

From: [Neff, Jennifer](#)
To: [Palazzo, Sarah](#); [Piperata, Barbara](#); [Kawa, Nick](#)
Cc: [Dwyer, Rachel](#); [Vankeerbergen, Bernadette](#); [Steele, Rachel](#); [Hilty, Michael](#)
Subject: RE: Anthropology 5605
Date: Tuesday, September 2, 2025 2:52:00 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Good afternoon,

On Wednesday, August 27th, the Social and Behavioral Sciences Subcommittee of the ASC Curriculum Committee reviewed a new course request for [Anthropology 5605](#).

The Subcommittee approved with the request with the following feedback:

- Comment: As of August 29th, 2025, all syllabi must have either a link to the statements below **or** these statements written out in their entirety within the syllabus. Syllabi should link to the Office of Undergraduate Education's [Syllabus Policies & Statements webpage](#) and/or copy-and-paste the below statements from the Office of Undergraduate Education's website.
 - Academic Misconduct
 - Student Life - Disability Services
 - Religious Accommodations
 - Intellectual Diversity

Instructors are welcome to include any other standard and/or recommended syllabus statements found on the Office of Undergraduate Education's webpage which they deem relevant for their course. Please also refer to this page to ensure that any statements written out in the syllabus are current and accurate.

- **Contingency:** The Subcommittee requests that the department reconsider the late assignment policy in the context of distance learning. While the policy may function in an in-person course, it presents challenges in an online environment. Allowing assignments to be submitted without penalty up to the end of the semester undermines the solid weekly structure of the course, especially when certain assignments are designed to build on timely engagement with the material. Additionally, because peer review is incorporated into the course, this policy raises questions about how delayed submissions would affect other students' ability to complete their own work. [Syllabus p. 8]
- *Recommendation:* The Subcommittee notes the inclusion of a land acknowledgment in the syllabus. As of June 27th, 2025, land acknowledgments are no longer permissible on official university documents. The Subcommittee asks that the course instructor(s) consult with their TIU head regarding whether or not this statement may be included within their syllabus. [Syllabus p. 10]

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

I will return Anthropology 5605 to the department queue via curriculum.osu.edu in order to address

the Subcommittee's requests.

Should you have any questions about the feedback, please do not hesitate to reach out to Rachel Dwyer (faculty Chair of the SBS Subcommittee) or me.

Best,
Jennifer



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

Jennifer Neff

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Pronouns: she/her/hers

From: Neff, Jennifer

Sent: Wednesday, January 22, 2025 2:43 PM

To: Palazzo, Sarah <palazzo.66@osu.edu>; Guatelli-Steinberg, Debra <guatelli-steinberg.1@osu.edu>

Cc: Nathanson, Amy <nathanson.7@osu.edu>; Vankeerbergen, Bernadette <vankeerbergen.1@osu.edu>; Steele, Rachel <steele.682@osu.edu>; Hilty, Michael <hilty.70@osu.edu>

Subject: Anthropology 5605

Good afternoon,

On Monday, January 13th, the Social and Behavioral Sciences Subcommittee of the ASC Curriculum Committee reviewed a new course request for Anthropology 5605 (<https://ascnet.osu.edu/request/6159>).

The Subcommittee declined to vote on the course at the time and ask that the following be addressed in a revision:

- The Subcommittee acknowledges that there is substantial peer interaction in the course, but it is unclear in the syllabus how instructor presence will be integrated. Currently, the Subcommittee is unclear as to whether consistent lecture material will be provided throughout the course or if students will learn from the instructor via other consistent means. As Regular Substantive Interaction (RSI) is a required component of distance education, the Subcommittee requests that the instructor's role in the course be strengthened to ensure that students are meaningfully and consistently engaged. Detailed guidance on Regular Substantive Interaction can be found on the [ASC Office of Distance Education website](#).

- The Subcommittee notes and appreciates the instructor's commitment to providing individual feedback on each assignment. However, the Subcommittee requests that this be further explained in the syllabus with more specific information regarding the type of feedback students can expect on various assignments.
- The Subcommittee recommends that the department make it clearer in the syllabus that the final paper draft is a required component of the course, as the language in the assignment description welcoming students to submit a draft to the instructor could suggest that it is optional. [Syllabus p. 7]
- The Subcommittee appreciates that labeling of Monday and Thursday at the beginning of the course calendar in the syllabus and recommends that this be implemented throughout the entire schedule, as is done in the in-person syllabus. This will provide students with clear reference points for course activities and deadlines. [Syllabus pp. 12-13]
- The Subcommittee recommends that the AI policy in the syllabus provide greater clarity on what constitutes generative AI. For example, it would be helpful to students to specify whether tools like Grammarly or similar software fall under this category. [Online syllabus pp. 6-7; in-person syllabus pp. 5-7]
- The reviewing faculty recommend that the department use the most recent version of the university's diversity statement if they wish to keep it in the syllabus. The updated statement can be found in an easy to copy/paste format on the [Arts and Sciences Curriculum and Assessment Services website](#). [Syllabus p. 9]
- The Subcommittee recommends that the department use the language of the most recent version of the Student Life Disability Services Statement in the syllabus, as it is currently missing the information in the boilerplate language regarding viral infection and fever. The statement can be found in an easy to copy/paste format on the [Arts and Sciences Curriculum and Assessment Services website](#). [Syllabus p. 10]

I will return Anthropology 5605 to the department queue via curriculum.osu.edu in order to address the above feedback.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to Amy Nathanson (faculty Chair of the SBS Subcommittee; cc'd on this e-mail) or me.

Best,
Jennifer



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