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## Geography 6229

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

**Date** Sun 2/8/2026 8:46 PM

**To** Mansfield, Becky <mansfield.32@osu.edu>; Godfrey, Ryan <godfrey.117@osu.edu>

**Cc** Dwyer, Rachel <dwyer.46@osu.edu>; Vankeerbergen, Bernadette <vankeerbergen.1@osu.edu>; Steele, Rachel <steele.682@osu.edu>; Neff, Jennifer <neff.363@osu.edu>; Wade, Macy <wade.619@osu.edu>

Good evening,

On Thursday, January 22nd, the Social and Behavioral Sciences Subcommittee of the ASC Curriculum Committee reviewed a new course proposal for Geography 6229.

The Subcommittee unanimously approved the request with four recommendations:

- a. *Recommendation*: The Subcommittee recommends that the department include in the syllabus information for students about all planned regular and substantive interaction (RSI) in the course. They note that the instructor's plans to send "check-in" emails and provide feedback weekly on the Jupyter notebooks are noted on the Distance Learning Cover Sheet, but not present in the syllabus.
- b. *Recommendation*: The Subcommittee recommends giving a time as well as a day that assignments are due (syllabus, p. 7); while they assume that "end of Sunday" means Sunday at 11:59 PM, students (especially those who are new to Ohio State) may not infer this automatically.
- c. *Recommendation*: The Subcommittee recommends placing the information that exempts the final project from the late assignments policy (syllabus, p. 10) near the beginning of the paragraph to make this exception clearer for students.
- d. *Recommendation*: The Subcommittee recommends that the department clarify how the course's discussion posts and peer reviews are related to one another and how they work together to make up students' overall participation grade. While p. 10 of the syllabus indicates that "students will be required to peer review explanation videos" and "each student must participate at least one each week in the discussion" as a part of their participation grade, it is unclear if the peer reviews are a *part* of the discussion posts or if these are separate assignments. If these are separate assignments, it is recommended that their weight within the participation grade be clarified for students.

As a reminder, *recommendations* (in italics above) should be implemented when the course is next taught. Geography 6229 will continue through the approval process to the Graduate School.

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.)

Program Manager, Office of Curriculum and Assessment

**College of Arts and Sciences**

306 Dulles Hall 230 Annie and John Glenn Ave. Columbus, OH 43210

(614) 292-7226

Member, University Conduct Board

Graduate Student, History of Art

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