

From: [Neff, Jennifer](#)
To: [Martin, Lynette S.](#); [Williams, Kristi](#)
Cc: [Nathanson, Amy](#); [Vankeerbergen, Bernadette](#); [Steele, Rachel](#); [Hilty, Michael](#)
Subject: New First-Year Seminar - Embracing Fear: Honing our survival instincts
Date: Monday, April 8, 2024 4:14:00 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Good afternoon,

On Friday, March 22nd, the Social and Behavioral Sciences Subcommittee of the ASC Curriculum Committee reviewed a new first-year seminar proposal titled “Embracing Fear: Honing our survival instincts”.

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

- **Contingency:** The Subcommittee asks that the instructor include the distribution of meeting times (e.g., 55-minutes once per week) in the syllabus.
- **Contingency:** The Subcommittee requests that the unit use the most recent version of the Student Life Disability Services Statement, which was updated to reflect the university’s new COVID-19 policies in August 2023. The updated statement can be found in copy/paste format on the [Arts and Sciences Curriculum and Assessment Services website](#). [Syllabus p. 4]
- **Contingency:** The Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee recently (03-01-2024) updated the list of required syllabus statements for all syllabi to include a new statement on religious accommodations. The new version of this required statement 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](#). Please note that the link to religious holidays, holy days and observances at the end of the statement is also required to be included in the syllabus. The Subcommittee thanks you for adding this revised statement to your course syllabus.
- *Recommendation:* The Subcommittee recommends that the instructor make more explicit connections to sociology and criminology throughout the course so that students are learning as much about the disciplines as possible.
- *Recommendation:* The Subcommittee recommends that the instructor tie the course objectives into the course calendar in order to map out how the meetings will address the goals of the course.
- *Recommendation:* The Subcommittee recommends that the instructor reconsider the title, as it becomes somewhat contradictory as one reads through the syllabus and the focus shifts from embracing fear to analyzing fear and its effectiveness versus other responses and evaluating real-life dangers.
- *Recommendation:* The Subcommittee recommends that the instructor remove the mention to the OSU grading scale, as the university does not have a standard grading scale. [Syllabus p. 2]

As a reminder, **contingencies** (in bold above) must be addressed and resubmitted in a revision before a course can move forward in the approval process. *Recommendations* (in italics above) should be implemented when the course is taught.

Should you have any questions about the feedback of the Subcommittee, do not hesitate to contact

Amy Nathanson (faculty Chair of the SBS Subcommittee; cc'd here), or me.

Please feel free to send a revised syllabus to me, and I will then submit it for final approval.

Best,
Jennifer



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Pronouns: she/her/hers