
Human Nutrition 3500

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Date Wed 12/3/2025 4:37 PM

To Sutherland, Sue <sutherland.43@osu.edu>; Tackett, Kimberly <tackett.209@osu.edu>

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 afternoon,

On Thursday, Nov. 13th, the Themes I Subcommittee of the ASC Curriculum Committee reviewed a course proposal for Human Nutrition 3500 to be included 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) The Subcommittee requests that the department provide a cover letter that details the changes made to the course submission materials in response to the feedback below.
- b) While the Subcommittee can see a path forward for this course in the Traditions, Cultures, and Transformations theme, they observed that the course's content may be better suited to the Health and Wellbeing theme. However, regardless of which Theme the department chooses, the Subcommittee asks that the department more clearly focus the course on the theme. In its current form, the course (and especially the group project/presentation) seems to focus on the nutritional practices of people in the world's various "blue zones", with some attention to traditions, cultures, and transformations, rather than focusing on "the influence of an aspect of culture...on at least one historical or contemporary issue" (ELO 3.1), "analyz[ing] the impact of a "big" idea or technological advancement in creating major and long-lasting change in a specific culture" (ELO 3.2) and "explor[ing] changes and continuities over time withing a culture or society" (ELO 3.4) through the lens of nutritional practices.
- c) The Subcommittee asks that the department better explain in the syllabus and the GEN Submission Form how ELOs 3.1-4.2 will be met in the course. They note that, in the GEN Submission form, the explanation of how these ELOs are met leans heavily on class lecture content and discussion, the former of which does not allow for assessment, and the latter of which accounts for only small portions of students' grades (5 pts/post).
- d) The Subcommittee asks that the department provide a clearer explanation of the concept of Blue Zones and Power 9, and how the study of these concepts supports an advanced and scholarly study of Traditions, Cultures, and Transformations.
- e) The Subcommittee asks that the department provide further clarification regarding the course's prerequisites as stated on p. 1 of the syllabus. Specifically, they are concerned that the statement regarding "prerequisite knowledge" is confusing for students (who may not understand what a "basic understanding" consists of in this context) and/or that students may actually need some specific coursework to be successful in this course. While GEN courses should not have excessive prerequisites, the Subcommittee offers the friendly suggestion that a general prerequisite, such as completion of a course in one or more GEN Foundations categories, may offer a potential solution.
- f) The Subcommittee recommends that the department include the required links within the Religious Accommodations Statement (syllabus p. 17). They note that the link to the list of holidays and observances should be included. The statement (with these links embedded) can be found in an easy-to-copy/paste format on the Office of Undergraduate Education's [Syllabus Policies & Statements webpage](#).

I will return Human Nutrition 3500 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



Rachel Steele, MA

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

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