
Sociology 3555

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Date Tue 11/18/2025 6:24 PM

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Good evening,

On Wednesday, Nov. 5th the Social and Behavioral Sciences Subcommittee of the ASC Curriculum Committee reviewed a new course proposal for Sociology 3555.

The Subcommittee unanimously approved the request with six contingencies and two recommendations:

- a. **Contingency:** The Subcommittee asks that the department provide a cover letter outlining the changes made to the proposal based on the feedback below.
- a. b. **Contingency:** The Subcommittee asks that the department provide more information in the syllabus regarding the actual logistics and mechanics of the on-site observations. For example, will there be a class session devoted to discussing behavior, dress, decorum, etc. during the site visits/observations? How might students know when it is and is not acceptable to take pictures (per the “Scavenger Hunt” and the “photographic evidence” requirements, Appendix A)? Will students be expected to visit alone or in groups? Will the instructor provide locations of the various courts and the days/times that they are in session, or will students be required to seek out that information on their own? Is transportation the responsibility of the student? What costs might be involved for parking, transportation, etc.?
- a. c. **Contingency:** The Subcommittee notes that p. 7 of the syllabus indicates that the course will be graded on an S/U basis, while the information in curriculum.osu.edu (under “Offering Information”) says that the course will be graded A-E. The Subcommittee requests that this be consistent throughout the proposal materials.
- a. d. **Contingency:** The Subcommittee asks that the department alter the course description in curriculum.osu.edu (under General Information) to include mention of the course’s requirements for off-campus court observations, as this is the information that students will see prior to registering for the course. The Subcommittee offers the friendly suggestion that this information replace the final sentence of the current course description, which seems to imply a “forgone conclusion” for the course.
- a. e. **Contingency:** The Subcommittee asks that the curriculum map be corrected, as the reference to this course still reads “4555” rather than “3555”.
- a. f. **Contingency:** The Subcommittee asks that the instructor explain more clearly in the syllabus the connection between the podcasts, the readings, and the course content. They note that Appendix D (syllabus pp. 24-25) provides only the podcast’s “official” description; the Subcommittee asks that this be amended by or replaced with some material that helps students to understand how the podcast supports the course’s expected learning outcomes (syllabus, p.

3). On a related note, the Subcommittee notes that there are two different Appendices marked "Appendix D"; each has different descriptions of the podcast.

- a. g. *Recommendation:* The Subcommittee suggests that the department include benchmarks along the way for the observation hours (e.g. 10 hours due by the end of Week 5, 30 hours due by the end of Week 10, and 50 hours due by the end of Week 15 or similar), to help students pace their time throughout the course.
- a. h. *Recommendation:* The Subcommittee recommends removing all but one of the Mental Health statements on pp. 16-18 of the syllabus; only the statement from the campus of offering should be used, though students from multiple campuses may potentially enroll in the course.

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) should be implemented when the course is next taught. I will return Sociology 3555 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 Rachel Dwyer, (faculty Chair of the SBS Subcommittee; cc'd on this e-mail), or me.

Best,
Rachel



Rachel Steele, MA

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

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