

From: [Chamberlain, Lindsey J.](#)
To: [Perez, Ashley](#); [Arceno, Mark Anthony](#)
Cc: [Armstrong, Philip](#); [Vankeerbergen, Bernadette](#); [Shank, Barry](#); [Hilty, Michael](#); [Steele, Rachel](#)
Subject: ASC Honors Committee Feedback for Comparative Studies 4021E (revision)
Date: Wednesday, March 6, 2024 11:30:06 AM

Dear Ashley,

Thank you for your prompt reply to the Honors Committee's feedback. The committee still feels unable to approve the embedded Honors section as described in the revised syllabus. This is mainly due to the short length of the course itself, as what you propose typically works well in a 14-week course. Their concerns are as follows:

- In the context of a 4 week format, a single recitation per week in the Embedded Honors course is the equivalent of the students having one one-hour meeting with the professor in August, September, October, and November in a 14-week format. Embedded Honors courses typically include more direct engagement between faculty and students.
- The timeline provided for an honors project appears to assume that the students can and will do the equivalent of eight to ten weeks of "inquiry" within a single week or a week and a half in the 4 week format. The committee finds this implausible (i.e., the compressed summer scheduled just does not give the students enough time to do this research, and if in fact, this amount of "inquiry" would actually take only five days to complete, then that research seems below the level of engagement seen in other Honors and Embedded Honors courses).
- In its current form, the specifications provided for the additional final project are below the usual level of Honors coursework, including Embedded Honors courses which typically include more substantial projects that draw on more extensive readings and discussions and/or assignments throughout a semester.

Given that the department would like to offer the course promptly, I wanted to point out that the regular version of this course as submitted (without the embedded option) could still be used towards Honors students' programmatic requirements as it will count as Honors-quality for their themes/breadth requirement and overall credit hours.

The best path forward may be to remove the Honors embedded offering from the four-week version, especially since the non-Honors version can still be used to satisfy Honors requirements. While the committee feels that developing an embedded Honors section would likely benefit and attract students and provide them a quality honors experience in a longer course length format, it would be unlikely to offer enough opportunities for faculty/student interaction and for research and project development in the short time span of a 4-week course. In their discussion, the committee recognized this would be very difficult (although not impossible) in any 4-week course setting because of the balance between the course requirements and embedded honors obligations. The other option is to develop a longer offering of the course with an Honors embedded section. The committee would consider it in a 7 or 14 week offering, due to the differences in interaction and engagement that would grow through the nature of the longer semester format.

I am sorry to not have better news regarding the four-week course format. Please let me know if I can help with any questions.

Thank you,
Lindsey

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