

From: [Neff, Jennifer](#)
To: [Getson, Jen](#); [Reed, Christopher](#)
Cc: [Vaessin, Harald](#); [Kantor, Jamison](#); [Vankeerbergen, Bernadette](#); [Steele, Rachel](#); [Hilty, Michael](#)
Subject: History 2797.02
Date: Monday, May 19, 2025 11:45:00 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Good morning,

On Monday, May 12th, the Themes 1 Subcommittee of the ASC Curriculum Committee and the Theme Advisory Group for Traditions, Cultures, and Transformations reviewed a GEN Theme: TCT request for History 2797.02.

At this time, the reviewing faculty voted to not include this course within the General Education Themes program. Please see below for next steps and options for moving forward:

- The reviewing faculty are concerned with the lack of instructional alignment of the Theme Goals and ELOs. The current instructional model of the course, which relies on invited subject-matter experts, poses challenges for consistent delivery and assessment of this GE course. The guest lecturers are unlikely to have a strong understanding of the Theme ELOs or the frameworks of the university's GE program. Additionally, the roles and qualifications of the individuals referred to as "RDs" (resident directors) are not well defined, which further complicates the oversight and accountability of the Theme Goals and ELOs.
- As departments are responsible for submitting assessment data for Themes and High-Impact Practice courses, it is not clear how assessment of the course will be conducted or how the achievement of the Theme ELOs by external lecturers will be verified. The lack of these mechanisms makes this course unsuitable for approval as a Themes and High-Impact Practice course.
- Should the department wish to resubmit the course for consideration as a Themes course, substantial restructuring is necessary. The course should be taught by OSU faculty (from the Department of History or associated with the Department of History given the disciplinary focus of the course) who have an ongoing, active role in the instruction. A specific plan outlining how the instructional team will ensure alignment with Theme ELOs must be included.
- If the department revises the course for resubmission, the reviewing faculty also recommend the following:
 - More explicitly linking the exams to the ELOs in the syllabus and GE submission form, as these are significant assessment components in the course.
 - Including a brief acknowledgement in the course description in the syllabus of the contested nature of the term "Western" given the breadth of the course and its engagement with the concept.

- Adjusting the course title in curriculum.osu.edu to match the updated title used in the syllabus (“Traditions, Cultures, and Transformations Introduction to the Western Tradition and Contemporary Issues”).
- Condensing the ELO table presented in the syllabus. While it is important to articulate how each ELO is addressed within the course, the level of detail does not need to mirror that of the supporting documentation (GE submission form). A more streamlined version in the syllabus would enhance readability. [Syllabus pp. 3-7]
- Updating the links in the Title IX and religious accommodations statements due to the recent renaming of offices. The full statements with the updated links can be found in an easy to copy/paste format on the [Arts and Sciences Curriculum and Assessment Services website](#). [Syllabus p. 21]
- Using the most recent version of the diversity statement, which can be found in an easy to copy/paste format on the [Arts and Sciences Curriculum and Assessment Services website](#). [Syllabus p. 21]

I will return the course via curriculum.osu.edu to the department.

Should you have any questions about the feedback of the reviewing faculty, please feel free to contact Harald Vaessin (faculty Chair of the Themes 1 Subcommittee), Jamison Kantor (faculty Chair of the Theme Advisory Group: TCT), or me.

Best,
Jennifer



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Pronouns: she/her/hers