

## Biology 2750

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To: Andrews, Adam <andrews.171@osu.edu>

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Good morning,

On Wednesday, April 24<sup>th</sup>, the Themes I Subcommittee of the ASC Curriculum Committee and the Theme Advisory Group for Lived Environments reviewed a course proposal for Biology 2750 for inclusion in the GEN Theme: Health and Wellbeing.

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

- i) The reviewing faculty ask that the unit provide more explicit information in the syllabus and on the GEN Submission form about what lived environment(s) the class explores, and how humans interact with that/those environment(s). For example, what kinds of relationships between humans and the scientific environment will be studied? What aspects of the course will focus on humans and their interaction with the cultural environment?
- ii) The reviewing faculty ask that the unit amend the course schedule to include reference to the specific lived environment(s) and relationships with people or groups of people addressed above in item i, so that students will see a direct link between the GEN Theme and the course material.
- iii) The reviewing faculty ask that the unit provide further information in the GEN Submission Form and the syllabus about the course's activities in weeks 4-7. Specifically, they note that many of the topics covered here are similar to those that would be covered in GEN Foundation: Mathematical and Quantitative Reasoning (or Data Analysis) or GEN Foundation: Natural Sciences course, and they ask that the department provide more details about how the course will elevate these topics to an advanced level that is appropriate for a GEN Themes course.
- iv) The reviewing faculty ask that the unit provide additional information on the GEN Submission Form and the syllabus about how advanced topics and critical thinking will manifest in the course. They note that there is some evidence of this in the GEN Submission Form, but the syllabus and course schedule seem to focus much less on the areas/topics that encourage higher-level thinking.
- v) The reviewing faculty ask that the unit re-consider the use of the "workshop" course component (curriculum.osu.edu under "Offering Information) and instead use "recitation". According to the Administrative Resource Center's website, a workshop is defined as a "Generally brief, intensive instruction for a relatively small group of students that focuses on technique and skills in a particular field". The unit is welcome to use the word "workshop" in the syllabus to describe the activities and day-to-day experiences of students in the recitation sessions, but it should not be a selected course component in curriculum.osu.edu for this course.
- vi) The reviewing faculty ask that the unit correct the heading on pg. 2 of the syllabus which says that the items below the heading are the "General Education Natural Science Goals & Objectives", as this course is not approved for the Legacy General Education or the GEN Foundation: Natural Science categories.
- vii) The reviewing faculty ask that the unit re-align the information on pg. 9 of the syllabus to place all of the language from the required Student Life Disability Services Statement under the same heading, rather than moving the SLDS COVID-19 information to the section above about excused absences. Additionally, the reviewing faculty recommend that the heading "Accommodation of Special Needs" be removed in favor of "Disability Services" or similar, as the phrase "Special Needs" can have a negative connotation.

The reviewing faculty recommend that the unit reach out to Dr. Elizabeth Griffith, faculty Chair of the Lived Environment Theme Advisory Group, for further guidance and examples of successful syllabi in similar courses.
- viii) The reviewing faculty ask that the unit provide a cover letter that details the changes that are made to the proposal in response to this feedback.

I will return Biology 2750 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 reviewing faculty, please feel free to contact Jim Fredal (faculty Chair of the Themes I Subcommittee; cc'd on this e-mail), Liz Griffith (faculty Chair of the Lived Environments TAG; also cc'd on this email), or me.

Best,  
Rachel



**Rachel Steele, MA**

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

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