
German 3851

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Cc Tuxbury-Gleissner, Philip <tuxbury-gleissner.1@osu.edu>; Vankeerbergen, Bernadette <vankeerbergen.1@osu.edu>; Steele, Rachel <steele.682@osu.edu>; Neff, Jennifer <neff.363@osu.edu>

Good evening,

On Thursday, October 9th, the Themes I Subcommittee of the ASC Curriculum Committee reviewed a course proposal for German 3851 to be included in the GEN Theme: Traditions, Cultures, and Transformations category.

The Subcommittee did not vote on the proposal as they would like the following points addressed:

- a) The Subcommittee commends the department for the development of this course that brings together German studies and Law in a way that will doubtlessly enrich our students' learning. However, they do not believe that the course, as it is currently presented, is a good fit for the GEN Theme: Traditions, Cultures, and Transformations category. However, they can see how the course's topic could fit within the theme, and offer the following feedback to guide the department in amending and augmenting the course:
 - i) The Subcommittee asks that the language and spirit of the Traditions, Cultures, and Transformations theme more clearly be woven into the course syllabus, especially in course description (p. 1), the descriptions of major course assignments (pp. 6-7), and the course schedule (pp. 10-12). 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. At this time, it is difficult to discern what culture, in particular, is being studied, what population(s) is/are being treated as the "dominant" culture and which group(s) is/are being treated as the "sub-cultures" (ELO 3.3), or what "big" idea or technological advancement is being put forth as "creating a major and long-lasting change in a specific culture" (ELO 3.2).
 - ii) The Subcommittee asks that the department provide additional information in the syllabus and the GEN Submission Form about how the course's assessments are evaluating students' mastery of the GEN goals and ELOs. Currently, the assessments appear to be more focused on legal issues and case studies than the theme of Traditions, Cultures and Transformations. The Subcommittee notes that the GEN Submission form connects the ELOs to course readings and materials, but (in most cases) does not explain how this will be a part of the course's assessments. On a related note, they are concerned that the assessments do not support the students in an "advanced, in-depth, [and] scholarly exploration" of the theme. While they recognize that the course may be advanced *as a study of intellectual property and copyright*, at this time, they do not believe it demonstrates an advanced study of traditions, cultures, and transformations.
 - iii) The Subcommittee asks that the department include in the syllabus a paragraph following the listing of the GEN goals and ELOS on p. 3 of the syllabus that explains how this course, in particular, meets the goals and ELOs of the GEN Theme: Traditions, Cultures, and Transformations category, per a requirement of the Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee. They offer the friendly observation that this paragraph may also help to clarify for students the role of the Theme in the course as outlined in comment "a.i" above.

- b) The Subcommittee requests that the department number GEN Theme goals and ELOs (syllabus, p. 2-3) so that the connections between the goals and their attendant ELOs are clear to students. They note that the GEN Goals and ELOs for all categories are available on the [ASC Curriculum and Assessment Services website](#) in an easy-to-copy/paste format.
- c) The Subcommittee recommends that the department update the information regarding Equity on p. 4 of the syllabus, as the email address and name of the Office of Institutional Equity have changed. There is a new, standard statement regarding this, now titled the statement on “Creating an Environment Free from Harassment, Discrimination, and Sexual Misconduct”. It can be found on the Office of Undergraduate Education's [Syllabus Policies & Statements webpage](#).

I will return German 3851 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 Philip Tuxbury-Gleissner (faculty Chair of the Themes I Subcommittee; cc'd on this e-mail), or me.

Best,
Rachel



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

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