

Psychology 3522

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Good morning,

On Friday, May 10th, the Social and Behavioral Sciences Subcommittee of the ASC Curriculum Committee reviewed a proposal for a number change and change in pre-requisites that would change Psychology 4522 to Psychology 3522.

The Subcommittee unanimously approved the request with four contingencies, four recommendations, and one comment:

- a) **Contingency:** The Subcommittee appreciates the details provided for the students about the format and length of the exams (syllabus pg. 9), and they ask that the department provide similar information in the syllabus about the course's other assignments and assessments, including the podcast, journal, scientific study report, weekly questions, and class participation.
- b) **Contingency:** The Subcommittee asks that the department include in the course schedule (syllabus pg. 15) detailed information about the course's readings, since these will play a part in determining what has changed in the course as a result of it being moved from the 4000 level to the 3000 level.
- c) **Contingency:** The Subcommittee asks that the department amend the Religious Accommodations statement (syllabus, pg. 14) to include active links to the Office of Institutional Equity and the list of Religious Holidays, Holy Days and Observances, as this is required for the statement to be in compliance with the law. An easy-to-copy-paste version of the statement (with active links) is available on the [Arts and Sciences Curriculum and Assessment Services website](#).
- d) **Contingency:** The Subcommittee requests that the department correct the heading for the Academic Misconduct Statement (syllabus pg. 12), removing the reference to "behavioral misconduct", as Student Conduct violations of a non-academic nature are handled by a different administrative office and not related to the Committee on Academic Misconduct.
- e) *Recommendation:* The Subcommittee recommends that the department reconsider the format of the syllabus. While they understand and appreciate the motivation to make it an interesting and engaging document for students to read, they note that it does not meet the university's accessibility standards. Microsoft Word's accessibility function reveals nearly 200 accessibility errors involving missing object descriptions, alignment issues, and hard-to-read text contrasts that could make using the syllabus difficult for students with disabilities.
- f) *Recommendation:* The Subcommittee recommends that the department remove the reference to iPads (syllabus pg. 7), as students are no longer issued these devices.
- g) *Recommendation:* The Subcommittee suggests that the department amend the statement regarding the grading scale on pg. 9 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.
- h) *Recommendation:* The Subcommittee suggests that the department alter the listing of the grade components on pg. 8 of the syllabus to include a separate listing for all three exams, as the current notation of "3/90" could be confusing for students.
- i) *Comment:* The Subcommittee respectfully observes that the image *Praying Hands (Study of the Hands of an Apostle)* by Albrecht Dürer, which is used on pg. 13 of the syllabus to accompany the Religious Accommodations Statement, has traditionally been viewed as a Christian image, and as such may not be the most ideal image to accompany a statement meant to foster religious inclusivity.

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 Psychology 3522 to the department queue 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 Amy Nathanson (faculty Chair of the SBS Subcommittee; cc’d on this e-mail), or me.

Best,
Rachel



Rachel Steele, MA

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

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