
Civics, Law, and Leadership 3212

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

Date Tue 12/23/2025 1:55 PM

To Schoen, Brian <schoen.110@osu.edu>; Fortier, Jeremy <fortier.28@osu.edu>

Cc Soland, Birgitte <soland.1@osu.edu>; Vankeerbergen, Bernadette <vankeerbergen.1@osu.edu>; Steele, Rachel <steele.682@osu.edu>; Neff, Jennifer <neff.363@osu.edu>

Good afternoon,

On Thursday, December 4, the Themes II Subcommittee of the ASC Curriculum Committee reviewed a course proposal for CLL 3212 to be included in the GEN Theme: Citizenship for a Diverse and Just World category

The Subcommittee unanimously approved the request with one contingency, four recommendations, and one comment:

- a. Comment: The Subcommittee thanks the Center for their comprehensive and conscientious attention to the Subcommittee's feedback.
- b. **Contingency:** The Subcommittee asks that the Center amend the prompt for the final reflection (syllabus, p. 7), so that students are compelled to reflect on their own learning processes, their "sense of self as a learner", and how their learning processes and understandings of their own learning have changed over time. The Subcommittee notes that, as currently presented, it would still be possible for a student to write a content-based response rather than reflecting on their own cognitive processes.
- c. *Recommendation:* The Subcommittee recommends that the Center closely monitor this course as it evolves over time to ensure that the focus remains on Citizenship for a Diverse and Just World. Specifically, they are concerned that "law", as a concept, could subvert citizenship as a key concept.
- d. *Recommendation:* The Subcommittee recommends that the Center consider for inclusion in the course some material that approaches the course's topics from a more quantitative and anthropological perspective. They note that some of Joseph Henrich's recent scholarship on Western, educated, industrialized, rich and democratic (WEIRD) populations may be particularly relevant for this course.
- e. *Recommendation:* The Subcommittee suggests that the Center confirm the percentages of the final grade that they intend to attach to each assignment. They note that the percentages cited in the final paragraph of p. 5 of the cover letter are not the same as those that follow on pp. 5-7 of the cover letter or those found on p. 4 of the syllabus.
- f. *Recommendation:* The Subcommittee recommends that the Center consider the cost to students when choosing textbooks for the course. The Oxford Handbook of Christianity and Law, which is required, is quite costly (as of 12-17-2025, the list price on Amazon.com was \$168.47 for an electronic version and \$177.34 for a hardcover version). They encourage the unit to consider the use of [CarmenBooks](#), or working with the University Libraries to provide free or reduced cost access to students in another manner.

As a reminder, **contingencies** (in bold above) must be addressed and resubmitted via curriculum.osu.edu before this course can move forward in the approval process to OAA. *Recommendations* (in italics above) can be implemented when the course is next taught. I will return CLL 3212 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 Birgitte Soland (faculty Chair of the Themes II Subcommittee; cc'd on this e-mail), or me.

Best,
Rachel



Rachel Steele, MA

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

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