

**From:** [Neff, Jennifer](#)  
**To:** [Tobin, Rick](#); [Abito, Mike](#)  
**Cc:** [Nathanson, Amy](#); [Vankeerbergen, Bernadette](#); [Steele, Rachel](#); [Hilty, Michael](#)  
**Subject:** Economics 4410  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 3, 2024 4:17:00 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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Good afternoon,

On Monday, August 26<sup>th</sup>, the Social and Behavioral Sciences Subcommittee of the ASC Curriculum Committee reviewed a new course request for Economics 4410 (<https://ascnet.osu.edu/request/6021>). The Subcommittee approved the request with the following feedback:

- **Contingency:** The Subcommittee requests that the department modify the prerequisites for the course, as there are a number of issues with what is currently listed:
  - Econ 3400 should be listed as Econ/IntStd 3400, as it is cross listed between Economics and International Studies.
  - It will not be clear to students or advisors what the department considers equivalent to Econ/IntStd 3400. If the department has specific courses in mind, these should be listed as well.
  - BS students in Economics are required to take Statistics 2450 or higher. However, since Statistics 2450 is an exclusion for Econ/IntStd 3400, most BS students will be unable to take this course without permission of the instructor due to the current structuring of the prerequisites. Additionally, BA students are required to take Statistics 1450 or Econ/IntStd 3400; those who choose to take Statistics 1450 will not be able to take Econ/IntStd 3400 due to a similar exclusion.
  - The recommendation to take Economics 4400 or 5410 before or concurrently with this course should be phrased as: Recommended prerequisite or concurrent: Econ 4400 or 5410.
  - Since this course seems to include similar levels of mathematical concepts as Econ 4400 and 5410, the Subcommittee strongly recommends that the department consider a mathematics prerequisite as advisors generally encourage students to have as much math as possible for these courses.
  - The Subcommittee appreciates the need for familiarity with Python programming language prior to taking the course, and recommends that the department do one of the following:
    - Require CSE 1224 and note in the course description in curriculum.osu.edu that students with experience with Python programming language outside of coursework may speak with the instructor to enroll.
    - Keep experience with Python as a recommended prerequisite but incorporate significant coverage of basic Python concepts in the first half of the course to introduce students to the skills they will need to be successful.
- **Recommendation:** The Subcommittee recommends that the department specify in the letter

grade distribution in the syllabus if percentages will be rounded to the nearest whole number. If not, the Subcommittee recommends that the grade scale include the precise numbers that are assigned to each letter grade. (e.g., 87 – 89.9, B+). [Syllabus p. 2]

- *Recommendation:* The Subcommittee recommends that the department use the most recent version of the Student Life Disability Services Statement, which was updated in May 2024. The updated statement can be found in easy to copy/paste format on the [Arts and Sciences Curriculum and Assessment Services website](#). [Syllabus pp. 4-5]

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

I will return Economics 4410 to the department queue in order to address the Subcommittee's requests.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to Amy Nathanson, faculty Chair of the SBS Subcommittee, or me.

Best,  
Jennifer



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Pronouns: she/her/hers