

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
The Undergraduate Educational Policy and Curriculum Committee

Minutes

240 SH

October 5, 2023

Attending: Cornelia Lang (chair), Jill Beckman, Emilie Maurel-Destruel, Amira Qidwai, Christine Shea, Amy Strathman, Rodica Curtu

Absent: Asha Bhandary, Cinda Coggins Mosher, Anita Jung

1. The first item on the agenda was to review three recommendations from GECC for approval for courses to be added to the CLAS Core General Education program, all to be added for Spring 2024. All three courses will be offered in Spring 2024. The committee felt that all the proposals would be strong additions to the CLAS Core and approved their statuses for the general education program.
 - a. SJUS 2240 *The Worlds of Jews and Judaism: An Introduction to Jewish Studies* (GE Area: Diversity and Inclusion).
 - b. PBAF/URP:1001 *How to Change the World* (GE Area: Social Sciences)
 - c. CPH 2200: *Climageddon: Climate Change and Health* (GE Areas: Sustainability and International and Global Issues)
2. The committee next welcomed Jon Wilcox (Professor of English) who came to present changes to the two undergraduate majors in the Department of English: BA in English and BA in English and Creative Writing. Professor Wilcox described a multi-year and very engaged revision process in the Department of English. He provided the additional context that the undergraduate curriculum had not been changed much since 2003, so it was a good time to review the current majors, given changes in student and faculty numbers.

The proposed curriculum revisions aim to provide: (1) more clarity in distinctions between introductory, intermediate, and advanced courses, (2) more faculty-led courses in creative writing, (3) more connections between offerings in literary studies and offerings in creative writing, (4) more flexibility for students in choosing among available courses, and (5) more flexibility for faculty in designing and offering innovative courses.

For Literary Studies in both majors, the goals of the revisions are: (1) to increase coverage of more diverse and global literatures, (2) to diminish emphases on prescriptively defined national traditions and historical periods, (3) to create more possibilities for taking courses in other languages and non-Anglophone literary traditions, and (4) to encourage clearer connections between the past and the present.

For Creative Writing, the revisions attempt: (1) to streamline the major so that it has the same number of course requirements as the English major, (2) to provide greater clarity

to students as to the relations between writing courses at different levels and across units (ENGL, CNW, CW), (3) to enable students to access faculty instruction at earlier stages of their studies, (4) to diminish the bottlenecked demand for advanced (4000 level) writing courses., and (5) to develop the Publishing Track.

Restructured Requirements for Intermediate Courses and the addition of an advanced course requirement: the current requirements, which are a combination of six area and three period categories, in addition to a multiethnic literature overlay, have been replaced with three more inclusive categories: Historical Contexts, Cultural Contexts, and Craft and Method. Currently, 4000 level courses are offered only for students in English Honors and Advanced Creative Writing, the plan is to expand advanced offerings so that all majors will have the opportunity to take an advanced course.

The above curriculum revisions reduce the semester hour requirements for the English and Creative Writing majors from 42 to 36 s.h., in line with the English major.

The committee was very enthusiastic about these proposed changes and had discussion with Professor Wilcox about the three new categories and opportunities for experiential learning in both majors. There was a discussion about the way in which students in these majors satisfy their GE CLAS Core requirement in Interpretation of Literature. CLAS will be working with the department on a plan for students to take a course that meets this requirement as part of their curriculum and not through an additional Literary, Visual and Performing Arts course, as has been done previously.

The committee praised the Department of English's efforts to revise their undergraduate majors and recommended these changes unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Emilie Maurel-Destruel
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Secretary, UEPCC