

Hilty, Michael

From: Hilty, Michael
Sent: Wednesday, September 11, 2024 2:40 PM
To: Cook, Ann; Sawyer, Derek
Cc: Hadad, Christopher; Vankeerbergen, Bernadette; Steele, Rachel; Neff, Jennifer
Subject: Earth Sciences 5201

Good afternoon,

On Thursday, August 29th, the Natural and Mathematical Sciences Subcommittee reviewed a new course proposal for [Earth Sciences 5201](#).

At this time, the Subcommittee has declined to vote on the proposal and would like the following feedback items addressed:

- The Subcommittee noted that in the course goals, as listed in the curriculum.osu.edu submission, students can expect to learn about seismic data analysis. However, it was unclear where in the course students will be expected to gain the skills necessary to analyze seismic data. Will there be lectures or readings on the topics? Will students be assessed on this knowledge? They would like additional information within the syllabus surrounding what is expected regarding this course goal.
- The Subcommittee noted that 50% of the final course grade is based upon the homework assignments for the course (as noted on page 1 of the course syllabus). They would like additional information to be provided surrounding these assignments and how academic integrity will be upheld as students complete these assessments. Are students able to collaborate on these assignments? Are students permitted to utilize Generative AI, such as ChatGPT or Copilot? Additionally, the Subcommittee recommends considering providing less weight to these homework assignments and implementing other modes of assessment that will allow students an opportunity to reflect upon the knowledge they are gaining from the course materials.
- The Subcommittee noted that this course will be utilizing many different software programs as part of the course experience. The College of Arts and Sciences requires all software programs to be approved by the Office of Distance Education to be included within courses. Therefore, the Subcommittee asks that all programs being utilized be run by Elizabeth Marsch (contact email: vu.191@osu.edu), Director of the ASC Office of Distance Education, to ensure they are approved programs.
- The Subcommittee would like further information surrounding the course prerequisite as described within curriculum.osu.edu and the course syllabus. Specifically, they note that the mathematics requirement is Calculus III. However, the prerequisite (and course topics in the syllabus, as noted on page 2) mentions that students should know the concepts of linear algebra. Would a student be able to be successful should they not have completed or have experience with linear algebra? Additionally, the prerequisite mentions that students should have a working knowledge of either Python or Matlab. If this is a requirement for students to be successful within the course, this should be a prerequisite for the course (such as by requiring CSE 1224). Should the instructor wish to make a case-by-case basis as to whether a student has the appropriate skillset (such as if they have informal/out-of-classroom proficiency with the appropriate programs), the current prerequisite of “or permission of instructor” may be used to make this determination.
- The Subcommittee asks to see the contact hours within the course syllabus. While the syllabus lists that the course is worth 3-credit hours, they would like to see how often the course meets and for how many hours. This is a requirement for all syllabi within the College of Arts and Sciences. All syllabus elements can be found on the [ASC Curriculum and Assessment Services website](#).
- The Subcommittee recommends the following small updates within the course syllabus:

- The course grading scale, as mentioned on page 2 of the syllabus, could be difficult for some students to read. They recommend providing this information in a table format.
- The Student Life – Disability Services statement, as mentioned on page 5 of the syllabus, has been updated for the 2024-2025 academic year. The most up-to-date syllabus statements can be found on the [ASC Curriculum and Assessment Services](#) website.
- The Subcommittee asks that a cover letter be provided that details all changes made as a result of this feedback.

I will return the course back to the school so you can upload a revision when it is ready.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to Christopher Hadad, faculty Chair of the Natural and Mathematical Sciences Subcommittee, or me.

All my best,
Michael



Michael Hilty

Curriculum and Assessment Coordinator
ASC Staff Advisory Council, Chair

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

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DACA/undocumented ally



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