
Certificate in Holocaust and Genocide Studies

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Date Fri 9/19/2025 11:04 AM

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Cc Dwyer, Rachel <dwyer.46@osu.edu>; Vankeerbergen, Bernadette <vankeerbergen.1@osu.edu>; Steele, Rachel <steele.682@osu.edu>; Neff, Jennifer <neff.363@osu.edu>

Good morning,

On Wednesday, Sept. 10th, the Social and Behavioral Sciences Subcommittee of the ASC Curriculum Committee reviewed a proposal to create a new certificate in Holocaust and Genocide Studies.

I am happy to report that proposal was unanimously approved with **ten contingencies** and *two recommendations*:

- a) **Contingency:** The Subcommittee asks that the department include with the revision of the program a cover letter outlining the changes made to the proposal in response to the feedback below.
- b) **Contingency:** The Subcommittee asks that the department obtain concurrences from the Departments of Germanic Languages and Literatures, History, and Near Eastern and South Asian Languages and Cultures, so as to confirm that all departments whose courses are on the certificate are aware of the program and supportive of continuing to offer the associated courses. More generally, the Dept. of Germanic Languages and Literatures and the field of Jewish Studies (NESA) have a direct disciplinary connection with the Holocaust, but the proposal does not indicate whether any conversations about the proposed certificate have been had with those departments.
- c) **Contingency:** The Subcommittee asks that the department include in the proposal a brief explanation of how the department will continue to ensure the viability of the certificate. They note that several of the elective courses are no longer in the course catalog or have not been offered for some time. (Please see item 'd' below.)
- d) **Contingency:** The Subcommittee asks that the department correct the following items on the listing of Elective Courses found on pp. 6-7 of the proposal and/or the Advising Sheet in Appendix C.
 - i) **Yiddish 3999** – Please amend the credit hours to '4' on p. 7 of the proposal. (Note that the CH are *correct* for this course on the Advising Sheet).
 - ii) **German 3254H** – This course is listed twice; please remove the second listing on p. 6 of the proposal.
 - iii) **Sociology 3798.03 and History 3798.02** – Please list these courses with the other elective courses rather than in a separate category. While the Department is welcome to note the study abroad component in some way (parenthetical, footnote, etc.) the current way of listing the courses makes it appear as though these are not part of the elective category (Note that this should *also* be corrected on the Advising Sheet).
 - iv) **German 3252.01/3252.02** – German 3252.01 is currently in limbo, please remove this from p. 6 of the proposal and the Advising Sheet. German 3252.02 is erroneously listed as German 3251.02 on p. 6 of the proposal, please correct.
 - v) **German 3256** – This course has only been offered once, in AU14. Please consider removing this from the list of elective courses on p. 6 of the proposal and the Advising Sheet unless the assurance of future offerings can be obtained from the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures.
 - vi) **History 2452** – This course has been in limbo since May of 2025; please remove from p. 6 of the proposal and the Advising Sheet.

- vii) **History 3750 and 5750** – These courses have been withdrawn; please remove them from p. 7 of the proposal and the Advising Sheet.
- viii) **Sociology 4998** – If the department does wish to keep this course on the certificate (please see feedback item ‘e’ below), please make sure that it is listed on the Advising Sheet as well as p. 7 of the proposal.
- e) **Contingency** – Since there is not a way to differentiate between Sociology 4998 sections taught by different instructors or to identify the subject matter of the individual research project in the Student Information System (SIS), the Subcommittee asks that the department clarify that students will need to petition to apply credit earned for specific research projects under Sociology 4998 to their certificate hours. Additionally, the Subcommittee asks that the department provide an explanation as to why other departments’ 4998 hours (e.g. History, Germanic) would not also be applicable if the subject matter is commensurate with the goals and learning outcomes for the certificate.
- f) **Contingency** – The Subcommittee asks that the department include a brief statement about the required portfolio (proposal, p. 5) on the Advising Sheet (Appendix C), so that students are aware of this requirement.
- g) **Contingency** – The Subcommittee asks that the department correct the required History/Jewish Studies courses listed in Appendix E (Semester-By-Semester Sample Program), as the required course is 2475 rather than 2454.
- h) **Contingency** – The Subcommittee requests that the department include in the proposal the course descriptions of the elective courses. This is noted as Appendix H on p. 8 of the proposal but is not included. This list should also include any prerequisites for elective courses.
- i) **Contingency** – The Subcommittee asks that the department include a note on the advising sheet that says “While there are no prerequisite courses for the certificate as a whole, some courses below require prerequisites. Please consult the course catalog for details before enrolling.”, so that students (especially students doing this as a “stand alone” certificate, i.e., those who are not enrolled in a degree-granting program) can better plan their coursework.
- j) **Contingency** – The Subcommittee asks that the department clarify how advising will be done for the certificate, as p. 8 of the proposal indicates that advising for the certificate will be housed in Sociology, but the Advising Sheet lists both the Sociology advisors and the academic advisors in the Department of History. (For additional feedback about advising, please see item “l” below.)
- k) **Recommendation** – The Subcommittee recommends that the department remove the sentence from Appendix D that reads “Note: The advisors are not sure if they will use this form as we realize the certificate form is not used as often anymore, but we created this just in case!” Details about declaring the certificate and approval of the certificate coursework will be worked out with the ASCCAS office when finalizing the Advising Sheet after the certificate has been approved. Please feel free to contact Rachel Steele.682 with questions about this process.
- l) **Recommendation** – The Subcommittee suggests that the department consider confining the advising for the certificate to one department, as “splitting” advising duties between units (History and Sociology) could cause confusion and/or logistical problems. As noted above in feedback item ‘k’, details about declaring the certificate and approval of the certificate coursework will be worked out with the ASCCAS office when finalizing the Advising Sheet after the certificate has been approved.

I will return the certificate proposal via curriculum.osu.edu to enable the department to address the points above. As a reminder, **contingencies** must be addressed before the program can move forward in the process to the full Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee.

Should you have any questions about the feedback above, do not hesitate to contact Rachel Dwyer (cc’d here), faculty Chair of the SBS Subcommittee, or me.

My best,
Rachel

Rachel Steele, MA

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

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I acknowledge that the land that The Ohio State University occupies is the ancestral and contemporary territory of the Shawnee, Potawatomi, Delaware, Miami, Peoria, Seneca, Wyandotte, Ojibwe and Cherokee peoples. Specifically, the university resides on land ceded in the 1795 Treaty of Greenville and the forced removal of tribes through the Indian Removal Act of 1830. I honor the resiliency of these tribal nations and recognize the historical contexts that has and continues to affect the Indigenous peoples of this land.