
AAAS 4620

From Steele, Rachel <steele.682@osu.edu>

Date Wed 11/5/2025 5:12 PM

To Beckham, Jerrell <beckham.4@osu.edu>; Dew, Spencer <dew.50@osu.edu>

Cc Soland, Birgitte <soland.1@osu.edu>; Vankeerbergen, Bernadette <vankeerbergen.1@osu.edu>; Steele, Rachel <steele.682@osu.edu>; Neff, Jennifer <neff.363@osu.edu>

Good afternoon,

On Thursday, October 23rd, the Themes II Subcommittee of the ASC Curriculum Committee reviewed a course proposal for AAAS 4620 to be included in the GE Theme: Citizenship for a Diverse and Just World category. The Subcommittee did not vote on the proposal as they would like the following points addressed:

- a. The Subcommittee appreciates this course's incredibly timely and necessary topic, and they look forward to having it be a part of the GEN Theme: Citizenship for a Just and Diverse World category. To this end, they invite the department and/or the course designer/proposer to reach out to the chair of the ASCC's Themes II Subcommittee, Birgitte Sølund, to discuss the feedback below.
- b. The Subcommittee requests that the department provide a cover letter that details the changes made to the course submission materials in response to the feedback below.
- c. The Subcommittee asks that the department provide student-friendly information in the syllabus regarding how the Theme is the central focus of the course. Specifically, they would like to see more evidence that the citizenship aspect of the Theme is an intrinsic part of the course's description (curriculum.osu.edu under "General Information") and its readings and topics (syllabus pp. 8-12 under "Course Outline"). While they appreciate the work involved in creating the explanatory paragraphs that have been added to the course calendar, the Subcommittee is concerned that these may not effectively communicate the course's engagement with the GEN Theme to students. (The paragraphs could be overwhelming for students or may not be included in the final syllabus.) While they acknowledge that there are many ways to link the schedule to the GE Theme and its outcomes, they note that one method is to include in the course calendar weekly questions that guide students in connecting that week's readings and activities to the larger concepts of the theme. The [ASCCAS website](#) provides examples of previously approved courses (English 3595, German 3250) that have successfully employed this technique. The Subcommittee offers the friendly advice that the Department may wish to consider how a student, looking at the syllabus, would see the Theme "signposted" throughout.
- d. The Subcommittee asks that the department modify the description of the term paper (syllabus, pp. 2-3) to make clear to students that the paper must engage with the concepts presented by the theme. While they acknowledge that a paper that involves "an argument encountered during the semester" will almost certainly engage with diversity and justice, it is less certain that it will also involve citizenship.
- e. The Subcommittee recommends that the department make use of the newly-developed [GEN Themes Rubrics](#) as a tool for backward design while revising the course.

I will return AAAS 4620 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 Birgitte Sølund (faculty Chair of the Themes II Subcommittee; cc'd on this e-mail), or me.



Rachel Steele, MA

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

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