner engagement and active learning.

☐ Technologies required in the course are current and readily obtainable.

☐ Links are provided to privacy policies for all external tools required in the course.

Additional technology comments (optional):

Which components of this course are planned for synchronous delivery and which for asynchronous delivery? (For DH, address what is planned for in-person meetings as well.)

If you believe further explanation would be helpful, please comment on how course activities have been adjusted for distance learning (optional):

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Workload Estimation

For more information about calculating online instruction time: ODEE Credit Hour Estimation.

☐ Course credit hours align with estimated average weekly time to complete the course successfully.

☐ Course includes direct (equivalent of "in-class") and indirect (equivalent of "out-of-class") instruction at a ratio of about 1:2.

Provide a brief outline of a typical course week, categorizing course activities and estimating the approximate time to complete them or participate:

☐ In the case of course delivery change requests, the course demonstrates comparable rigor in meeting course learning outcomes.

Accessibility

For more information or a further conversation, contact the accessibility coordinator for the College of Arts and Sciences. For tools and training on accessibility: Digital Accessibility Services.

☐ Instructor(s) teaching the course will have taken Digital Accessibility training (starting in 2022) and will ensure all course materials and activities meet requirements for diverse learners, including alternate means of accessing course materials when appropriate.

☐ Information is provided about the accessibility of all technologies required in the course. All third-party tools (tools without campus-wide license agreements) have their accessibility statements included.

Description of any anticipated accommodation requests and how they have been/will be addressed.

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Additional comments (optional):

Academic Integrity

For more information: Academic Integrity.

☐ The course syllabus includes online-specific policies about academic integrity, including specific parameters for each major assignment:

☐ Assignments are designed to deter cheating and plagiarism and/or course technologies such as online proctoring or plagiarism check or other strategies are in place to deter cheating.

Additional comments (optional):

Frequent, Varied Assignments/Assessments

For more information: *Designing Assessments for Students.*

Student success in online courses is maximized when there are frequent, varied learning activities. Possible approaches:

☐ Opportunities for students to receive course information through a variety of different sources, including indirect sources, such as textbooks and lectures, and direct sources, such as scholarly resources and field observation.

☐ Variety of assignment formats to provide students with multiple means of demonstrating learning.

☐ Opportunities for students to apply course knowledge and skills to authentic, real-world tasks in assignments.

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Comment briefly on the frequency and variety of assignment types and assessment approaches used in this course (or select methods above):

Community Building

For more information: Student Interaction Online.

Students engage more fully in courses when they have an opportunity to interact with their peers and feel they are part of a community of learners. Possible approaches:

☐ Opportunities for students to interact academically with classmates through regular class discussion or group assignments.

☐ Opportunities for students to interact socially with classmates, such as through video conference sessions or a course Q&A forum.

☐ Attention is paid to other ways to minimize transactional distance (psychological and communicative gaps between students and their peers, instructor, course content, and institution).

Please comment on this dimension of the proposed course (or select methods above):

Transparency and Metacognitive Explanations

For more information: *Supporting Student Learning.*

Students have successful, meaningful experiences when they understand how the components of a course connect together, when they have guidance on how to study, and when they are encouraged to take ownership of their learning. Possible approaches:

☐ Instructor explanations about the learning goals and overall design or organization of the course.

☐ Context or rationale to explain the purpose and relevance of major tasks and assignments.

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☐ Guidance or resources for ancillary skills necessary to complete assignments, such as conducting library research or using technology tools.

☐ Opportunities for students to take ownership or leadership in their learning, such as by choosing topics of interest for an assignment or leading a group discussion or meeting.

☐ Opportunities for students to reflect on their learning process, including their goals, study strategies, and progress.

☐ Opportunities for students to provide feedback on the course.

Please comment on this dimension of the proposed course (or select methods above):

Additional Considerations

Comment on any other aspects of the online delivery not addressed above (optional):

Syllabus and cover sheet reviewed by *Jeremie Smith* on

Reviewer Comments:

Additional resources and examples can be found on ASC's Office of Distance Education website.

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I have completed and signed off on the preliminary distance learning review for the **POLSC 1910 Introduction to the Politics of Identity** approval proposal. This syllabus includes all required syllabus elements and provides an overview of the course expectations.

This is a well-designed online course, I have a few _recommendations_ that I think will improve the course design, add clarity to the syllabus, and support a successful review by the faculty curriculum committee:

- This being a mostly asynchronous course, the panel that reviews the course will want specific indications of meeting the required Direct Instruction for the class. In the Workload Estimation section of the Cover Sheet, assigned lecture videos of 1-3 hours per week is mentioned. Are there other areas of direct instruction in addition to these lecture videos?

  I recommend making the areas of the course plan that is considered to be direct instruction of students more explicit in the _How This Online Course Works_ section of the syllabus and the _Estimated Workload_ section of the Cover Sheet, to anticipate any committee concerns about direct instruction. As you are thinking about how best to articulate this, here is a resource that I think is especially effective at describing direct instruction in online learning environments: https://www.apsu.edu/academic-course-and-program-development/course-credit-hour-review/direct-indirect-instruction.php

- The course design appears to explicitly omit any opportunities for student interaction and facilitating a community of learners. From what I have seen, the ASC faculty curriculum committee regards this as mandatory in a GE course, even if asynchronous. I recommend considering a revision to the course design that provides opportunities for student interaction and peer learning. Many instructors develop assignments that have a "post + respond to peers" requirement in discussion forums but I encourage instructors to not see this as the only option. There are tools such as Hypothesis that can support student discussion focused on assigned readings, and Thinglink, that can be used to support more interactive activities. The final project is also an area where small changes can facilitate meaningful student interaction. Perhaps small peer review/discussion groups could be built in Carmen to provide ongoing feedback and peer reviews, for example.

  As you are thinking through what, if any changes you wish to make to the course design, please know that we have instructional designers available to meet with you, discuss options, and help you build your course in Carmen.

- The flexibility of the final project is commendable and will undoubtedly be appreciated by students, but I had a hard time envisioning student expectations for this. I recommend adding a bit more description as to what will be expected. Another strategy that I have seen work well is a mid-semester deadline to submit a plan for the project outlining both topic and planned format. This would give you the opportunity to provide individual feedback as well as provide students a deeper level of metacognitive understanding about the assignment's learning objectives.