

Term Information

Effective Term Spring 2026

General Information

Course Bulletin Listing/Subject Area Civics, Law, and Leadership
Fiscal Unit/Academic Org Chase Center for Civics - D4260
College/Academic Group Office of Academic Affairs
Level/Career Undergraduate
Course Number/Catalog 2200
Course Title The Pursuit of Happiness: An American Tradition
Transcript Abbreviation Happiness Pursuit
Course Description The Declaration of Independence names "the pursuit of happiness" as an unalienable right. This course introduces the tradition of inquiry on happiness and the good life that informed the American Founders, as well as accounts of happiness from contemporary social science. Considers obstacles to measuring happiness and explores why our intuitions about what will make us happy are often wrong.
Semester Credit Hours/Units Fixed: 3

Offering Information

Length Of Course 14 Week
Flexibly Scheduled Course Never
Does any section of this course have a distance education component? No
Grading Basis Letter Grade
Repeatable No
Course Components Lecture
Grade Roster Component Lecture
Credit Available by Exam No
Admission Condition Course No
Off Campus Never
Campus of Offering Columbus, Lima, Mansfield, Marion, Newark, Wooster

Prerequisites and Exclusions

Prerequisites/Corequisites
Exclusions
Electronically Enforced Yes

Cross-Listings

Cross-Listings

Subject/CIP Code

Subject/CIP Code 30.0000
Subsidy Level Baccalaureate Course
Intended Rank Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior

Requirement/Elective Designation

Health and Well-being

Course Details

Course goals or learning objectives/outcomes

- Students compare competing claims regarding the social and political conditions of flourishing, and evaluate assumptions about virtue, responsibility, and a good life that informed the American Founding

Content Topic List

- Individual and Collective Virtue; Desire-Satisfaction and Subjective Well-Being; Pleasure and Duty; Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness

Sought Concurrence

Yes

Attachments

- CIVICLL, The Pursuit of Happiness - Syllabus.pdf: Syllabus

(Syllabus. Owner: Fortier,Jeremy)

- CIVICLL, The Pursuit of Happiness - GE Worksheet.pdf: GE Worksheet

(Other Supporting Documentation. Owner: Fortier,Jeremy)

- Concurrence Exchanges - Education, Law, Glenn, Arts & Sciences.pdf: Concurrence Exchange

(Concurrence. Owner: Fortier,Jeremy)

Comments

Workflow Information

Status	User(s)	Date/Time	Step
Submitted	Fortier,Jeremy	08/27/2025 11:33 AM	Submitted for Approval
Approved	Fortier,Jeremy	08/27/2025 11:34 AM	Unit Approval
Approved	Reed,Kathryn Marie	08/27/2025 12:40 PM	College Approval
Pending Approval	Jenkins,Mary Ellen Bigler Hilty,Michael Neff,Jennifer Vankeerbergen,Bernadette Chantal Steele,Rachel Lea	08/27/2025 12:40 PM	ASCCAO Approval

CIVICLL 2200
The Pursuit of Happiness: An American Tradition
[Semester]

Format of Instruction : Seminar
Meeting Day /Time:
Classroom Location:
Contact Hours:

Instructor: Dr. Sabrina B. Little
Email: little.802@osu.edu
Office:
Office Hours:

I. Course Description

The Declaration of Independence names “the pursuit of happiness” as an unalienable right, alongside life and liberty. This course introduces students to the tradition of inquiry on happiness and the good life that informed the American Founders, with special attention paid to classical and early modern thinkers. It investigates the place that virtue and duty have in a good life, and it asks what role, if any, a government should play in supporting the happiness of its citizens. This course explores the difference among hedonic, eudaimonic, and desire-satisfaction accounts of happiness and asks how they present in American civic life. The semester concludes with the dominant contemporary account of happiness from the social sciences as subjective well-being. It addresses where suffering fits into a good life, and it explores why our intuitions about what will make us happy are often wrong.

The Pursuit of Happiness is also designated an **Honors-Embedded Course**. All students will participate in high-level critical thinking and analytical skills suitable for an Honors course. However, there are two differences in coursework for Honors students versus non-Honors students. (1) For the Ben Franklin Virtue Paper described under Assignments, Honors students have an extended theory section, including one additional page of writing and three additional scholarly sources. (2) Honors students will also select three course readings of their preference this term to write one-page, double-space informal essays. These essays will concisely summarize the main ideas in the reading and take a position on them. They will be evaluated for accuracy of expressing these main ideas and for their ability to maturely position themselves with respect to these ideas. They will not be evaluated for formal writing, and citations are not required. These short essays may be turned in at any point throughout the semester prior to the final day of class. They count in the Quiz category. Rubrics will follow.

II. Course Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, students will be able to:



- Describe and evaluate social and political conditions of flourishing as well as assumptions about virtue, responsibility, and a good life that informed the American Founding.
- Understand and articulate the difference between hedonic, eudaimonic, and desire-satisfaction accounts of happiness, and appreciate how they present in American civic life.
- Draw on great works of moral and political philosophy to critically reflect on the ways in which suffering enriches and detracts from the human experience.
- Critically evaluate the primary texts necessary to understand how the “pursuit of happiness” has functioned as a core American tradition.
- Engage with questions about the relationship between morality and happiness, happiness and pleasure, friendship and happiness, and the good life and citizenship.
- Evaluate their intuitions about what will make them happy—and how different forms of suffering can contribute to, and undermine, a good life—against the accumulated wisdom of inherited traditions and texts.

III. GEN Goals and Learning Outcomes

This course fulfills the following **GEN Theme: Health and Well-Being**.

GEN Goals:

- **Goal 1:** Successful students will analyze an important topic or idea at a more advanced and in-depth level than in the Foundations component.
- **Goal 2:** Successful students will integrate approaches to the theme by making connections to out-of-classroom experiences with academic knowledge or across disciplines and/or to work they have done in previous classes and that they anticipate doing in the future.
- **Goal 3:** Students will explore and analyze health and wellbeing through attention to at least two dimensions of wellbeing.

GEN Expected Learning Outcomes:

- **ELO 1.1:** Engage in critical and logical thinking about the topic or idea of the theme.
- **ELO 1.2:** Engage in advanced, in-depth, scholarly exploration of the topic or idea of the theme.
- **ELO 2.1:** Identify, describe, and synthesize approaches or experiences as they apply to the theme.
- **ELO 2.2:** Demonstrate a development sense of self as a learner through reflection, self-assessment, and creative work, building on prior experiences to respond to new and challenging contexts.

- **ELO 3.1:** Explore and analyze health and wellbeing from theoretical, socio-economic, scientific, historical, cultural, technological, policy, and/or personal perspectives.
- **ELO 3.2:** Identify, reflect on, or apply strategies for promoting health and wellbeing.

How this Course Connects to the Theme: Health & Wellbeing

This course takes happiness seriously as a fundamental component of human health and wellbeing. Through weekly readings, quizzes, a paper, and a final project, it challenges students to think about many different kinds of good lives and what is consistent across them. It evaluates social and political conditions of flourishing and evaluates assumptions about virtue, responsibility, and a good life that informed the American Founding. It asks students to question their intuitions about what will make them happy. This course will help students reach the goals and learning outcomes for the Theme: Health & Wellbeing through several activities and assignments throughout the semester. For example, a key assignment of the course is to select a **contemporary self-help book** and critique it, in conversation with the Founders and philosophers we read this term. Students will investigate whether the book provides a robust and defensible vision of happiness compatible with a flourishing citizenry. A second assignment is a **virtue-developmental task** akin to Ben Franklin's project quest for moral perfection. Students will select two virtues to practice over the course of the semester, journaling about the process. These papers involve both theory and reflection. They will provide an overview of their two virtues in a broadly Aristotelian virtue theory literature, then will describe their attempts at growing in virtue throughout the term and assess any impacts on their happiness. Both assignments encourage self-reflection and development with respect to personal happiness, per the Health and Well-Being designation.

III. Texts

Students are required to purchase the following text, which is available at Barnes & Noble and on Amazon:

Rosen, S. 2024. *The Pursuit of Happiness: How Classical Writers on Virtue Inspired the Lives of the Founders and Defined America*. Simon & Schuster.

All other course readings will be available online or by PDF on Blackboard.

IV. Assignments and Grading

Attendance and Participation	Coming to class, completing basic reading checks	15%
Quizzes	On average, weekly <i>For Honors Students, three short essays are included in</i>	15%



	<i>this category. Deadlines rolling.</i>	
Scaffolded Ben Franklin Virtue Project Tasks	Deadlines Rolling	10%
Ben Franklin Term Paper – Final Deadline	Week 10, Friday	25%
Self-Help Book Project	Week 13, Friday	15%
Final Exam	TBD Exam period	20%

Attendance and Participation

Attendance is imperative in this discussion-based course. Students should come to class well-prepared to engage in the discussion. To receive full points, please note these policies:

- Students are expected to attend every class session. For each unexcused absence from class, students will be docked 5% of their participation grade. Students who miss 25% or more of the class sessions will receive a 0 for this portion of the course. Missing classes for illness or religious holidays does not count, but for an absence to be considered “excused,” you must email the instructor within one week. Please reach out to the instructor with any questions about this policy.
- Consistent, high-quality participation—including respectful listening, contributing to discussion, and building on peers’ insights—is expected each week. Occasional informal writing or group exercises may be used to facilitate discussion and deepen reflection. Students will be docked 1 point of their participation grade (1/100 pts) for every day they do not bring their assigned text *or* do not speak up in class. If you are struggling to participate in discussion, please come to office hours or reach out to the instructor. 1 point of your participation grade is also deducted for using iPhones or computers for unrelated work during class.
- Be sure to arrive on time for class. Excessive tardiness will lead to a reduction in your participation grade. There will be a three-day grace period (meaning that there will be no grade penalty for the first three days a student is late to class), but after that, you will be docked 1 point of your participation grade (1/100) for each day you come to class late.

We will do regular **reading checks** to start the class, asking students to recount a key idea or two they remember from the reading, or to answer very basic questions. These hold students accountable to doing the reading without becoming stressed if there are ideas they do not understand. These will be graded for completion and will make up 5% of students’ overall grade.

Students are encouraged to take notes by hand, rather than using a laptop. If a student must use a laptop for some reason, they are required to keep it in airplane mode. iPhones must be turned off and put away at all times. Again, this is a discussion-based course. Devices diminish our strength of presence.

Weekly Quizzes

Unless there is a major deadline that week, students will complete weekly content quizzes. These are short multiple-choice and true-false quizzes, located on Canvas. They are open-note but not to be taken with peers or internet assistance. Their function is to encourage students to complete readings, attend lectures, and assess their understanding week after week.

Ben Franklin Virtue Paper

This assignment is a **virtue-developmental task** akin to Ben Franklin's project quest for moral perfection. Students will select two virtues to practice over the course of the semester, journaling about the process. These papers involve both theory and reflection. They will provide an overview of their two virtues in a broadly Aristotelian virtue theory literature, then will describe their attempts at growing in virtue throughout the term and assess any impacts on their happiness.

This paper's tasks are scaffolded throughout the term. Students will select virtues, outline research and name scholarly sources, complete an early draft to discuss among classmates, then turn in the final paper. The paper should be eight to ten pages (nine to eleven pages for Honors students), double-spaced, use 12-point Times New Roman font, and be carefully edited. It will include four scholarly sources (seven for Honors students). It will be due at 11:59pm on the date listed in the syllabus.

Self-Help Book Project

Students will select a **contemporary self-help book** and critique it, in conversation with the Founders and philosophers we read this term. Students will investigate whether the book provides a robust and defensible vision of happiness compatible with a flourishing citizenry.

This project involves formal writing. Students are encouraged to select their self-help book early in the term and have it approved by the professor. Examples of texts include *How to Win Friends and Influence People*, *Atomic Habits*, *Think and Grow Rich*, *The Power of Now*, *How to Stop Worrying and Start Living*, *The Success Principles*, *The Purpose Driven Life*, and *Me, But Better*. Rubric forthcoming.

Final Exam

This is a cumulative exam on the landscape of happiness, in conversation with the American Founders, their philosophical influences, and contemporary voices in wellness and flourishing. A review guide will be provided. The exam is given during finals week.

Grading Scale:

All assignments will be graded out of a 100-point scale and then converted into the final grade (also on a 100-point scale) using percentages outlined below. Your letter grade will be determined using the following ranges:

93-100%	A
90-92.9%	A-
87%-89.9%	B+
83%-86.9%	B
80%-82.9%	B-
77%-79.9%	C+
73%-76.9%	C
70%-72.9%	C-
67%-69.9%	D+
60%-66.9%	D
Below 60%	E

Statement Regarding AI, ChatGPT, Grammarly, and Related Technologies

The objectives of this course are to learn, and to be transformed by reading and reckoning with ideas in a serious way. You fail to do this with AI and related technologies. If you use ChatGPT, Grammarly, or other assistive technologies to assist in your writing at all, even taking ChatGPT's ideas and re-writing them as your own, you will receive a 0 on the assignment with no opportunity to make up the grade.

In Mortimer Adler's "An Invitation to the Pain of Learning," he writes that "the process of learning that must be dominated at every moment by the activity of the learner. And the fundamental activity that is involved in every kind of genuine learning is intellectual activity, the activity generally known as thinking...Without thinking, the kind of learning which transforms a mind, gives it new insights, enlightens it, deepens understanding, elevates the spirit simply cannot occur."

If you are not doing the arduous task of thinking—organizing thoughts, defining, synthesizing, comparing, writing—you are not receiving an education.

V. University Policy Statements

Academic Misconduct

Academic integrity is essential to maintaining an environment that fosters excellence in teaching, research, and other educational and scholarly activities. Thus, The Ohio State University and the Committee on Academic Misconduct (COAM) expect that all students have read and

understand the University's Code of Student Conduct, and that all students will complete all academic and scholarly assignments with fairness and honesty. Students must recognize that failure to follow the rules and guidelines established in the University's Code of Student Conduct and this syllabus may constitute Academic Misconduct.

The Ohio State University's Code of Student Conduct (Section 3335-23-04) defines academic misconduct as: Any activity that tends to compromise the academic integrity of the University or subvert the educational process. Examples of academic misconduct include (but are not limited to) plagiarism, collusion (unauthorized collaboration), copying the work of another student, and possession of unauthorized materials during an examination. Ignorance of the University's Code of Student Conduct is never considered an excuse for academic misconduct, so please review the Code of Student Conduct and, specifically, the sections dealing with academic misconduct.

If an instructor suspects that a student has committed academic misconduct in this course, the instructor is obligated by University Rules to report those suspicions to the Committee on Academic Misconduct. If COAM determines that a student violated the University's Code of Student Conduct (i.e., committed academic misconduct), the sanctions for the misconduct could include a failing grade in the course and suspension or dismissal from the University. If students have questions about the above policy or what constitutes academic misconduct in this course, they should contact the instructor.

Disability Services (with Accommodations for Illness)

The university strives to maintain a healthy and accessible environment to support student learning in and out of the classroom. If students anticipate or experience academic barriers based on a disability (including mental health and medical conditions, whether chronic or temporary), they should let their instructor know immediately so that they can privately discuss options. Students do not need to disclose specific information about a disability to faculty. To establish reasonable accommodations, students may be asked to register with Student Life Disability Services (see below for campus-specific contact information). After registration, students should make arrangements with their instructors as soon as possible to discuss your accommodations so that accommodations may be implemented in a timely fashion.

If students are ill and need to miss class, including if they are staying home and away from others while experiencing symptoms of viral infection or fever, they should let their instructor know immediately. In cases where illness interacts with an underlying medical condition, please consult with Student Life Disability Services to request reasonable accommodations.

Grievances and Solving Problems

According to University Policies, if you have a problem with this class, you should seek to resolve the grievance concerning a grade or academic practice by speaking first with the instructor or professor. Then, if necessary, take your case to the department chairperson, college dean or associate dean, and to the provost, in that order. Specific procedures are outlined in Faculty Rule 3335-8-23. Grievances against graduate, research, and teaching assistants should be

submitted first to the supervising instructor, then to the chairperson of the assistant's department.

Creating an Environment Free from Harassment, Discrimination, and Sexual Misconduct

The Ohio State University is committed to building and maintaining a welcoming community. All Buckeyes have the right to be free from harassment, discrimination, and sexual misconduct. Ohio State does not discriminate on the basis of age, ancestry, color, disability, ethnicity, gender, gender identity or expression, genetic information, HIV/AIDS status, military status, national origin, pregnancy (childbirth, false pregnancy, termination of pregnancy, or recovery therefrom), race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or protected veteran status, or any other bases under the law, in its activities, academic programs, admission, and employment. Members of the university community also have the right to be free from all forms of sexual misconduct: sexual harassment, sexual assault, relationship violence, stalking, and sexual exploitation.

To report harassment, discrimination, sexual misconduct, or retaliation and/or seek confidential and non-confidential resources and supportive measures, contact the Civil Rights Compliance Office (CRCO):

- Online reporting form: <http://civilrights.osu.edu/>
- Call 614-247-5838 or TTY 614-688-8605
- civilrights@osu.edu

The university is committed to stopping sexual misconduct, preventing its recurrence, eliminating any hostile environment, and remedying its discriminatory effects. All university employees have reporting responsibilities to the Civil Rights Compliance Office to ensure the university can take appropriate action:

- All university employees, except those exempted by legal privilege of confidentiality or expressly identified as a confidential reporter, have an obligation to report incidents of sexual assault immediately.
- The following employees have an obligation to report all other forms of sexual misconduct as soon as practicable but at most within five workdays of becoming aware of such information: 1. Any human resource professional (HRP); 2. Anyone who supervises faculty, staff, students, or volunteers; 3. Chair/director; and 4. Faculty member.

Religious Accommodations

Ohio State has had a longstanding practice of making reasonable academic accommodations for students' religious beliefs and practices in accordance with applicable law. In 2023, Ohio State updated its practice to align with new state legislation. Under this new provision, students must be in early communication with their instructors regarding any known accommodation requests for religious beliefs and practices, providing notice of specific dates for which they request alternative accommodations within 14 days after the first instructional day of the course. Instructors in turn shall not question the sincerity of a student's religious or spiritual belief system in reviewing such requests and shall keep requests for accommodations confidential.

With sufficient notice, instructors will provide students with reasonable alternative accommodations with regard to examinations and other academic requirements with respect to students' sincerely held religious beliefs and practices by allowing up to three absences each semester for the student to attend or participate in religious activities. Examples of religious accommodations can include, but are not limited to, rescheduling an exam, altering the time of a student's presentation, allowing make-up assignments to substitute for missed class work, or flexibility in due dates or research responsibilities. If concerns arise about a requested accommodation, instructors are to consult their tenure initiating unit head for assistance.

A student's request for time off shall be provided if the student's sincerely held religious belief or practice severely affects the student's ability to take an exam or meet an academic requirement **and** the student has notified their instructor, in writing during the first 14 days after the course begins, of the date of each absence. Although students are required to provide notice within the first 14 days after a course begins, instructors are strongly encouraged to work with the student to provide a reasonable accommodation if a request is made outside the notice period. A student may not be penalized for an absence approved under this policy.

If students have questions or disputes related to academic accommodations, they should contact their course instructor, and then their department or college office. For questions or to report discrimination or harassment based on religion, individuals should contact the [Civil Rights Compliance Office](#). Policy: [Religious Holidays, Holy Days and Observances](#)

Artificial Intelligence and Academic Integrity

There has been a significant increase in the popularity and availability of a variety of generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools, including ChatGPT, Sudowrite, and others. These tools will help shape the future of work, research and technology, but when used in the wrong way, they can stand in conflict with academic integrity at Ohio State.

All students have important obligations under the Code of Student Conduct to complete all academic and scholarly activities with fairness and honesty. Our professional students also have the responsibility to uphold the professional and ethical standards found in their respective academic honor codes. Specifically, students are not to use unauthorized assistance in the laboratory, on field work, in scholarship, or on a course assignment unless such assistance has been authorized specifically by the course instructor. In addition, students are not to submit their work without acknowledging any word-for-word use and/or paraphrasing of writing, ideas or other work that is not your own. These requirements apply to all students undergraduate, graduate, and professional.

To maintain a culture of integrity and respect, these generative AI tools should not be used in the completion of course assignments unless an instructor for a given course specifically authorizes their use. Some instructors may approve of using generative AI tools in the academic setting for specific goals. However, these tools should be used only with the explicit and clear permission of each individual instructor, and then only in the ways allowed by the instructor.



Intellectual Diversity

Ohio State is committed to fostering a culture of open inquiry and intellectual diversity within the classroom. This course will cover a range of information and may include discussions or debates about controversial issues, beliefs, or policies. Any such discussions and debates are intended to support understanding of the approved curriculum and relevant course objectives rather than promote any specific point of view. Students will be assessed on principles applicable to the field of study and the content covered in the course. Preparing students for citizenship includes helping them develop critical thinking skills that will allow them to reach their own conclusions regarding complex or controversial matters.

VI. Reading Schedule

Week 1: *Virtue and the Pursuit of Happiness*

- Monday, January 12th:
 - Reading: [Declaration of Independence](#) – “life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness”
 - Syllabus Review
- Wednesday, January 14th:
 - Reading “The Lost Meaning of ‘The Pursuit of Happiness,’” Schlesinger PDF; Ch. 1 – Order (*The Pursuit of Happiness*, Rosen – hereafter, *POH*)

Week 2: *Happiness and Government*

- Monday, January 19th:
 - No Class – Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- Wednesday, January 21st:
 - Reading: Ch. 1 – Order (*POH* continued); Cicero, *The Tusculan Disputations* (excerpt, [link](#)); Cicero, *On Duties* (excerpt, [link](#))

Week 3: *Happiness and Government (continued)*

- Monday, January 26th:
 - Reading: *Federalist Papers* 62 and 43; reference [link](#)
- Wednesday, January 28th:
 - Reading: C. Murray, *In Pursuit: Of Happiness and Good Government* [excerpt](#)

Week 4: *Happiness and Justice*

- Monday, February 2nd:
 - Reading: Ch. 11 – *POH*, Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln’s Self-Reliance
- Wednesday, February 4th:
 - Reading: Proceedings of the Colored national convention, Rochester, July 6-8, 1853 [excerpt](#)



Week 5: *Temperance and the Good Life*

- Monday, February 9th
 - Reading: Ben Franklin's Quest for Moral Perfection ([link](#))
- Wednesday, February 11th
 - Reading: *Autobiography*, excerpt 1 and *Autobiography*, excerpt 2

Week 6: *Temperance and the Good Life (continued)*

- Monday, February 16th
 - Reading: Ch. 2 – Temperance (*POH*)
- Wednesday, February 18th
 - Reading: Plato, *Gorgias* 479e–527e
 - ***Ben Franklin Virtue Paper Due***

Week 7: *Plato (continued) on Happiness and Public Spirit*

- Monday, February 23rd
 - Reading: Plato, *Republic* selections
- Wednesday, February 25th
 - Reading: Plato, *Republic* selections

Week 8: *Aristotle on Happiness*

- Monday, March 2nd
 - Reading: Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*, Book I
- Wednesday, March 4th
 - Reading: Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*, Book II

Week 9: *Happiness as Eudaimonia*

- Monday, March 9th
 - Reading: J. Annas, "Happiness as Achievement" ([link](#))
- Wednesday, March 11th
 - Reading: S. Little, 3 models of happiness – hedonic, goal-satisfaction, eudaimonic, *The Examined Run* excerpt (PDF)

Week 10: - *Spring Break*

Week 11: *Happiness as Pleasure*

- Monday, March 23rd
 - Reading: Robert Nozick - The Experience Machine - [excerpt](#) *Anarchy, State, and Utopia* (1974); Laurie Santos – lecture from Happiness course; Jennifer Frey response (PDF)
- Wednesday, March 25th
 - Reading: John Stuart Mill, *Utilitarianism* selections

Week 12: *Limitations of Happiness as Pleasure*

- Monday, March 30th



- Reading: Jonathan Haidt, Ch. 5 “Pursuit of Happiness” from *The Happiness Hypothesis*
- Wednesday, April 1st
 - Reading: Jonathan Haidt, Ch. 8 “The Felicity of Virtue” from *The Happiness Hypothesis*

Week 13: *Limitations of Happiness as Pleasure (continued)*

- Monday, April 6th
 - Reading: Paul Bloom – lecture: Our intuitions about what makes us happy are often wrong (PDF)
- Wednesday, April 8th
 - Reading: Peter Geach, “Why Men Need the Virtues” (PDF)

Week 14: *Suffering and Happiness*

- Monday, April 13th
 - Reading: Viktor Frankl’s *Man’s Search for Meaning*, excerpt PDF
- Wednesday, April 15th
 - Reading: Viktor Frankl’s *Man’s Search for Meaning*, excerpt PDF (continued); Paul Bloom counter-hedonism – *The Sweet Spot*, excerpt (PDF)
 - ***Self-Help Book Project Due***

Week 15: *Silence and Happiness*

- Monday, April 20th
 - Reading: Ch. 12 – POH, Pursuing Happiness Today
- Wednesday, April 15th
 - Reading: Tocqueville, *Democracy in America*, Ch. 13 – “Why the Americans Show Themselves so Restive in the Midst of their Well-Being”

Week 16:

- Monday, April 27th
 - Final Exam Review

GE Theme course submission worksheet: Health & Wellbeing

Overview

Courses in the GE Themes aim to provide students with opportunities to explore big picture ideas and problems within the specific practice and expertise of a discipline or department. Although many Theme courses serve within disciplinary majors or minors, by requesting inclusion in the General Education, programs are committing to the incorporation of the goals of the focal theme and the success and participation of students from outside of their program.

Each category of the GE has specific learning goals and Expected Learning Outcomes (ELOs) that connect to the big picture goals of the program. ELOs describe the knowledge or skills students should have by the end of the course. Courses in the GE Themes must meet the ELOs common for **all** GE Themes and those specific to the Theme, in addition to any ELOs the instructor has developed specific to that course. All courses in the GE must indicate that they are part of the GE and include the Goals and ELOs of their GE category on their syllabus.

The prompts in this form elicit information about how this course meets the expectations of the GE Themes. The form will be reviewed by a group of content experts (the Theme Advisory) and by a group of curriculum experts (the Theme Panel), with the latter having responsibility for the ELOs and Goals common to all themes (those things that make a course appropriate for the GE Themes) and the former having responsibility for the ELOs and Goals specific to the topic of **this** Theme.

Briefly describe how this course connects to or exemplifies the concept of this Theme (Health & Wellbeing)

In a sentence or two, explain how this class “fits” within the focal Theme. This will help reviewers understand the intended frame of reference for the course-specific activities described below.

(enter text here)

Appendix

Briefly describe how this course connects to or exemplifies the concept of this Theme (Health & Wellbeing)

This course understands “health and wellbeing” in terms of the pursuit of happiness, and it approaches happiness as a subject of philosophical and historical inquiry. Through weekly readings, quizzes, a paper, and a final project, “The Pursuit of Happiness” challenges students to think about many different kinds of good lives and what is consistent across them. It evaluates social and political conditions of flourishing and evaluates assumptions about virtue, responsibility, and a good life that informed the American Founding. The investigation is historical (assessing the lives of the Founders), normative (examining whether there are any ‘oughts’ or virtuous elements of a good life), political (exploring what role, if any, a government should play in supporting the happiness of its citizens), and theoretical (evaluating hedonic, eudaimonic, and desire-satisfaction accounts of happiness).

ELO 1.1.

Reading and Weekly Activities: Students will develop critical and logical thinking skills through reading and analyzing texts by authors such as Cicero (Week 2), Frederick Douglass (Week 4), Plato (Weeks 7-8), Aristotle (Week 8), and John Stuart Mill (Week 11). In discussion and weekly quizzes, students will be asked to investigate competing visions of the good life (e.g. the difference between hedonic, eudaimonic, and desire-satisfaction accounts of happiness), learn to articulate the differences among these visions, and explore how these visions inform our public and private lives.

Lectures: Lectures are Socratic. Students are invited to engage with living questions about the relationship between morality and happiness, happiness and pleasure, friendship and happiness, the good life and citizenship, etc. This manner of instruction fosters “engagement in critical thinking” by helping students to take ownership for the course content, to ask better questions, and to communicate ideas clearly with peers.

Evaluation: Students are evaluated in their understanding in three ways: (1) Reading Checks in which they write 2 questions or confusing moments generated by the reading each class (a way to demonstrate they did the reading without feeling distressed if they did not understand it perfectly), (2) Weekly Open-Note Quizzes - to make sure they are tracking the important parts of the reading, and (3) an Exam that will primarily consist of document-based questions - identifying the thinker and explaining the perspective for key passages we read over the semester.

ELO 1.2.

Students will engage in advanced, in-depth, scholarly exploration of health and wellness through:

Readings and Lectures: The course is structured topically—e.g., Virtue and the Pursuit of Happiness (evaluating where the phrase “life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness” comes from and how it informs/has informed American civic life), Temperance and the Good Life (examining self-governance in human flourishing), Happiness and Justice (looking at ways in

which social structures might undermine the flourishing of its citizens), the Psychology of Happiness (exploring contemporary social scientific accounts of happiness), etc. Each course topic engages at least two thinkers on the topic to support depth of treatment (e.g. Robert Nozick and John Stuart Mill in Week 11, “Happiness as Pleasure.”)

Evaluation: Students’ Self-Help Book Project will add greater depth of inquiry for their selected topics. Students will select a **contemporary self-help book** and critique it, in conversation with the Founders and philosophers we read this term. Students will investigate whether the book provides a robust and defensible vision of happiness compatible with a flourishing citizenry. This assignment will involve mature engagement with course texts, supplementary research on the ideas contained within, and investigation with a contemporary perspective, as captured in a book of their choosing. This project involves formal writing. Students are encouraged to select their self-help book early in the term and have it approved by the professor. Examples of texts include *How to Win Friends and Influence People*, *Atomic Habits*, *Think and Grow Rich*, *The Power of Now*, *How to Stop Worrying and Start Living*, *The Success Principles*, *The Purpose Driven Life*, and *Me, But Better*. Rubric forthcoming.

ELO 2.1

Lectures: In class, students will be invited to identify the differences and similarities among various approaches to wellbeing and happiness. They will compare strengths and weaknesses of these approaches (e.g., compatibility with values pluralism, obstacles to measurement, mistaken intuitions about what will make us happy). Moreover, students will evaluate the synthetic approaches of the Founders. For instance, many of the Founders were influenced by both classical and early modern thinkers on the good life. Students will also be invited to reflect on their own experiences. For example, Paul Bloom writes about constructive forms of suffering in a happy life as a challenge to purely hedonic accounts of a good life. Students may reflect on challenges or pains that enrich the human experience (e.g., raising children, running a marathon, completing arduous tasks in the workplace, etc.). They may also reflect on forms of suffering that detract from a good life. They will learn about posttraumatic growth and Eranda Jayawickreme’s myth of posttraumatic growth. Students are invited to evaluate their intuitions about what will make them happy and how different forms of suffering can both contribute to, and undermine, a good life.

Evaluations: In Reading Checks, students are instructed to identify distinctives of various approaches. In weekly quizzes, they do the same. In their semester projects, they may recognize more than one account of the good life that bears on the self-help author’s descriptions of happiness.

ELO 2.2

Evaluations: A semester-long assignment is a virtue-developmental task akin to Ben Franklin’s project quest for moral perfection. Students will select two virtues to practice over the course of the semester, journaling about the process. These papers involve both theory and reflection. Students will provide an overview of their two virtues in a broadly Aristotelian virtue theory

literature, then will describe their attempts at growing in virtue throughout the term and assess any impacts on their happiness.

Readings and Lectures: A Socratic distinctive is self-examination. I have already said that, in class, students will reflect on suffering and happiness. They will also be invited to self-examine on the role of friendship in sustaining happiness, whether the good of the *many* competes with their *individual* good, what it might mean for a government to preserve a right to happiness (and whether our government is succeeding in doing so, and their perceptions of the relationship between moral and happiness. Because the readings and conversations concern a good life—a topic relevant to everyone—encouraging reflection and self-assessment will come naturally in this course.

ELO 3.1

Readings and Lectures: Students will read (and subsequently discuss in class) an interdisciplinary set of readings on happiness and wellbeing. These include the following:

Historical (assessing the words and lives of critical American founding voices—Jefferson, Franklin, Adams, Hamilton, Madison, as well as Lincoln and Douglass),

Normative (examining whether there are any 'oughts' or virtuous elements of a good life—Franklin, Plato, Aristotle, Mill, Annas, Frey, Haidt),

Political (exploring what role, if any, a government should play in supporting the happiness of its citizens—Cicero, Hamilton, Madison, Murray, Rosen, Lincoln, Douglass), and

Theoretical (evaluating hedonic, eudaimonic, and desire-satisfaction accounts of happiness—Nozick, Little, Bloom, Tocqueville, Lyubomirsky).

Evaluations: Both semester projects engage ELO 3.1. The contemporary self-help book paper encourages students to apply historical and theoretical lenses to contemporary treatments of health and happiness. It asks them to examine whether the book provides a robust and defensible vision of happiness compatible with a flourishing citizenry, according to the Adams or Hamilton, for example. The Adams paper invites students to participate in Adams' normative (and historical) plan of virtue development, to live a better life. This invites a ***personal perspective*** on an account engaged in our course.

ELO 3.2

Readings and Lectures: This course aims to help students take happiness seriously by increasing their self-awareness concerning their intuitions about what will make them happy. For example, wealth improves self-reported happiness but only to a point, after which it does little to improve the quality of one's life. The course also aims to help students ask better questions about suffering in a good life, moral responsibility, social dimensions of wellness, and where physical health fits in. For students making big decisions about career, family, and friendships— and at a decisive moment in their lives for building habits and forming character—these conversations

and opportunities to reflect are important. We will discuss “strategies” for promoting wellbeing—both in exploring Santos’ Yale Happiness Course syllabus and Ben Franklin’s plan for moral improvement. Some of this will be critical analysis, but Ben Franklin’s strategies will also be practiced by students.

Evaluation: The Ben Franklin project will involve a practice in ‘putting on’ virtue to grow in happiness. In Reading Checks, the Exam, and quizzes, students will acquire a toolbox of strategies (effective and not) about how to improve wellbeing.

Connect this course to the Goals and ELOs shared by *all* Themes

Below are the Goals and ELOs common to all Themes. In the accompanying table, for each ELO, describe the activities (discussions, readings, lectures, assignments) that provide opportunities for students to achieve those outcomes. The answer should be concise and use language accessible to colleagues outside of the submitting department or discipline. The specifics of the activities matter—listing “readings” without a reference to the topic of those readings will not allow the reviewers to understand how the ELO will be met. However, the panel evaluating the fit of the course to the Theme will review this form in conjunction with the syllabus, so if readings, lecture/discussion topics, or other specifics are provided on the syllabus, it is not necessary to reiterate them within this form. The ELOs are expected to vary in their “coverage” in terms of number of activities or emphasis within the course. Examples from successful courses are shared on the next page.

Goal 1: Successful students will analyze an important topic or idea at a more advanced and in-depth level than the foundations. In this context, “advanced” refers to courses that are e.g., synthetic, rely on research or cutting-edge findings, or deeply engage with the subject matter, among other possibilities.

Goal 2: Successful students will integrate approaches to the theme by making connections to out-of-classroom experiences with academic knowledge or across disciplines and/or to work they have done in previous classes and that they anticipate doing in future.

	Course activities and assignments to meet these ELOs
ELO 1.1 Engage in critical and logical thinking.	
ELO 1.2 Engage in an advanced, in-depth, scholarly exploration of the topic or ideas within this theme.	
ELO 2.1 Identify, describe, and synthesize approaches or experiences.	
ELO 2.2 Demonstrate a developing sense of self as a learner through reflection, self-assessment, and creative work, building on prior experiences to respond to new and challenging contexts.	

Example responses for proposals within “Citizenship” (from Sociology 3200, Comm 2850, French 2803):

ELO 1.1 Engage in critical and logical thinking.	<i>This course will build skills needed to engage in critical and logical thinking about immigration and immigration related policy through: Weekly reading response papers which require the students to synthesize and critically evaluate cutting-edge scholarship on immigration; Engagement in class-based discussion and debates on immigration-related topics using evidence-based logical reasoning to evaluate policy positions; Completion of an assignment which build skills in analyzing empirical data on immigration (Assignment #1)</i>
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	<p>Completion 3 assignments which build skills in connecting individual experiences with broader population-based patterns (Assignments #1, #2, #3)</p> <p>Completion of 3 quizzes in which students demonstrate comprehension of the course readings and materials.</p>
<p>ELO 2.1 Identify, describe, and synthesize approaches or experiences.</p>	<p>Students engage in advanced exploration of each module topic through a combination of lectures, readings, and discussions.</p> <p><u>Lecture</u> Course materials come from a variety of sources to help students engage in the relationship between media and citizenship at an advanced level. Each of the 12 modules has 3-4 lectures that contain information from both peer-reviewed and popular sources. Additionally, each module has at least one guest lecture from an expert in that topic to increase students' access to people with expertise in a variety of areas.</p> <p><u>Reading</u> The textbook for this course provides background information on each topic and corresponds to the lectures. Students also take some control over their own learning by choosing at least one peer-reviewed article and at least one newspaper article from outside the class materials to read and include in their weekly discussion posts.</p> <p><u>Discussions</u> Students do weekly discussions and are given flexibility in their topic choices in order to allow them to take some control over their education. They are also asked to provide information from sources they've found outside the lecture materials. In this way, they are able to explore areas of particular interest to them and practice the skills they will need to gather information about current events, analyze this information, and communicate it with others.</p> <p>Activity Example: Civility impacts citizenship behaviors in many ways. Students are asked to choose a TED talk from a provided list (or choose another speech of their interest) and summarize and evaluate what it says about the relationship between civility and citizenship. Examples of Ted Talks on the list include Steven Petrow on the difference between being polite and being civil, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's talk on how a single story can perpetuate stereotypes, and Claire Wardle's talk on how diversity can enhance citizenship.</p>
<p>ELO 2.2 Demonstrate a developing sense of self as a learner through reflection, self-assessment, and creative work, building on prior experiences to respond to new and challenging contexts.</p>	<p>Students will conduct research on a specific event or site in Paris not already discussed in depth in class. Students will submit a 300-word abstract of their topic and a bibliography of at least five reputable academic and mainstream sources. At the end of the semester they will submit a 5-page research paper and present their findings in a 10-minute oral and visual presentation in a small-group setting in Zoom.</p> <p>Some examples of events and sites: The Paris Commune, an 1871 socialist uprising violently squelched by conservative forces</p>

	<i>Jazz-Age Montmartre, where a small community of African-Americans—including actress and singer Josephine Baker, who was just inducted into the French Pantheon—settled and worked after World War I.</i> <i>The Vélodrome d’hiver Roundup, 16-17 July 1942, when 13,000 Jews were rounded up by Paris police before being sent to concentration camps</i> <i>The Marais, a vibrant Paris neighborhood inhabited over the centuries by aristocrats, then Jews, then the LGBTQ+ community, among other groups.</i>
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Goals and ELOs unique to Health & Wellbeing

Below are the Goals and ELOs specific to this Theme. As above, in the accompanying Table, for each ELO, describe the activities (discussions, readings, lectures, assignments) that provide opportunities for students to achieve those outcomes. The answer should be concise and use language accessible to colleagues outside of the submitting department or discipline. The ELOs are expected to vary in their “coverage” in terms of number of activities or emphasis within the course. Examples from successful courses are shared on the next page.

GOAL 3: Students will explore and analyze health and wellbeing through attention to at least two dimensions of wellbeing. (Ex: physical, mental, emotional, career, environmental, spiritual, intellectual, creative, financial, etc.).

	Course activities and assignments to meet these ELOs
ELO 3.1 Explore and analyze health and wellbeing from theoretical, socio-economic, scientific, historical, cultural, technological, policy, and/or personal perspectives.	
ELO 3.2 Identify, reflect on, or apply strategies for promoting health and well-being.	

Subject: RE: Chase Center Concurrence Request
Date: Thursday, July 17, 2025 at 2:19:43 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Snyder, Anastasia
To: Fortier, Jeremy
CC: Schoen, Brian
Attachments: image001.png, image002.png

Hello. I've heard back from everyone in EHE and there are no concurrence concerns about the course syllabi you forwarded. Best of luck with your new academic programs.

Sincerely,
Tasha



Anastasia R. Snyder
Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs
College of Education and Human Ecology
The Ohio State University
Snyder.893@osu.edu
614-688-4169

From: Fortier, Jeremy <fortier.28@osu.edu>
Sent: Monday, July 14, 2025 8:20 AM
To: Snyder, Anastasia <snyder.893@osu.edu>
Cc: Schoen, Brian <schoen.110@osu.edu>
Subject: Re: Chase Center Concurrence Request

Hi Tasha,

I wanted to reach out regarding the concurrence requests below, because while the exigencies of building a new program compel Brian Schoen I to press ahead in the concurrence process, we also had constructive discussions with several units last week, and hope to do the same with Education this week if it would be helpful. I don't want to burden your calendar, but let us know if we can answer any questions over the next few days.

All best,

Jeremy

From: Snyder, Anastasia <snyder.893@osu.edu>

Date: Thursday, July 3, 2025 at 10:30 AM

To: Fortier, Jeremy <fortier.28@osu.edu>

Cc: Schoen, Brian <schoen.110@osu.edu>

Subject: RE: Chase Center Concurrence Request

Hi Jeremy,

Thank you for your email. I will share these syllabi with the relevant programs to get their feedback and concurrence. I will follow up when I hear back from them. Being summer time, many faculty are slow to respond to email since they are off-duty. I will request a review as soon as possible though.

Sincerely,
Tasha



Anastasia R. Snyder
Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs
College of Education and Human Ecology
The Ohio State University
Snyder.893@osu.edu
614-688-4169

From: Fortier, Jeremy <fortier.28@osu.edu>

Sent: Wednesday, July 2, 2025 12:54 PM

To: Snyder, Anastasia <snyder.893@osu.edu>

Cc: Schoen, Brian <schoen.110@osu.edu>

Subject: Chase Center Concurrence Request

Hi Tasha,

This summer, I've been working with the Chase Center's incoming faculty and Associate Director Brian Schoen (copied on this e-mail) to develop a suite of courses for a Civics, Law, and Leadership degree Chase will be offering (CIVICLL). The result is the twelve syllabi attached to this e-mail. The courses cover a lot of territory in terms of subject matter and disciplinary approaches, but the course titles should give you a good sense of which syllabi may be most

relevant to the College of Education and Human Ecology for concurrence purposes.

Let me know if we can answer any questions as the concurrence process moves forward. I know there's a lot to dig into here, but we're eager to move forward with some exciting courses as we build a new program.

All best,

Jeremy

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THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

CHASE CENTER FOR CIVICS, CULTURE,
AND SOCIETY

Jeremy Fortier

Assistant Director, Salmon P. Chase Center for Civics, Culture, and Society

The Ohio State University

Latest Article: "[Why to be a Civic Constitutionalist](#)"

Subject: Re: Chase Center Concurrence Request
Date: Tuesday, July 15, 2025 at 11:07:58 AM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Ralph, Anne
To: Fortier, Jeremy
CC: Schoen, Brian
Attachments: image001.png, image003.png

Jeremy and Brian,

We have had the chance to review the syllabi you sent. Law is pleased to grant concurrence.

As you may know, Law is hoping to have an undergraduate course that fulfills the new American Civic Literacy requirement. I hope we can count on your partnership and support in that endeavor going forward.

Thanks,
Anne



Anne E. Ralph
Morgan E. Shipman Professor in Law
Associate Dean for Academic Affairs & Strategic Initiatives
Michael E. Moritz College of Law
55 West 12th Avenue | Columbus, OH 43210
614-247-4797 Office | ralph.52@osu.edu
Pronouns: she/her/hers

From: Ralph, Anne <ralph.52@osu.edu>
Date: Monday, July 14, 2025 at 3:08 PM
To: Fortier, Jeremy <fortier.28@osu.edu>
Cc: Schoen, Brian <schoen.110@osu.edu>
Subject: Re: Chase Center Concurrence Request

Hi, Jeremy and Brian,
Thanks for your email. We are partway through reviewing these, and I will get our concurrence note to you as soon as I can.
AER

Anne E. Ralph

Morgan E. Shipman Professor in Law

Associate Dean for Academic Affairs & Strategic Initiatives

Michael E. Moritz College of Law

55 West 12th Avenue | Columbus, OH 43210

614-247-4797 Office | ralph.52@osu.edu

Pronouns: she/her/hers

From: Fortier, Jeremy <fortier.28@osu.edu>
Date: Monday, July 14, 2025 at 8:18 AM
To: Ralph, Anne <ralph.52@osu.edu>
Cc: Schoen, Brian <schoen.110@osu.edu>
Subject: Re: Chase Center Concurrence Request

Hi Anne,

I wanted to reach out regarding the concurrence requests below, because while the exigencies of building a new program compel Brian Schoen I to press ahead in the concurrence process, we also had constructive discussions with several units last week, and hope to do the same with Moritz this week if it would be helpful. I don't want to burden your calendar, but let us know if we can answer any questions over the next few days.

All best,

Jeremy

From: Fortier, Jeremy <fortier.28@osu.edu>
Date: Wednesday, July 2, 2025 at 11:59 AM
To: Ralph, Anne <ralph.52@osu.edu>
Cc: Schoen, Brian <schoen.110@osu.edu>
Subject: Chase Center Concurrence Request

Hi Anne,

This summer, I've been working with the Chase Center's incoming faculty and Associate Director Brian Schoen (copied on this e-mail) to develop a suite of courses for a Civics, Law, and Leadership degree Chase will be offering (CIVICLL). The result is the twelve syllabi attached to this e-mail (more to follow down the road).

The courses cover a lot of territory in terms of subject matter and disciplinary approaches, but the course titles should give you a good sense of which syllabi may be most relevant to the Moritz College of Law for concurrence purposes.

Let me know if we can answer any questions as the concurrence process moves forward. I know there's a lot to dig into here, but we're eager to move forward with some exciting courses as we build a new program.

All best,

Jeremy

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THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

CHASE CENTER FOR CIVICS, CULTURE,
AND SOCIETY

Jeremy Fortier

Assistant Director, Salmon P. Chase Center for Civics, Culture, and Society

The Ohio State University

Latest Article: "[Why to be a Civic Constitutionalist](#)"

Subject: RE: Chase Center Concurrence Request
Date: Friday, July 18, 2025 at 12:16:50 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Greenbaum, Rob
To: Fortier, Jeremy
CC: Schoen, Brian, Clark, Jill
Attachments: image001.png, image002.png

Hi Jeremy,

The Glenn College is pleased to provide concurrence for the following eight classes:

American Religions
American Witch-Hunts
Freedom and Equality in American Literature
God and Science
Historical Political Economy
Love and Friendship
Shakespear's Lessons in Leadership
Pursuit of Happiness

While we do not necessarily have concerns about the remaining four,
Civic Friendship and Dialogue in American Democracy
How Politics Breaks your Brain
Presidential Crises in War and Peace
Evolution of Citizenship

we would prefer to have the relevant faculty in the college review the syllabi when they are back from summer break. Those are all proposed new GE classes, but I don't think our waiting until August does anything now to slow their getting into the queue for GE review.

I've also copied my colleague Jill Clark, who chairs our undergraduate studies committee.

Sincerely,

Rob



Robert T. Greenbaum

Associate Vice Provost for Academic Programs

Office of Academic Affairs

Professor, Associate Dean for Curriculum

John Glenn College of Public Affairs

350E Page Hall, 1810 College Road, Columbus, OH 43210

614-292-9578 Office / 614-292-2548 Fax

<https://glenn.osu.edu/rob-greenbaum>

Pronouns: he/him/his

From: Fortier, Jeremy <fortier.28@osu.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, July 2, 2025 1:03 PM
To: Greenbaum, Rob <greenbaum.3@osu.edu>
Cc: Schoen, Brian <schoen.110@osu.edu>
Subject: Chase Center Concurrence Request

Hi Rob,

This summer, I've been working with the Chase Center's incoming faculty and Associate Director Brian Schoen (copied on this e-mail) to develop a suite of courses for a Civics, Law, and Leadership degree Chase will be offering (CIVICLL). The result is the twelve syllabi attached to this e-mail (more to follow down the road).

The courses cover a lot of territory in terms of subject matter and disciplinary approaches, but the course titles should give you a good sense of which syllabi may be most relevant to the Glenn College for concurrence purposes.

Let me know if we can answer any questions as the concurrence process moves forward. I know there's a lot to dig into here, but we're eager to move forward with some exciting courses as we build a new program.

All best,

Jeremy

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THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

CHASE CENTER FOR CIVICS, CULTURE,
AND SOCIETY

Jeremy Fortier

Assistant Director, Salmon P. Chase Center for Civics, Culture, and Society

The Ohio State University

Latest Article: "[Why to be a Civic Constitutionalist](#)"

Subject: Re: Chase Center Concurrence Request
Date: Friday, August 15, 2025 at 2:52:08 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Schoen, Brian
To: Vankeerbergen, Bernadette, Martin, Andrew, Fortier, Jeremy
Attachments: image001.png, image002.png, image003.png, image001.png

Thank you Bernadette.



Brian Schoen
Associate Director, Salmon P. Chase Center for Civics, Culture, and Society
The Ohio State University
614-247-0672 | (c) 740-517-6967
Faculty and Associate Director for Academic Affairs
[Settling Ohio: First Peoples and Beyond](#), National Book Festival, Allen G. Noble Book Award
[Continent in Crisis: The Civil War in North America](#)

From: Vankeerbergen, Bernadette <vankeerbergen.1@osu.edu>
Date: Friday, August 15, 2025 at 2:31 PM
To: Martin, Andrew <martin.1026@osu.edu>, Fortier, Jeremy <fortier.28@osu.edu>
Cc: Schoen, Brian <schoen.110@osu.edu>
Subject: RE: Chase Center Concurrence Request

Hello all,

I do not have any information that contradicts what we have below. So to the best of my knowledge, it's all accurate to me.

Thanks,
Bernadette

From: Martin, Andrew <martin.1026@osu.edu>
Sent: Friday, August 15, 2025 9:57 AM
To: Vankeerbergen, Bernadette <vankeerbergen.1@osu.edu>; Fortier, Jeremy <fortier.28@osu.edu>
Cc: Schoen, Brian <schoen.110@osu.edu>
Subject: RE: Chase Center Concurrence Request

Sure, I think we are on the same page, but do take a look.



Andrew W. Martin

Associate Dean for Undergraduate Education
Professor of Sociology
114 University Hall, 230 North Oval Mall
Columbus, OH 43210
614-247-6641 Office
martin.1026@osu.edu

From: Vankeerbergen, Bernadette <vankeerbergen.1@osu.edu>
Sent: Friday, August 15, 2025 9:57 AM
To: Fortier, Jeremy <fortier.28@osu.edu>; Martin, Andrew <martin.1026@osu.edu>
Cc: Schoen, Brian <schoen.110@osu.edu>
Subject: RE: Chase Center Concurrence Request

Hi Andrew and all,

Would you like me to look over all this to make sure it syncs with what I have? Or if you feel comfortable that you already have the necessary information, please let me know. I am happy to do whatever. But if you want me to double-check, please give me a bit of time this morning since it is, as everyone has noted, a bit messy and complex.

Many thanks,
Bernadette



Bernadette Vankeerbergen, Ph.D.

Assistant Dean, Curriculum
College of Arts and Sciences
114F University Hall, 230 North Oval Mall.
Columbus, OH 43210
Phone: 614-688-5679
<http://asccas.osu.edu>

From: Fortier, Jeremy <fortier.28@osu.edu>
Sent: Friday, August 15, 2025 9:34 AM
To: Martin, Andrew <martin.1026@osu.edu>; Vankeerbergen, Bernadette <vankeerbergen.1@osu.edu>
Cc: Schoen, Brian <schoen.110@osu.edu>
Subject: Re: Chase Center Concurrence Request

Brian should follow up with you shortly (I know that he's always happy to engage departments but hasn't heard anything direct from PSYCH over the past month, including in the two weeks since we received the specific claim regarding overlap with PSYCH 2303 – which looks like a great course!).

Thanks for bearing with us. The system we've established for the second round of courses should be easier to manage...

From: Martin, Andrew <martin.1026@osu.edu>
Date: Friday, August 15, 2025 at 8:17 AM
To: Fortier, Jeremy <fortier.28@osu.edu>, Vankeerbergen, Bernadette <vankeerbergen.1@osu.edu>
Cc: Schoen, Brian <schoen.110@osu.edu>
Subject: RE: Chase Center Concurrence Request

Ok, this is helpful. Brian, would you mind pinging psychology one more time, say early next week, and cc me? I can then ask them to respond more substantively.

Best
Andrew



Andrew W. Martin
Associate Dean for Undergraduate Education
Professor of Sociology
114 University Hall, 230 North Oval Mall
Columbus, OH 43210
614-247-6641 Office
martin.1026@osu.edu

From: Fortier, Jeremy <fortier.28@osu.edu>
Sent: Friday, August 15, 2025 9:15 AM
To: Martin, Andrew <martin.1026@osu.edu>; Vankeerbergen, Bernadette <vankeerbergen.1@osu.edu>
Cc: Schoen, Brian <schoen.110@osu.edu>
Subject: Re: Chase Center Concurrence Request

Hi Andrew –

Thanks for this. Responses regarding three outstanding issues below (I should emphasize I don't mean to litigate the substance of these issues here, just clarifying the state of play for everyone's sake).

Let me know if I can add anything further.

All best,

Jeremy

From: Martin, Andrew <martin.1026@osu.edu>
Date: Friday, August 15, 2025 at 7:21 AM
To: Fortier, Jeremy <fortier.28@osu.edu>, Vankeerbergen, Bernadette <vankeerbergen.1@osu.edu>
Cc: Schoen, Brian <schoen.110@osu.edu>

Subject: RE: Chase Center Concurrence Request

Hi Jeremy

Below are my responses in red, Berandette may have additional feedback. Broadly (with a couple of minor exceptions) I think we are in agreement where things are at.

We'll continue to update you on the most recent round of courses. I agree that this new process is working well.

Best

Andrew



Andrew W. Martin

Associate Dean for Undergraduate Education
Professor of Sociology
114 University Hall, 230 North Oval Mall
Columbus, OH 43210
614-247-6641 Office
martin.1026@osu.edu

From: Fortier, Jeremy <fortier.28@osu.edu>

Sent: Thursday, August 14, 2025 2:47 PM

To: Martin, Andrew <martin.1026@osu.edu>; Vankeerbergen, Bernadette <vankeerbergen.1@osu.edu>

Cc: Schoen, Brian <schoen.110@osu.edu>

Subject: Re: Chase Center Concurrence Request

Here are my notes on where each course we submitted on 6/2 currently stands within ASC. Correct or clarify as appropriate:

- “American Religion(s).” Initial non-concurrence from SOCIOL and HISTORY. We have worked with SOCIOL to address their concerns (Cynthia Colen approved a revised syllabus this week, not sure if she’s been in touch with you). HISTORY continues to deny concurrence (Brian Schoen and Scott Levi have been in extensive and even productive discussions about these matters, but some deadlock appears inevitable).

ASC understood this course was delayed. Could you send Sociology’s concurrence?

Cynthia Colen emailed Brian Schoen and I on 8/12 to note that changes to the course satisfied SOCIOL’s concerns. You may want to follow up with her to confirm that this results in formally withdrawing non-concurrence.

- “American Witch-Hunts.” Non-concurrence from COMPSTD. This seems like a deadlock (Brian Schoen reached out to Hugh Urban, but hasn’t heard back in a while).

This is ASC’s understanding too. Feel free to cc me if you reach out to Hugh again.

- “Civic Friendship and Dialogue in American Democracy.” Initial concerns from CEHV have been addressed to everyone’s satisfaction.

Agreed, seems ok to move forward

- “Freedom and Equality in American Literature.” ENGLISH’s initial non-concurrence on our courses dealing with American literature has moved to “neither concurrence nor non-concurrence” (which we gather will remain their policy for our courses dealing with American literature, at least in the near future).

Agreed, seems ok to move forward

- “God and Science.” COMPSTD and PHILOS both provided non-concurrence. We have withdrawn the course.

This was ASC’s understanding too

- “Shakespeare’s Lessons in Leadership.” ENGLISH provided non-concurrence. We are reworking the proposal, which if it proceeds will not include Shakespeare in the title, and the course content will also be reconceived. So right now, this one is on the shelf but will come back in terms that ENGLISH should find more acceptable.

Also understood that Theatre had concerns regarding overlap with THEATRE 5771.10

Right, I should have noted this, but since we’re reworking the course, it’s not a pressing matter.

- “Presidential Crises in War and Peace.” We have reworked this syllabus substantially, and gather that the revision have satisfied POLITSC. They have also made progress with HISTORY, but full concurrence seems to require revising the syllabus further to a degree that we think constitutes “micro-management” of our curriculum (changing specific readings and case studies). We can’t agree to this (particularly since the course instructor has already gone a long way towards making the course material more inter-disciplinary, in the service of his initial learning objectives). So here as elsewhere, we’re deadlocked with HISTORY.

Thanks for the update on this, ASC knew about concerns from History and PS, thanks for letting us know about the latter

- “Love and Friendship.” This course appears broadly acceptable.

Agreed, seems ok to move forward

- “How Politics Breaks Your Brain.” This course appears broadly acceptable.

Agreed, seems ok to move forward

- “Historical Political Economy.” GEOG’s initial non-concurrence has shifted to “neither concurrence nor non-concurrence” (as communicated to Brian Schoen via email).

Understood that Political Science saw this as overlapping some with their POLITSC 3280 course, The Politics of Markets. If PS has concurred, please let us know

- “The Evolution of Citizenship.” HISTORY does not concur.

This was ASC’s understanding too

- “The Pursuits of Happiness.” We addressed initial concerns from CLASSICS, PSYCH has dropped its initial non-concurrence, and HISTORY does not concur.
Can you send us Psychology’s concurrence (last we saw was non-concurrence from them)

I may have over-stated here. We submitted the course on 7/2; on 7/17 PSYCH requested extension until 9/15 to review Pursuits of Happiness; on 7/31 PSYCH denied concurrence based on claim of overlap with PSYCH 2303, with syllabus for that course attached; later that same day Brian Schoen sent detailed response regarding overlap between those courses to Sarah Schoppe-Sullivan and Lisa Cravens-Brown, but did not receive a response then; Brian followed up on 8/12 with no response. So it seems that PSYCH is denying concurrence based on a particular point of claimed overlap, but is not responsive regarding the details of that claim.

In short: there are points of deadlock with HISTORY and COMPSTD. Other initial concerns have been allayed (albeit to varying degrees). Am I missing anything key?

Thanks again for your time with this (I think the system we’ve established for courses moving forward will be more efficient...)

All best,

Jeremy

From: Martin, Andrew <martin.1026@osu.edu>
Date: Thursday, August 14, 2025 at 12:47 PM
To: Fortier, Jeremy <fortier.28@osu.edu>, Vankeerbergen, Bernadette <vankeerbergen.1@osu.edu>
Cc: Schoen, Brian <schoen.110@osu.edu>
Subject: Re: Chase Center Concurrence Request

Good idea! Can you send me what you have? I’ve been keeping a record of where I think we are at. We could then compare notes,

The Ohio State University
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Associate Dean for Undergraduate Education
Professor of Sociology
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martin.1026@osu.edu

From: Fortier, Jeremy <fortier.28@osu.edu>
Sent: Thursday, August 14, 2025 1:14:01 PM

To: Martin, Andrew <martin.1026@osu.edu>; Vankeerbergen, Bernadette <vankeerbergen.1@osu.edu>
Cc: Schoen, Brian <schoen.110@osu.edu>
Subject: Re: Chase Center Concurrence Request

Hi Andrew and Bernadette,

Would it be possible to send us an updated statement of where concurrence stands in Arts & Sciences for our initial set of course submissions?

I know the original submission procedure was a bit unwieldy (and I'm pleased we've settled on a more efficient procedure for courses moving forward), but there have been updates regarding the first set of courses, so it would be helpful to summarize where things stand with the various units (e.g., I know that we've worked with SOCIOL to navigate their initial concerns re: "American Religion(s)", but HISTORY's non-concurrence is probably still standing, etc).

If it's helpful, I could send you a summary of my understanding of where things stand on each course, and you could confirm or clarify.

I apologize for the burden! Thanks for your time with this. - Jeremy

From: Martin, Andrew <martin.1026@osu.edu>
Date: Monday, August 4, 2025 at 6:58 AM
To: Fortier, Jeremy <fortier.28@osu.edu>, Vankeerbergen, Bernadette <vankeerbergen.1@osu.edu>
Cc: Schoen, Brian <schoen.110@osu.edu>
Subject: RE: Chase Center Concurrence Request

Hi Jeremy and Brian

Do you mind if I share this with the units that have denied concurrence, such as History and comparative studies (You may already have done so, but I wanted to make sure they were aware of your perspective on the courses). Again, if units continue to consider the course to be overlapping to a substantial degree to their existing offering, then that will be a matter for OAA to adjudicate.

Thanks
Andrew



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martin.1026@osu.edu

From: Fortier, Jeremy <fortier.28@osu.edu>

Sent: Saturday, August 2, 2025 2:58 PM
To: Martin, Andrew <martin.1026@osu.edu>; Vankeerbergen, Bernadette <vankeerbergen.1@osu.edu>
Cc: Schoen, Brian <schoen.110@osu.edu>
Subject: Re: Chase Center Concurrence Request

Thanks, Andrew. I've responded to your questions in bold font below – just let me know if I can clarify further.

Let me add that although we've reached certain points of deadlock, this has been a learning process, and we will continue to work to engage everyone constructively moving forward.

From: Martin, Andrew <martin.1026@osu.edu>
Date: Friday, August 1, 2025 at 4:01 PM
To: Fortier, Jeremy <fortier.28@osu.edu>, Vankeerbergen, Bernadette <vankeerbergen.1@osu.edu>
Cc: Schoen, Brian <schoen.110@osu.edu>
Subject: RE: Chase Center Concurrence Request

Hi Jeremy

Thanks for sharing this detailed response, this is very helpful. Couple of quick questions/updates for you:

1. It sounds like Chase has had some conversations with units like History and Comp Studies, but that you disagree about the concerns they've raised with potential overlap. That is of course your right. My question is, do you foresee any additional conversation with those units? Typically when there is disagreement and a solution cannot be found Randy Smith will get involved to adjudicate the matter.

Our engagement with these units will be ongoing (and, in fact, we've already been in touch with them about courses in the pipeline). However, we don't expect to reach agreement about our first slate of courses. Among the courses at issue, we have made some modifications to several syllabi and even removed one from consideration. If these changes are not satisfactory, we're at a deadlock.

2. As you know, a number of units have asked for more time to review courses. Fortunately, many of the larger units with more courses have already provided feedback. That being said, we do have a few remaining departments (many that are smaller with faculty performing multiple service roles) that have asked for more time. I will reach out to them and ask if, from the existing set of courses, are there any that raise immediate concerns about potential overlap and to share that feedback.

Our position is unchanged. We can't delay until the Fall. We recognize that we're making some big asks, but It's not feasible to build a new academic program by taking summers off. We also didn't anticipate that circulating courses over the summer would pose an insuperable obstacle since the College of Arts & Science's Concurrence Request [Form](#), and ASC's Curriculum and Assessment Operations [Manual](#), refer only to a two-week timeline (not qualified by time of year). OAA's Academic Organization, Curriculum, and Assessment [Handbook](#) also indicates no restrictions about sending courses for concurrence

over the summer. Brian Schoen's diligent research of previous program proposals indicated that constructive work can happen over the summer and that concurrence has been assumed when the two week limit has passed. I also received repeated requests for extra time during the concurrence process in the spring semester. So at some point we're just obligated to press ahead, and we're at that point.

I would add: we have been generous already and in effect gone well over two weeks beyond the original deadline and in another instance, we're going yet further where a unit has presented clear, constructive claims to us. Cases where we are pressing ahead involve syllabi where we believe the prima facie case against overlap is overwhelming, so that the burden of explanation reasonably falls on the units requesting more time. We are not trying to foreclose conversation, but we are balancing competing imperatives.

3. The Civic Friendship and How Politics Breaks Your Brain courses have indeed drawn little comment. We are asking Political Science and Philosophy to alert us quickly to any possible reservations. I'm hoping that will happen quite soon

We have been in touch with both departments, and have not received objections, and so we think concurrence should be assumed (as we take to be standard practice when details are not provided within the official two-week timeline).

4. On the political science front, they were a unit that did ask for more time, but have been providing some initial feedback (it looks like Marcus highlighted potential areas of overlap). Have you had a chance to engage with Marcus about these courses? A more definitive response from Political Science would be helpful, and I've nudged Marcus (as in the case of the two courses above).

We met with Marcus and our assessments of the courses did not seem far apart, but we have not had a more official statement from Political Science beyond that. The memo I provided on Friday gives a detailed account of how our courses are distinct from offerings in POLITSC, if that helps to produce a definitive statement from the department.

Best
Andrew



Andrew W. Martin

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From: Fortier, Jeremy <fortier.28@osu.edu>

Sent: Friday, August 1, 2025 3:43 PM

To: Martin, Andrew <martin.1026@osu.edu>; Vankeerbergen, Bernadette <vankeerbergen.1@osu.edu>

Cc: Schoen, Brian <schoen.110@osu.edu>

Subject: Re: Chase Center Concurrence Request

Hi Andrew and Bernadette,

The Chase Center has spent the past several weeks consulting with individual departments in the College of Arts and Sciences about our first slate of course proposals. Those consultations have led to constructive adjustments in several courses, withdrawal of select proposals, and deadlock on several others which we are obligated to press ahead with.

Here is the state of play for each course submitted, followed by some remarks about the general principles that have guided our work in this process. Moreover, attached to this email you will find Word and PDF versions of a file which includes the information provided below, plus detailed, individualized responses regarding each ASC unit that provided a statement of non-concurrence.

- **“American Religion(s)”**. We are holding off on this course for another week, in order to revise in response to constructive discussions with SOCIOL. COMPSTD’s initial non-concurrence has been tempered if not rescinded after email exchanges, as detailed in the attached file; HISTORY’s objections are not germane, for reasons explained at length in the attached file.
- **“American Witch-Hunts.”** COMPSTD objects, on grounds we cannot agree to, for reasons detailed in the attached file.
- **“Civic Friendship and Dialogue in American Democracy.”** Initial concerns from CEHV have been resolved following consultations with that unit.
- **“Freedom and Equality in American Literature.”** Following extensive engagement between our units, the ENGLISH department has settled on providing neither concurrence nor non-concurrence for this course. We will proceed with the course, and will continue to engage with ENGLISH’s concerns moving forward.
- **“God and Science.”** COMPSTD objects, and we have decided to withdraw this course from the submission process, in order to study Ohio State’s full slate of course offerings more extensively. We may revisit this course in the future.
- **“Shakespeare’s Lessons in Leadership.”** ENGLISH and THEATRE both object. We do not fully assent to the rationales provided by these units, but we found our engagement with ENGLISH constructive and have opted to withdraw this course from our current round of submissions, and will subsequently submit a related but substantially revised course with a new title, that will survey culturally significant depictions of leadership. We gather that this procedure should at least partly allay ENGLISH’s concerns.
- **“Presidential Crises in War and Peace.”** HISTORY objects and POLITSC has tentative reservations. We have made some modifications to the syllabus in response, but do not find either unit’s claims compelling enough to prevent proceeding with the course proposal, for reasons detailed in the attached file.

- **“Love and Friendship.”** This course appears to be broadly acceptable, so we will proceed with it as is.
- **“How Politics Breaks Your Brain.”** This course appears to be broadly acceptable, so we will proceed with it as is.
- **“Historical Political Economy.”** GEOG initially objected, and then revised its position to neither concurrence nor non-concurrence. POLITSC expressed more tentative reservations. We respond to both units in detail in the attached file and will be proceeding with the course.
- **“The Evolution of Citizenship.”** HISTORY has declined to provide concurrence. We have made some modifications to the syllabus in response, but do not find HISTORY’s claims compelling enough to prevent proceeding with the course proposal, for reasons detailed in the attached file
- **“The Pursuit of Happiness.”** Initial concerns from CLASSICS were addressed via revisions to the syllabus. HISTORY objects more strongly, and PSYCH more tentatively. We have made some modifications to the syllabus in response, but do not find either unit’s claims compelling enough to prevent proceeding with the course proposal, for reasons detailed in the attached file.

As this summary indicates, we have made several substantive changes to our courses during this process. No less importantly, the concurrence process has driven our development of programmatic learning goals and outcomes for the Chase Center (listed on p. 10 of the attached file). These principles – which will be included with all our syllabi moving forward – should help to clarify, for students and faculty, what is distinct about the Chase Center’s curriculum.

Our development of programmatic learning goals and outcomes is partly a response to the inevitable conundrum that while the Chase Center is an intentionally interdisciplinary unit, “interdisciplinarity” is often more of a generally agreeable slogan than well-defined curricular approach. The Chase Center’s work is exciting and necessary because it promises to approach and define multi-disciplinarity in a more precise way, which does not replicate the distinct expertise of the disciplines housed in the Colleges of Arts & Sciences, but rather gives students and faculty incentives to engage with disciplines they might have otherwise not engaged. Our engagement with individual units in Arts & Sciences has sharpened our thinking about how to address this challenge most constructively.

That said, precisely because our work is interdisciplinary, we take it as axiomatic that particular topics, texts, or analytical tools cannot be claimed as the sole or even primary preserve of any one unit. Such a position would be inconsistent with standard curricular practices (particularly in the Arts & Sciences), at odds with the standards for concurrence we gather to be controlling from the Office of Academic Affairs (which emphasizes distinctness of learning outcomes and the overall objectives of a course, rather than the intricacies of day-to-day lectures and reading assignments), and fail to fulfill the Chase Center’s legislative mission (which directs us towards inter-disciplinarity).

It would be impossible to fulfill our mandate – and nor do we think it is in the general curricular interest of Ohio State – if particular topics, texts, or analytical tools are treated as the presumptive property of any unit. And notwithstanding the explicit or implicit premise of

comments we received from a few units, standard practices support our position. For instance: at Ohio State, students are regularly offered HISTART 2007, “Buddha to Bollywood: The Arts of India” and SASIA 3625 “Understanding Bollywood, Knowing India” – courses in different units that draw on shared artifacts in the service of distinct curricular objectives. Similarly, in the upcoming Autumn semester, students will be able to enroll in both POLITSCI 4553, “Game Theory for Political Scientists” and ECON 5001, “Game Theory in Economics” – courses which explore how shared analytical tools are used to address the interests of different disciplines. Moreover, in the past OSU’s Department of Political Science has offered a course in urban politics using as its primary text HBO’s *The Wire*. This was a common practice in Political Science departments during the first two decades of the twenty-first century. But *The Wire* certainly could be (and at many institutions has been) used as a primary “text” for courses in Sociology, Film & Television Studies, American Studies, or English, since there is a substantial body of scholarship on *The Wire* emerging from each of these disciplines. As this example indicates, building an inter-disciplinary curriculum which respects the distinctive expertise of different departments is a challenge for all of us, and reflects the reality that disciplinary boundaries are always being contested (both within disciplines and between them), while knowledge production and dissemination is an inherently interdisciplinary process. The Chase Center’s aim is to develop a well-defined and mutually beneficial approach to this curricular challenge (which certainly will not preclude alternative approaches to interdisciplinarity).

This is a learning process that we hope will continue, but we cannot make further progress without moving forward with our curriculum. We believe that the changes we have made so far provide a reasonable basis for moving forward with our curriculum.

The attached file provides more detailed responses to statements of non-concurrence from individual units, organized alphabetically.

From: Martin, Andrew <martin.1026@osu.edu>

Date: Thursday, July 17, 2025 at 11:12 AM

To: Fortier, Jeremy <fortier.28@osu.edu>, Vankeerbergen, Bernadette <vankeerbergen.1@osu.edu>

Cc: Schoen, Brian <schoen.110@osu.edu>

Subject: RE: Chase Center Concurrence Request

Hi Jeremy and Brian

Attached please find ASC’s response to the Chase request for concurrence for 12 courses. As indicated, a number of units did either grant concurrence or did not respond. However, there are also a number of units that either indicated non-concurrence due to course overlap, or requested an extension until early Autumn semester when faculty are back on duty. So, given this, ASC cannot provide concurrence for the proposed courses.

I will note that the units that raised concerns about course overlap indicated a desire to engage with Chase to ensure that the proposed courses do not duplicate ASC offerings.

Note that we asked for a deadline of tomorrow for feedback, so it is possible that additional comments will be sent our way by then. We will be sure to forward them to you.

Best
Andrew



Andrew W. Martin

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From: Fortier, Jeremy <fortier.28@osu.edu>
Sent: Monday, July 14, 2025 7:52 AM
To: Vankeerbergen, Bernadette <vankeerbergen.1@osu.edu>; Martin, Andrew <martin.1026@osu.edu>
Cc: Schoen, Brian <schoen.110@osu.edu>
Subject: Re: Chase Center Concurrence Request

Hi Bernadette and Andrew (who I think is back on the grid this week),

Over the last week Brian Schoen and I have benefited from the opportunity to discuss our concurrence requests with some departmental representatives, leading us to see more clearly paths forward for both the courses in question and for our larger curricular initiatives. It's genuinely rewarding to think through these issues with people who've done so much brilliant work on related matters, and our own work is better off for it.

This constructive work confirms the importance of the timeline considerations detailed in my earlier email. We can't position ourselves to build a new academic program by taking summers off (so to speak). Everything from the practical exigencies of offering courses to the principled substance of designing those courses within the context of a coherent curricular vision requires making tangible progress on matters large and small. To that end we're bound to forge ahead but hope to engage constructively with others along the way.

I mention all this because Brian will be occupied with conference travel on Thursday and Friday, and although I'm happy to field any queries as might be helpful, discussion with Brian earlier in the week promises to be most productive.

Andrew – I apologize for welcoming you back with this fresh stack of requests, but that's the state of the work ahead of us...

All best,

Jeremy

From: Vankeerbergen, Bernadette <vankeerbergen.1@osu.edu>
Date: Monday, July 7, 2025 at 1:53 PM
To: Fortier, Jeremy <fortier.28@osu.edu>, Martin, Andrew <martin.1026@osu.edu>
Cc: Schoen, Brian <schoen.110@osu.edu>
Subject: RE: Chase Center Concurrence Request

Dear Jeremy,

I am afraid that it is routine practice to grant extensions & this is especially not uncommon during the Summer months. For example, we are currently waiting for a concurrence from the Dept of Computer Information Science (in Engineering) and they have told us that they cannot provide a response until the beginning of the Fall semester. About the concurrences for the Chase Center courses, we have already heard from 3 ASC departments who have indicated that they cannot fully respond until their faculty are back after August 15. (On the other hand, we have received full concurrences from three other depts.)

As an aside, I do know that Beth Hewitt (Chair of English) has a meeting planned with Brian Schoen this week & will share some of her concerns then.

Best,
Bernadette



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From: Fortier, Jeremy <fortier.28@osu.edu>
Sent: Monday, July 7, 2025 1:33 PM
To: Vankeerbergen, Bernadette <vankeerbergen.1@osu.edu>; Martin, Andrew <martin.1026@osu.edu>
Cc: Schoen, Brian <schoen.110@osu.edu>
Subject: Re: Chase Center Concurrence Request

Thanks, Bernadette.

I am afraid that a Fall concurrence deadline is not feasible for us, given the deadlines for getting on the spring course schedule and proceeding with General Education submissions, as well as our interests in working with new faculty and thinking through possibilities for degree design.

I am obliged to note that, as a procedural matter, we didn't anticipate circulating courses over the summer to pose a problem since the College of Arts & Science's Concurrence Request [Form](#), and ASC's Curriculum and Assessment Operations [Manual](#), refer only to

two-week timeline (not qualified by time of year). OAA's Academic Organization, Curriculum, and Assessment [Handbook](#) also indicates no restrictions about sending courses for concurrence over the summer. It may be worth adding that when circulating concurrence requests in the spring I was asked by one department to delay until after the final exam period – so it seems like some calendar conflicts are unavoidable one way or another.

In short: the Chase Center can't accede to a Fall term concurrence deadline, though I expect that Brian Schoen I would both be happy to use this time to confer with department chairs who have 12-month appointments.

Thanks for your time and consideration,

Jeremy

From: Vankeerbergen, Bernadette <vankeerbergen.1@osu.edu>
Date: Monday, July 7, 2025 at 9:33 AM
To: Fortier, Jeremy <fortier.28@osu.edu>, Martin, Andrew <martin.1026@osu.edu>
Cc: Schoen, Brian <schoen.110@osu.edu>
Subject: RE: Chase Center Concurrence Request
Dear Jeremy,

At least one of our departments (I suspect more will have the same request) has requested a deadline of early Fall term for the concurrences. Our regular 9-month faculty are off duty until August 15, and thus robust departmental conversations about possible overlap with their own courses cannot happen until those faculty are back on campus. This is especially important given the number of syllabi that need to be reviewed.

My best,
Bernadette



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From: Vankeerbergen, Bernadette
Sent: Wednesday, July 2, 2025 2:51 PM
To: Fortier, Jeremy <fortier.28@osu.edu>; Martin, Andrew <martin.1026@osu.edu>
Cc: Schoen, Brian <schoen.110@osu.edu>
Subject: RE: Chase Center Concurrence Request

Dear Jeremy,

I will send out the request for concurrences now (Andrew is taking some time off). Please know that I will start by giving our units a due date of Friday, July 18. It is possible/likely that this being the middle of the summer some units will ask for more time. I will keep you posted.

My best,
Bernadette



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From: Fortier, Jeremy <fortier.28@osu.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, July 2, 2025 1:06 PM
To: Martin, Andrew <martin.1026@osu.edu>; Vankeerbergen, Bernadette <vankeerbergen.1@osu.edu>
Cc: Schoen, Brian <schoen.110@osu.edu>
Subject: Chase Center Concurrence Request

Hi Andrew and Bernadette,

This summer, I've been working with the Chase Center's incoming faculty and Associate Director Brian Schoen (copied on this e-mail) to develop a suite of courses for a Civics, Law, and Leadership degree Chase will be offering (CIVICLL). The result is the twelve syllabi attached to this e-mail (more to follow down the road).

The courses cover a lot of territory in terms of subject matter and disciplinary approaches, but the course titles should give you a good sense of which syllabi may be most relevant to the College of Arts and Sciences for concurrence purposes.

Let me know if we can answer any questions as the concurrence process moves forward. I know there's a lot to dig into here, but we're eager to move forward with some exciting courses as we build a new program.

All best,

Jeremy

--



Jeremy Fortier

Assistant Director, Salmon P. Chase Center for Civics, Culture, and Society
The Ohio State University

Latest Article: "[Why to be a Civic Constitutionalist](#)"

Subject: Concurrence
Date: Wednesday, August 20, 2025 at 4:24:21 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Martin, Andrew
To: Schoen, Brian, Fortier, Jeremy
CC: Vankeerbergen, Bernadette
Attachments: image001.png

Hi Brian and Jeremy

I spoke with Scott Levi and he is granting concurrence from History on the courses they had previously raised concerns about. I believe those were:

Presidential Crises in War and Peace
The Evolution of Citizenship in America
The Pursuit of Happiness

He will provide a response shortly for the courses in the most recent round of concurrence.

Best
Andrew



Andrew W. Martin

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Subject: RE: Concurrence on Pursuits of Happiness
Date: Tuesday, August 26, 2025 at 5:20:40 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Schoppe-Sullivan, Sarah
To: Fortier, Jeremy, Schoen, Brian, Cravens-Brown, Lisa
CC: Martin, Andrew
Attachments: image001.png

Thanks, Jeremy!

With these revisions, Psychology concurs with "Pursuit of Happiness".

Thanks for working with us through this process.

Best,

Sarah

From: Fortier, Jeremy <fortier.28@osu.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, August 26, 2025 4:19 PM
To: Schoppe-Sullivan, Sarah <schoppe-sullivan.1@osu.edu>; Schoen, Brian <schoen.110@osu.edu>; Cravens-Brown, Lisa <cravens-brown.1@osu.edu>
Cc: Martin, Andrew <martin.1026@osu.edu>
Subject: Re: Concurrence on Pursuits of Happiness

Dear Prof. Schoppe-Sullivan,

In the interests of expediency, I'm attaching to this email a copy of the "Pursuits of Happiness" syllabus with the revisions Brian referred to.

All best - Jeremy

From: Schoppe-Sullivan, Sarah <schoppe-sullivan.1@osu.edu>
Date: Tuesday, August 26, 2025 at 4:13 PM
To: Schoen, Brian <schoen.110@osu.edu>, Cravens-Brown, Lisa <cravens-brown.1@osu.edu>
Cc: Fortier, Jeremy <fortier.28@osu.edu>, Martin, Andrew <martin.1026@osu.edu>
Subject: RE: Concurrence on Pursuits of Happiness

Hi Brian,

Thanks for the update – it would be helpful to see the revised syllabus with the changes highlighted. (I cc-ed Andrew Martin on this reply because he expressed a desire to be kept in the loop.)

Sarah

From: Schoen, Brian <schoen.110@osu.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, August 26, 2025 12:21 PM
To: Schoppe-Sullivan, Sarah <schoppe-sullivan.1@osu.edu>; Cravens-Brown, Lisa <cravens-brown.1@osu.edu>
Cc: Fortier, Jeremy <fortier.28@osu.edu>