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Subject: Sociology 5605
Date: Monday, October 30, 2023 12:33:56 PM
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Good afternoon-

On Thursday, October 5th, 2023, the Social and Behavioral Sciences Subcommittee of the ASC Curriculum Committee reviewed a course proposal for Sociology 5605.

The Subcommittee unanimously approved the request with four contingencies and two recommendations:

- a. **Contingency:** The Subcommittee asks that the department remove the requirement for students to utilize the TikTok app and create an account on that platform (syllabus pg. 4) and the requirement that students use TikTok to create videos as a graded assignment in the course (syllabus pg. 6, 7). Since the TikTok app does not meet Ohio State's standards for security and privacy, students cannot be forced to download and/or use the app or have an account. Instructors can ask students to create "TikTok-style" videos, and instructors are welcome to give students the option to use this app, but alternative software must also be an option to create video content.
- b. **Contingency:** The Subcommittee requests that the department clarify the way that online discussion posts will be used in the course. On pg. 7 of the syllabus, it says that student may improve their Class Participation and Community Culture Support grade by engaging in online conversation, but it is unclear what the parameters (word count, substantive content, etc.) are for a post that will "make up" for not participating in a synchronous online discussion during the regular class meetings.
- c. **Contingency:** The Subcommittee asks that the department clarify the direct instruction in the course. Pg. 1 of the syllabus states that the course will meet 2 days/week for 55 minutes, but pg. 3 states that the course will meet 2 days/week for 110 minutes. If the course is indeed meeting for two 55-minute sessions, the subcommittee asks that the department provide additional information about how the course is meeting the requirement for direct instruction in a 3-credit hour course. If the course is instead meeting for two 110-minute sessions, then the subcommittee asks that this be made clear on the 1st page of the syllabus. They also offer the friendly note that most 3 CH courses in the college meet for two 80-minute sessions or three 55-minute sessions per week, so adhering to this standard schedule may make the course easier for students to enroll in. Regardless of how the department chooses to rectify this, the Subcommittee requests that the information be consistent across the syllabus.
- d. **Contingency:** The Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee recently updated the list of required syllabus statements for all syllabi to include a statement on religious accommodations. This new, required statement is a result of a directive by the Executive Vice President and Provost and can be found here on the [ASC Curriculum and Assessment Services](#)

[website](#). The Subcommittee thanks you for adding this statement to your course syllabus.

- e. *Recommendation*: The Subcommittee recommends that the department clarify the format of the quizzes (syllabus pg. 3). The heading, “Zoom Quizzes”, implies that the quizzes will be given during the synchronous course meetings, while the description says the quizzes will be on Carmen, and will be due prior to class.
- f. *Recommendation*: The Subcommittee recommends that the department use the most recent version of the Student Life Disability Services Statement (syllabus, pg. 13), which was updated to reflect the university’s new COVID-19 policies in August 2023. The updated statement can be found in an easy-to-copy/paste format on the [Arts and Sciences Curriculum and Assessment Services website](#).

As a reminder, **contingencies** (in bold above) must be addressed and resubmitted via curriculum.osu.edu before a course can move forward in the approval process. *Recommendations* (in italics above) should be implemented when the course is next taught. I will return Sociology 5605 to the department queue via curriculum.osu.edu in order to address the Subcommittee’s requests.

Should you have any questions about the feedback of the Subcommittee, please feel free to contact Amy Nathanson (faculty Chair of the SBS Subcommittee; cc’d on this e-mail), or me.

Best,
Rachel



Rachel Steele, MA

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

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I acknowledge that the land that The Ohio State University occupies is the ancestral and contemporary territory of the Shawnee, Potawatomi, Delaware, Miami, Peoria, Seneca, Wyandotte, Ojibwe and Cherokee peoples. Specifically, the university resides on land ceded in the 1795 Treaty of Greenville and the forced removal of tribes through the Indian Removal Act of 1830. I honor the resiliency of these tribal nations and recognize the historical contexts that has and continues to affect the Indigenous peoples of this land.