




**Department of English**

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Date: November 22, 2008

To: Kathy Hallihan, Director, College of the Arts and Sciences Curriculum Office

From: Nan Johnson, Director of Graduate Studies, English 

Re: Changing the Number of Hours in 900 level Graduate Seminars to meet the new requirements of Post-Candidacy Hours

Rationale for Requesting Course Revisions to English Courses,  
English 904, 980, 982, and 997  
(Course information attached)

Departments in the College of Humanities with courses offered or open to ABD students propose a revision to those courses, so that they can be taken at variable credit hours. This change will allow ABD students to sign up for no more than 3 credit hours per quarter, after which point the Department and the College now incur additional fees. In discussions with the Graduate School and the Curricular Deans, it appears that the simplest rationale for such a move can be expressed as follows:

*Rationale:*

*The proposed change satisfies the new requirement that ABD students take a maximum of 3 hours without incurring additional fees. The proposed change parallels in form and intent the variable course credit for graduate-level independent study, which can be already taken for 1-5 or in some cases 1-15 hours.*

Since for some graduate students at least 1 hour of 999 appears to be necessary to ensure that the student is considered full-time, the most expedient solution is to allow a seminar to be offered at 2-3 hours (for a seminar only open to ABD students) or 2-5 hours (for a seminar open to all graduate students), leaving 1 hour left over for 999.