
Civics, Law, and Leadership 3520

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

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

Good morning,

On Thursday, Sept. 11th, the Themes I Subcommittee of the ASC Curriculum Committee reviewed a course proposal for Civics, Law, and Leadership 3520 for inclusion in the GEN Theme: Traditions, Cultures, and Transformations category.

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

- a. Note: The Subcommittee is aware that the Center is attempting to gain GEN approval for a large number of courses at this time. Since this course will require substantial reconstruction and reconception to meet the goals and ELOs of the category, the Subcommittee offers the friendly suggestion that the Center wait to revise this course until they have had a chance to compare it to other, successful proposals in this category. Exemplar proposals from other units are available on the [ASCCAS website](#).
- b. The Subcommittee requests that the Center provide a cover letter that details the changes made to the course submission materials in response to the feedback below.
- c. Though the Subcommittee understands that it can be difficult to create a course that is an advanced study of the theme and also accessible to a wider audience (especially in certain fields, such as economics), they ask that the Center reconsider the level of the course and whether it is appropriate for a general audience. They note that many of the readings are at a level that will require students to have substantial experience with microeconomics and statistics to understand the terminology, interpret the data, and think critically about the technical methodology and the results/findings. As the course has no prerequisites (and GEN Themes courses are discouraged from having a significant number of specific prerequisites), the Subcommittee is concerned that the students will be forced to rely solely on the instructor's interpretation of the readings rather than being able to think critically and draw their own logical conclusions. If the Center wishes to continue to pursue GEN approval for this course, the Subcommittee asks that the reading list be substantially revised to make it accessible to a general audience.
- d. The Subcommittee requests that the Center narrow the focus of the course. They observe that most of the course seems to be centered on economy and religion in the Western world, and they offer the friendly suggestion that re-titling the course and narrowing its scope in this way will help to make the course's purpose clearer to students. In its current form, it is unclear what specific "aspect of culture" (ELO 3.1) the course is analyzing, what "'big' idea or technological advancement" is being considered as a change agent (ELO 3.2).
- e. The Subcommittee requests that the Center engage more fully with all of the goals and ELOs of the GEN Theme: Traditions, Cultures, and Transformations. The ways in which students will be both:
 1. Exposed to readings and materials that will allow them to engage in an "advanced, in-depth, and scholarly exploration of the theme" (ELO 1.2)

and

2. Given the opportunity to demonstrate their mastery of these ELOs

must be fully evident in the course description and objectives (syllabus, p. 1), the descriptions of the course's assignments/assessments (syllabus, p. 3-5), and the

course calendar (syllabus p. 5-9).

- a. The Subcommittee asks that the Center re-phrase the statement which describes the way in which this course fits into the new General Education Curriculum (syllabus pg. 2 under "GEN Goals & Learning Outcomes"). Since this is a 3-credit hour course, it does not, in and of itself, "fulfill" the General Education Theme, as the requirement is for students to earn 4-6 credit hours in this category; stating that a single course fulfills the requirement can be confusing or misleading for students. Instead, the reviewing faculty suggest wording such as "Civics, Law, and Leadership 3520 is an approved course in the GEN Theme: Traditions, Cultures and Transformations category."
- b. The Subcommittee observes that the percentages of students' grades that are assigned to each exam are different in the chart on p. 3 of the syllabus (30% and 35%) and the description on p. 4 (40% and 35%).
- c. The Subcommittee observes that "Attendance" on p. 3 of the syllabus should likely be labeled "Attendance and Participation", as the policy on p. 4-5 of the syllabus clearly outlines that a student's grade in that portion of the course depends on both being present in class and being an active participant.

I will return CLL 3520 to the department queue via curriculum.osu.edu in order to address the Subcommittee's requests.

Should you have any questions about the feedback of the Subcommittee, please feel free to contact Philip Tuxbury-Gleissner, (faculty Chair of the Themes I Subcommittee; cc'd on this e-mail), or me.

Best,
Rachel



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

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