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To: [Godfrey, Ryan](#); [Houser, Jana](#)
Cc: [Hadad, Christopher](#); [Vankeerbergen, Bernadette](#); [Steele, Rachel](#); [DeGirolamo, Anne](#)
Subject: Geography 1900
Date: Thursday, November 13, 2025 1:03:00 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Good afternoon,

On Thursday, October 30th, the Natural and Mathematical Sciences Subcommittee of the ASC Curriculum Committee reviewed a course change request for Geography 1900.

The Subcommittee declined to vote on the request at this time and asks that the following feedback be addressed in a revision:

- The Subcommittee has several concerns regarding whether the course is rigorous enough for and meets the goals/ELOs of the GEN Foundation: Natural Sciences category. To that end, they ask the following of the department:
 - The Subcommittee observes that the grading scheme in the proposed version of the course (Participation-25%; Labs-30%; Worksheets-20%; Exams-25%) is quite different from the current version (Participation-20%; Labs-30%; Exams-50%). They are concerned that the new scheme is less focused on individual learning and less able to assess mastery of the course and GEN goals and ELOs. As such, they ask that the grading scheme be re-configured to reflect the current level of rigor in the course. On a related note, they offer the friendly reminder that laboratory activities account for 25% of the course's credit hours and should thus also account for 25% of students' grades in the course.
 - The Subcommittee notes that the GEN Submission form cites particular worksheets and laboratory activities as meeting the ELOs of the GEN category. However, it is unclear from the materials provided what these activities will look like in practice. For the purposes of course review, the Subcommittee asks that the department submit examples of laboratory activities so that they can get a fuller picture of how students will "employ the processes of science through exploration, discovery, and collaboration to interact directly with the natural world...", per ELO 1.3. Furthermore, the Subcommittee asks that the department provide additional information in the syllabus about the laboratory activities, and what students will do during a "typical" lab session.
- The Subcommittee asks that the department reconfigure the course's meeting times to include a 110-minute lab period (rather than 80 minutes), as 110 minutes aligns with the expectation that 1 of the 4 credit hours will come from experiential learning in a lab setting. For details regarding the definition of a semester credit hour, please see the [ASC Curriculum and Assessment Operations Manual](#), p. 17.
- The Subcommittee observes that the department puts forth the following explanation in

curriculum.osu.edu for how this new version of the course will function in the Atmospheric Sciences major:

This course will replace GEOG 5900 or ATMOSSC 2940 as the principle (sic) introductory course in the revised program request for ATMOSSC-BS program (effective term planned for AU26). ATMOSSC 2940 will be removed from departmental offering when new version of the major is approved and term implemented.

However, the Subcommittee notes that GEOG 5900/ATMOSSC 2940 currently counts as a part of the major's "Required Courses" (as opposed to the "Required Prerequisite and Supplemental Courses") according to both the [Department of Geography's website](#) and the [most recently approved version of the major](#). Geography 1900, as a 1000-level course, will not be able to count toward the major. Thus, the Subcommittee asks that the department clarify in curriculum.osu.edu how this course will function in the new version of the Atmospheric Sciences major, since this is a motivator of the redesign of the course.

- The Subcommittee requests that the department rectify the discrepancy on p. 11 of the syllabus regarding the Extra Credit available to students. The introductory paragraph states that students will have the opportunity to earn "up to 4.5 extra credit points on their final course grade". However, the explanations of the maximum points available for the three activities add up to only 4 points.
- The Subcommittee requests that the department clarify the guidance surrounding the use of AI tools. On p. 10 of the syllabus, the description of the course's exams states that exams are "open book, but the use of AI search is not allowed". However, on p. 19 of the syllabus, the "Academic Integrity Policy" states that the "use of AI tools is permitted as long as the student indicates that they have used them in their submission".
- The Subcommittee asks that the department use the correct GEN Submission Form for the GEN Foundation: Natural Sciences category. The correct form can be found on the [Office of Undergraduate Education website](#) (under "Additional Resources"/ "Course Submission Forms"/ "Foundation Courses").

I will return Geography 1900 to the department 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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