

German 3253.02

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Good morning,

On Wednesday, April 24th, the Themes I Subcommittee of the ASC Curriculum Committee and the Theme Advisory Group for Traditions, Cultures, and Transformations reviewed a course proposal for German 3253.02 for inclusion in the GEN Traditions, Cultures and Transformations classroom.

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

- i) The reviewing faculty ask that the department modify the GEN Submission Form and the course syllabus (with special attention to the Course Schedule, pgs. 17-20) to provide more specificity regarding the course's focus. At this time, they are unsure whether the course focuses specifically on the experiences of German and/or German-speaking immigrants (as opposed to a broader group, like European immigrants, or all immigrants), and whether the course explores how immigrants were affected by the dominant culture, or how the immigrants themselves influenced the established culture; they note that a narrower lens might make the connection the Traditions, Cultures and Transformations Theme clearer.
- ii) The reviewing faculty observe that there is very specific information in the syllabus and the GEN Submission form regarding how the assignments fit the Goals and ELOs of the Theme, but how the course's readings fit is less clear. They ask that the department provide more information in the Course Schedule (pgs. 17-20) and the GEN submission form that clearly shows the relationship between the readings and the Theme.
- iii) The reviewing faculty ask that the department change the information provided in curriculum.osu.edu under "Course goals or learning objectives/outcomes" to course-specific goals and ELOs; the GEN goals and ELOs should not be copy/pasted here. They note that there are some excellent bullet points on pg. 2 of the syllabus (under "Course Expected Learning Outcomes") that could be easily modified for use in this section of curriculum.osu.edu.
- iv) The reviewing faculty request that the department provide clearer information in the syllabus and/or curriculum.osu.edu about the format of the class. In curriculum.osu.edu, under "Offering Information-Course Components" the course is only listed as a lecture. However, pg. 5 of the syllabus mentions a recitation (under "How This Course Works-Mode of Delivery). From the description provided, this recitation appears to require synchronous meetings, while the top of page 5 identifies German 3253.02 as an "online, asynchronous course". Furthermore, the description of the synchronous recitation sessions seems to indicate that they will not be formally scheduled in Buckeye Link/SIS and the Course Scheduler, but rather "arranged" between the students and the instructor after the course commences.
- v) In regards to the final point, the reviewing faculty kindly remind the department that requiring student attendance at a weekly class meeting (online or in person) that is not scheduled via SIS/Buckeye Link is not allowed.
- vi) Changes to University policies recently (03-01-2024) necessitated that the Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee update the list of required syllabus statements for all syllabi to include a new statement on religious accommodations. The new version 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 reviewing faculty thank the department for replacing the previous statement found on pg. 16-17 of the syllabus. Please note that the link at the bottom of the statement ("Policy: Religious Holidays, Holy Days, and Observances") must be included to fully comply with the law.
- vii) The reviewing faculty recommend that the department review the policy surrounding the structure for the online discussion boards, which seem to focus significant work over the weekend (syllabus, pgs. 5-6), a policy which may be difficult for some students.
- viii) Comment – The reviewing faculty observe that, at times, they had difficulty discerning whether the syllabus and GEN Submission form were discussing *German* immigrants (i.e., those from a specific

geographic space) or *German-speaking* immigrants (i.e., those with a common language experience.) More clarity in this area would make the topic of the class easier for students to discern.

- ix) The reviewing faculty ask that the department provide a cover letter that details the changes that are made to the proposal in response to this feedback.

I will return German 3253.02 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 Jim Fredal (faculty Chair of the Themes I Subcommittee; cc'd on this e-mail), Heather Tanner (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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