

## AAAS & History 2080

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

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To: Beckham, Jerrell <beckham.4@osu.edu>; Henry, Keara <henry.1237@osu.edu>; Skinner, Ryan <skinner.176@osu.edu>; Soland, Birgitte <soland.1@osu.edu>

Cc: Fletcher, Richard <fletcher.161@osu.edu>; Vankeerbergen, Bernadette <vankeerbergen.1@osu.edu>; Steele, Rachel <steele.682@osu.edu>; Neff, Jennifer <neff.363@osu.edu>; Hilty, Michael <hilty.70@osu.edu>

Good afternoon,

On Friday, January 26<sup>th</sup>, the Race, Ethnicity and Gender Diversity Subcommittee of the ASC Curriculum Committee reviewed a course proposal for African American and African Studies and History 2080.

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

1. **Contingency:** The reviewing faculty ask that the departments amend the course description in curriculum.osu.edu (under "General Information") to include some mention of the course's focus on the intersectional study of race, gender, and ethnicity, so that future iterations of the course will consistently focus on the topics addressed by the REGD GEN category.
2. **Contingency:** The reviewing faculty request that the departments alter the course description on the syllabus (pg. 1) to include some mention of how ethnicity will be incorporated in the course. Furthermore, while the Subcommittee notes and appreciates the planned discussion of the difference between race and ethnicity in week 1, they ask that the departments provide more information in the course schedule (syllabus pg. 10-14) about how ethnicity will be a part of the course beyond this initial discussion. They acknowledge that ethnicity may be an inherent part of teaching on topics like Lowcountry Georgia (syllabus pg. 10; Sept. 5), but they ask that the syllabus have more "signposting" so that students understand when and how they will engage with ethnicity.
3. **Contingency:** The Subcommittee asks that the departments modify the language on pgs. 1-4 of the syllabus that describes how the course may apply to individual students' degree plans. For example, on pg. 1, the syllabus states that "This course will satisfy the GE requirement for Race, Ethnicity, and Gender Diversity". However, this is not the case if a particular student is using the course for the Historical & Cultural Studies requirement. Since this course fulfills a number of GEL and GEN categories, the Subcommittee requests that the information be as clear as possible for students. They recommend the following language (or similar).

"For students who entered the University in Autumn 2022 or later, this course can fulfill **EITHER** the GEN Foundation: Race, Ethnicity and Gender Diversity requirement **OR** the GEN Foundation: Historical or Cultural Studies requirement. The course may **NOT** be used to satisfy both requirements for an individual student. For students who entered the university in Summer 2022 or earlier, the course can satisfy the Historical Study GEL category. For more details about how this course may apply to your individual degree plan, please see your academic advisor."
4. **Contingency:** The Subcommittee asks that the departments alter the placement of the Religious Accommodations statement (currently found on pg. 8-9 of the syllabus). They note that part of the statement is above the heading under "Your Mental Health" rather than "Religious Accommodations". Though this is a small issue, the Subcommittee would like to ensure that all units are complying with this university syllabus requirement, and they thank the departments for making this small change.
5. **Recommendation:** The Subcommittee recommends that the departments include more language regarding the intersectional study of race, ethnicity and gender in the assignment descriptions (syllabus pg. 5-6). While they acknowledge that the course's subject matter is strongly focused on this area and believe that

the assignments will be sufficient for students to demonstrate their achievement of the category's ELOs, additional information in these descriptions would make the focus of the course clearer to students.

6. *Recommendation*: The Subcommittee suggests that the departments amend the language describing the grading scale on pg. 5 of the syllabus, as OSU does not have a standard grading scale; instructors are welcome to use any scale that best fits the needs of their course.
7. *Recommendation*: The Subcommittee recommends that the departments use the most recent version of the Mental Health Statement (syllabus, pg. 8), as the name and phone number of the Suicide/Crisis hotline have changed. The updated statement can be found in an easy-to-copy/paste format on the [ASCCAS 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 AAAS/History to the departments' queues 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 Richard Fletcher (faculty Chair of the REGD Subcommittee; cc'd on this e-mail), or me.

Best,  
Rachel



**Rachel Steele, MA**

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

Program Manager, Office of Curriculum and Assessment

**College of Arts and Sciences**

306 Dulles Hall 230 Annie and John Glenn Ave. Columbus, OH 43210

(614) 292-7226

Co-chair, College of Arts and Sciences Staff Advisory Council

Member, University Conduct Board

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