Background:

The WSU Registrar received a major curricular change form from the Department of Biology. The proposal describes a new variable credit course, Bio 595 Advanced Topics in Ecology.

Reviewer Comments:

* 1. Meeting location of TBA needs to be incorporated
  2. Syllabus course credits are unclear. In the major curriculum form it says the course is variable credit 1-4 cr with a maximum of 9 credits, however syllabus has 3 credits listed. Does this mean that the course will have variable credits annually or that students can take the course for different number of credits and on numerous occasions? This needs to be made clear in the course justification
  3. Course goals need to be slightly revised. Presumably whether or not the students have been able to develop a more advanced understanding will be assessed during the course of the class, however whether or not students have incorporated this knowledge into their thesis is not going to be assessed and so I recommend that the verbage be change to “2) be able to incorporate an ecosystems or successional…”
  4. Sample syllabus is missing weeks 2 and 11
  5. When are discussion questions due by the students in order to get to the discussion leader for incorporation into the week’s class time.
  6. How should students handle references to the primary literature within their presentationa and take home final (what format?)
  7. How are late assignments going to be dealt with?

**Syllabus:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Logistics |  |  |
|  | Instructor contact information | 🗹 |
|  | Course Prefix and number, title, number of credits, pre-requisites | 🗹 |
|  | Meeting schedules and times and building/rooms | See Reviewer Comments |
|  | List of required and recommended reading materials | 🗹 |
| Content |  |  |
|  | Student learning outcomes and method for assessing | 🗹 |
|  | Week to week course outline | See reviewer comments |
|  | Descriptions of required assignments | See reviewer comments |
| Grading |  |  |
|  | Relative weighting of required assignments | 🗹 |
|  | Penalties for late assignments | See reviewer comments |
|  | Grading criteria | 🗹 |
|  | Composition of midterm and final grades | See reviewer comments |
|  | Attendance or participation policies | 🗹 |
| Policy |  |  |
|  | Accommodating students with disabilities | 🗹 |
|  | Campus safety plan statement | 🗹 |
|  | Academic integrity | 🗹 |

**Reviewer’s Final Assessment:**

The Motions:

Needs revisions