

From: [Hilty, Michael](#)
To: [Hawkins, Tom](#); [Fullerton, Mark](#)
Cc: [Staley, David](#); [Vankeerbergen, Bernadette](#); [Steele, Rachel](#); [Neff, Jennifer](#)
Subject: New First-year Seminar: "Origins of Democracy"
Date: Tuesday, April 2, 2024 4:31:00 PM
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Good afternoon,

On Tuesday, March 19th, the Arts and Humanities 1 Subcommittee reviewed a new first-year seminar proposal titled "Origins of Democracy".

I am pleased to report that the Subcommittee unanimously approved the request with one comment, two contingencies, and two recommendations:

- **Comment:** The Subcommittee would like to make the comment that, based on the current requirements set out on page 2 of the syllabus, a student could in theory successfully complete the course by simply attending and not participating in any class discussion or exercises/assignments. The subcommittee points this out in case this was unintentional on the part of the instructor, but certainly recognizes that this may be the appropriate format for the instructor's vision of their first-year seminar.
- **Contingency:** The Subcommittee asks that more information be provided within the seminar's syllabus surrounding the course assignments. They would like to see specific student expectations within the assignment descriptions to understand the requirements of the seminar.
- **Contingency:** The Subcommittee asks that the Religious Accommodation statement be updated within the course syllabus. On March 1st, 2024, the Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee updated the required statement to be in compliance with the new statement, which was provided by the Office of Undergraduate Education and vetted by the Office of Legal Affairs. The newly updated statement has been updated on the [syllabus elements page of the ASC Curriculum and Assessment Services website](#).
- **Recommendation:** The Subcommittee recommends rewording the seminar's goals, found on page 1 of the syllabus, to be more easily quantifiable and accessible, to help the instructor determine if students are successfully meeting the goals of the seminar.
- **Recommendation:** The Subcommittee recommends updating the Student Life – Disability Services statement, as it was updated for the 2023-2024 academic year. The most up-to-date syllabus statements can be found on the [ASC Curriculum and Assessment Services website](#).

As a reminder, the Subcommittee's contingencies must be satisfied in a revision to continue through the approval process while their recommendations may be implemented when it is first taught.

When the revisions to the seminar are complete, please email a copy to me and Bernadette Vankeerbergen, Assistant Dean for Curriculum, and we will ensure the proposal receives the appropriate review.

Should you have any questions regarding the Subcommittee's feedback, please do not hesitate to reach out to David Staley, faculty Chair of the Arts and Humanities 1 Subcommittee, or me.

All my best,

Michael



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

Michael Hilty

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Pronouns: he/him/his, they/them/theirs / Honorific: Mx.

BLACK LIVES MATTER

STOP AAPI HATE

DACA/undocumented ally



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.