

From: [Hilty, Michael](#)
To: [Andrews, Adam](#); [Sabel, Jaime](#)
Cc: [Hadad, Christopher](#); [Vankeerbergen, Bernadette](#); [Steele, Rachel](#); [Neff, Jennifer](#)
Subject: Biology 4210
Date: Wednesday, April 9, 2025 8:50:00 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)
[image007.png](#)
[image008.png](#)

Good morning,

On Wednesday, March 26th, the Natural and Mathematical Sciences Subcommittee of the ASC Curriculum Committee reviewed a new course request for Biology 4210.

At this time, the Subcommittee declined to vote on the request and would like the following feedback items implemented within a revision:

- The Subcommittee noted (as stated on page 1 of the syllabus) that the course is set to only meet twice weekly for 80 minutes each class session. This is not enough contact hours to meet the standards of a 4-credit hour course. As a reminder, for every credit hour, there should be one hour of direct instruction and two hours of out-of-classroom experiences (or, if calculated at the laboratory rate, 2 hours of direct instruction and one hour of out-of-classroom experiences) in order for a student to earn a letter grade of “C”. This means that for a 4-credit course meeting twice a week, class meetings will need to be 110 minutes each session (if calculated at the traditional “lecture” style). Additionally, underneath the “Credit Hours and Work Expectation” section on page 1 of the syllabus, this statement should be corrected to read that there will be 4 hours a week of direct instruction and 8 hours a week of out-of-classroom experiences.
- The Subcommittee would like to see a small sampling of the articles and primary literature that will be read within the course to allow them to have a better understanding of both student workload and how the literature will interact with course assignments.
- The Subcommittee noted that a goal of the course was to produce a publishable work (as noted on page 4 of the syllabus). They would like to see additional information in the syllabus surrounding the logistics of publishing the work students complete during the session. How will authorship be dispersed? What obligations will students have outside of the course once the work is published? How will students be able to manage control of how they want to be included on the publication? Recognizing that the work will likely not be published prior to the end of the semester, how will the instructor continue to work with students once the semester ends and the work moves through the publication process?
- The Subcommittee asks that the unit seek concurrence with the College of Education and Human Ecology. The contact for the College of Education and Human Ecology is Associate Dean Anastasia Synder.893.
- The Subcommittee noted that the prerequisite for this course is Biology 3501.xx. Biology 3501.xx is a course that will predominantly only be taken by students within the Biology major and minor. As a reminder, General Education courses must be broadly available to students from a diverse and large background and should not be geared towards any particular population of student.

While the issue of determining whether a course is a valid GE course is the purview of the Themes Subcommittee, the Natural and Mathematical Sciences Subcommittee would like to make the recommendation to change the prerequisite to be far more inclusive of non-Biology students.

I will return the proposal via curriculum.osu.edu to allow you to address these feedback items.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to Christopher Hadad, faculty Chair of the Natural and Mathematical Sciences Subcommittee, or me.

All my best,

Michael



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

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

BLACK LIVES MATTER

STOP AAPI HATE

DACA/undocumented ally



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