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## Political Science 4139 and 4139E

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**From** Steele, Rachel <steele.682@osu.edu>

**Date** Mon 9/30/2024 9:06 AM

**To** Smith, Charles William <smith.3280@polisci.osu.edu>; Kogan, Vladimir <kogan.18@osu.edu>

**Cc** Nagar, Ila <nagar.5@osu.edu>; Kantor, Jamison <kantor.41@osu.edu>; Vankeerbergen, Bernadette <vankeerbergen.1@osu.edu>; Steele, Rachel <steele.682@osu.edu>; Hilty, Michael <hilty.70@osu.edu>; Neff, Jennifer <neff.363@osu.edu>

Good morning,

On Monday, September 16<sup>th</sup>, the Themes I Subcommittee of the ASC Curriculum Committee and the Theme Advisory Group for Traditions, Cultures, and Transformations reviewed a proposal for PoliSci 4139 and 4139E to be included in the GEN Theme: Traditions, Cultures, and Transformations.

The reviewing faculty unanimously approved the request with two contingencies and one comment:

- - i. **Comment:** The reviewing faculty found this course to have a wonderful diversity of readings/listening materials/viewings and creative assignments.
  - ii. **Contingency:** The reviewing faculty did note that the department has made some written material available to students regarding the informational interviews. However, they still have significant concerns about this assignment. As the course will now be a general education course without any pre-requisites, it could be taken by students in their first or second semester on campus and/or by students in fields that do not train students on how to do this kind of research. Many students will enter into this assignment without any prior training in the social sciences, the collection of oral histories, research ethics, confidentiality, or participant consent. Therefore, the subcommittee asks that department provide more details about the assignment (including information about the length of the interviews, how interview participants will be identified, the format of the interviews, the recording and/or transcribing of the interviews, etc.) and that the course calendar include time devoted to instructing students about methodology, confidentiality, consent, interviewer safety, how to handle interviewees emotional or traumatic responses, and other ethical issues associated with this kind of research. The reviewing faculty feel that this is especially important given the volatile and controversial nature of the course topic.
  - iii. **Contingency:** The reviewing faculty ask that the department amend the GEN explanatory paragraph (syllabus, pg. 3) to include a clearer connection between the content of the course and the ELOs of the GEN category.
- iv. As a reminder, **contingencies** (in bold above) must be addressed and resubmitted via curriculum.osu.edu before this course can move forward in the approval process to OAA. I will return Political Science 4139 and 4139E 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 Ila Nagar (acting faculty Chair of the Themes I Subcommittee; cc'd on this e-mail), Jamison Kantor (faculty Chair of the Traditions, Cultures, and Transformations TAG; also cc'd on this email), or me.

Best,  
Rachel

**Rachel Steele, MA**

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

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