

Use of Pronouns in the Recommended Syllabus

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YSU Common Syllabus Templates

Templates last updated on August 19, 2022

Academic Senate has approved the use of this common syllabus for all courses at YSU ([supporting documentation for Senate](#)). There are a series of required items* that must be included in your syllabus, as well as several recommend items. Using the YSU Common Syllabus templates are optional, and are provided below for your use. These ADA-compliant Microsoft Word templates were designed with your students in mind and utilize language and design that focuses on the learner.

*Please consult with your department and college leadership for any additional required syllabus items.

*Taken from the YSU Academic Senate webpage

Supporting Documentation

- Accurately recognizes that the recommended syllabus is not required
- Also notes that is a draft, indicating it has not been passed
- A browse through previous minutes seems to confirm this

This document is currently in draft form, and we welcome any feedback, critique, or comments you may have to the website and templates. Please email Cary Wecht, Chair of the YSU Academic Senate Teaching & Learning Committee at CLWecht01@ysu.edu with your thoughts.

January 15, 2021

Article 17

Academic Freedom

The parties reaffirm adherence to the principle of academic freedom in faculty instruction and scholarship as a right that can be neither denied nor abridged. The faculty member shall have the freedom to pursue knowledge and to report the truth as they see it in the classroom, publications, reports of research activities, and all professional and academic forums. In exercising academic freedom, the faculty member should recognize their correlative responsibilities. In classroom teaching, the faculty member should emphasize only matters germane to their discipline. In making public statements, the faculty member should exercise discretion, attempt to be accurate, and shall not speak for the University unless officially designated as a spokesperson by the President of the University.

So how can you tell if a particular activity is hazing?

If you're asked to do any of the things listed on this and the next screen — or you ask someone else to do them — it's hazing:

- Engaging in activities you wouldn't otherwise do with a different friend group or in front of family
- Sacrificing personal beliefs to belong



Course Progress: 26%

- Inclusion of this seems to cater to a particular ideology
- Has encouraged professors to ask students their pronouns
- Students have been made to feel uncomfortable and fear retribution if they decline to answer

Questions

1. How did this end up as an official recommendation of the Senate?
2. How is the inclusion of pronouns on a syllabus advancing the academic mission of the university?
3. Why are all minority status not included in the syllabus?