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To: [Sawyer, Derek](#); [Cook, Ann](#)
Cc: [Hadad, Christopher](#); [Vankeerbergen, Bernadette](#); [Steele, Rachel](#)
Subject: Earth Sciences 5652
Date: Thursday, October 16, 2025 1:19:00 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Good afternoon,

On Thursday, October 9th, the Natural and Mathematical Sciences Subcommittee of the ASC Curriculum Committee reviewed a course change request for Earth Sciences 5652.

The Subcommittee approved the request with the following feedback:

- **Contingency:** The Subcommittee requests that the lab meeting time for the course be reassessed to ensure alignment with university credit hour requirements. One credit hour is assigned for each two consecutive hours of practical or experimental work per week, and one credit hour is assigned for each three hours of laboratory work per week when no additional outside lab work is required.
- **Contingency:** While the topics and homework deadlines are listed in the syllabus, there is insufficient information about the assignments to accurately gauge the weekly workload and expectations. The Subcommittee requests that the syllabus include more assignment details, especially since the goal is to make the course more accessible to undergraduate students. Specifically, the syllabus could clarify:
 - Criteria for earning participation points
 - Homework assignment details including length, scope, and expectations
 - Details of the course project, such as a description or rubric
- *Recommendation:* The Subcommittee notes that there appears to be overlap between the homework and certain aspects of the project in the course calendar (p. 5). For example, HW3: Project Proposal is due in week 6, while HW3 is due in week 8. The Subcommittee recommends that this be explained in the syllabus.
- *Recommendation:* The Subcommittee recommends that the outdated COVID-19 language be removed from the syllabus (p. 3).
- *Recommendation:* The Subcommittee recommends that the grading scale in the syllabus (p. 4) be revised to use 'E' instead of 'F', in keeping with the university's grading system. Additionally, The Subcommittee notes that 'D+' has been omitted from the grading scale in the syllabus. While instructors may adopt the grading scale they consider appropriate for their course, the Subcommittee wishes to highlight this in case it was unintentional.
- *Recommendation:* The Subcommittee recommends that Python be listed under the "Materials and Software" section of the syllabus (p. 2) as it appears to be used for the labs.
- *Recommendation:* The Subcommittee recommends that the syllabus provide more

information about the attendance and absence policy beyond references to Student Life Disability Services and religious accommodations.

- *Recommendation:* The Subcommittee recommends that the religious accommodations statement include a hyperlink to the [Civil Rights Compliance Office](#) email address. Additionally, they request that the following required link be added to the end of the statement:
 - Policy: [Religious Holidays, Holy Days and Observances](#)

As a reminder, **contingencies** (in bold above) must be addressed and resubmitted via curriculum.osu.edu before a course can move forward in the approval process. *Recommendations* (in italics above) should be implemented when the course is next taught.

I will return Earth Sciences 5652 to the unit's queue via curriculum.osu.edu in order to address the Subcommittee's requests.

Should you have any questions about the feedback, please do not hesitate to reach out to Christopher Hadad (faculty Chair of the NMS Subcommittee) or me.

Best,
Jennifer



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Pronouns: she/her/hers