

## Geography 2200.01

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Good morning,

On Wednesday, May 8<sup>th</sup>, the Themes I Subcommittee of the ASC Curriculum Committee and the Theme Advisory Group for Lived Environments reviewed a course proposal for Geography 2200.01 to be included in the GEN Theme: Lived Environments category.

The reviewing faculty unanimously approved the request with nine contingencies and one recommendation:

- i. **Contingency:** The reviewing faculty ask that the department provide a further explanation of how the course meets ELO 3.2 in both the syllabus and the GEN Submission Form. Specifically, they are interested in how students will be assessed on their ability to “describe examples of human interaction with and impact on environmental change and transformation over time...”, as the “time” component is currently missing from the course. To this end, they suggest revising or replacing a lab or other assignment to incorporate an evaluation of student understanding in this area.
- ii. **Contingency:** The reviewing faculty request that the department include in the course schedule (syllabus pgs. 9-11) further “signposting” that demonstrates how each topic relates to an understanding of the human/environment interaction. Often, the reviewing faculty see this in the form of a topical question or goal statement for each week that helps students to focus their preparation and thinking on the GEN category and its connection to the topic.
- iii. **Contingency:** The reviewing faculty note that Geography 2200.01 has a “sister” course, Geography 2200.02, which is currently [in limbo](#). This course was an “education abroad version” of 2200.01. However, given the changes made to 2200.01 for inclusion in the GEN Theme: Lived Environments, the reviewing faculty believe these courses are now substantially different enough that they should not carry the same course number, even in a decimalized version. They offer the following two options:
  1. **If the department believes that 2200.02 will not be offered again**, the reviewing faculty ask that the department put a request into curriculum.osu.edu to withdraw the course, and change the number for the course currently under consideration to 2200 (as opposed to 2200.01) via this curriculum request.
  2. **If the department believes that 2200.02 will be offered again and plans to request its removal from limbo**, then the reviewing faculty request that 2200.01 be assigned a new number via the current request in curriculum.osu.edu.
- iv. **Contingency:** The reviewing faculty ask that the department include in the syllabus and GEN Submission Form information about how students will be asked to reflect on their learning throughout the course (GEN Themes: Lived Environments ELO 2.2). At this time, it does not appear that reflection on their own learning is a part of the course’s assessments.
- v. **Contingency:** The reviewing faculty request that the department consider the Lived Environments theme when describing the topic of the final project paper (syllabus pg. 6). Furthermore, they ask that this assignment require students to demonstrate their understanding of humans’ interaction with their environment(s).
- vi. **Contingency:** The reviewing faculty asks that the department re-phrase the statement which describes the way in which this course fits into the new General Education Curriculum (syllabus pg. 2 under “General Education”). Since this is a 3-credit hour course, it does not, in and of itself, “meet the requirements of the General Education Theme: Lived Environments”. The requirement is for students to earn 4-6 credit hours in this category; thus, stating that a single course fulfills the requirement can be confusing or misleading for students. Instead, the reviewing faculty suggest wording such as “For

- those students who are following the New General Education curriculum, Geography 2200.01 is an approved course in the GEN Theme: Lived Environments category.”
- vii. **Contingency:** The reviewing faculty ask that the department include in the syllabus a short, student-friendly paragraph following the listing of the GEN goals and ELOS that explains how this course, in particular, meets the goals and ELOs of the GEN Theme: Lived Environments category, per a [requirement of the Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee](#).
- viii. **Contingency:** The Subcommittee thanks the department for using the new Religious Accommodations statement on pg. 8 of the syllabus. However, the link at the bottom of the statement (“Policy: Religious Holidays, Holy Days, and Observances”) must be included with the statement to fully comply with the law. An easy-to-copy/paste version of the statement and links can be found on the [ASC Curriculum and Assessment Services website](#).
- ix. *Recommendation:* The reviewing faculty recommend that the department provide clear guidelines for students about which assessments, assignments, and activities allow for collaboration, and which require independent work. They suggest that this be included with the descriptions of each assignment (syllabus, pg. 6) so that academic integrity expectations are clear.

As a reminder, **contingencies** (in bold above) must be addressed and resubmitted via curriculum.osu.edu before this course can move forward in the approval process to OAA. *Recommendations* (in italics above) should be implemented when the course is next taught. I will return Geography 2200.01 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), Liz Griffith (faculty Chair of the Lived Environments TAG; also cc’d on this e-mail), or me.

Best,  
Rachel



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

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