



24 November 2008

Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee
c/o Jessica Mercerhill
4132 Smith Lab
174 W. 18th Ave.
CAMPUS

Dear Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee:

As coordinator of the interdisciplinary minor in Sexuality Studies, I am requesting the addition of three new courses to our list of central courses for the minor: HDFS 370: Human Sexuality in Context, Sociology 340: Sex and Love in Modern Society, and Psychology 555: Adolescent Sexuality. As you know, students who minor in Sexuality Studies must choose at least 10 of their 20 hours from our list of central courses. Right now, these three courses, which were only recently added to OSU's permanent curriculum, are electives for the minor, but we would like to add them to the central courses list for the following reasons:

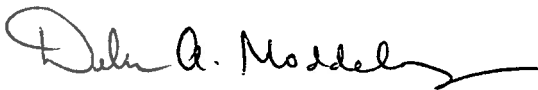
1. The focus of these courses is human sexuality, so they fit our definition of a central course.
2. While it may seem that we have quite a few central courses (15, to be precise), some of these courses are offered only once a year (e.g., History 326, Women's Studies 370, Comp Studies/Women's Studies 535, History 526, English 580, EDU PAES 614), one is offered only every other year (Classics 508), and one has not been offered for at least three years (EPL 415). Thus, adding more courses to our central course list would ensure that the coordinating advisers for the minor (Professor Mollie Blackburn and myself) are able to assist students in designing a minor program they can complete in a timely manner.
3. A number of courses from our central course list are taught by graduate students or instructors (e.g., EDU PAES 204, Psychology 333.02, Women's Studies 370, History 526, Social Work 597, Sociology 605), and while these students and instructors do an excellent job, we would like to provide our Sexuality Studies minors with additional opportunities to work with OSU faculty members, especially since faculty members can offer research opportunities in the field, advise internships, and often have connections outside OSU for guiding students who are seeking careers or graduate work in Sexuality-related fields. While there is no guarantee that HDFS 370, Sociology 340, and Psychology 555 will be taught by faculty forever, all three courses were designed by faculty members (Amy Bonomi, Liana Sayer, and Ray Montemayor, respectively) and, at this point in time, are taught by these faculty members, who not only do a superb job of teaching these classes but also provide continuity in terms of advertising the minor and explaining its benefits to the students in their courses.
4. Adding these courses to the central courses for the minor will provide students with some excellent options for designing a minor that fits their personal and/or career interests. For

instance, we have quite a few students who pursue the minor because they would like to counsel adolescents and believe, justifiably, that an understanding of adolescent sexuality is crucial to this career choice. An ideal minor program for these students would include Social Work 597: Adolescent Parenthood and Psychology 555: Adolescent Sexuality as their central, grounding courses. Similarly, a program with HDFS 370: Human Sexuality in Context and Sociology 340: Sex and Love in Modern Society as the two central courses would be perfect for students who want to go into family therapy. In short, adding these three courses to the central courses for the minor will provide my co-adviser, Professor Mollie Blackburn of Teaching and Learning, and me with a number of good, interdisciplinary options for designing model programs for students pursuing counseling, social, and mental health perspectives on sexuality.

In the past, one of the questions your committee has had about the Sexuality Studies minor is whether it needs more focus to ensure that students have a coherent experience. Having advised students in this program for six years (since its inception), I would argue that one of the big advantages of our minor as it is currently constructed is its flexibility. My records show that Professor Blackburn and I have signed up 140 students for the minor in those six years, students who come to us from almost every major at the university: Psychology, Sociology, English, Theatre, Linguistics, African American and African Studies, HDFS, Chemistry, Microbiology, even Forestry, Fisheries, and Wildlife, to name just a few. Because we meet individually with each of these students, we are able to construct minor programs that suit their vocational and educational needs. Having a variety of courses to choose from gives us flexibility to design minors for students pursuing careers or futures as varied as health services, legal services, counseling, education, social work, political activism, diversity training, and graduate school. In other words, we are able to give students appropriate focus as well as interdisciplinary breadth because of the flexibility we have with our course offerings. This request to add three new courses to our listing of central courses is essentially, then, a request to expand our offerings so that we can continue to design personalized and workable minor programs for each student who visits our offices.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Supporting letters from the chairs of HDFS, Sociology, and Psychology as well as syllabi from the professors teaching these three courses are included in this packet. I look forward to your response and am eager to answer any questions you might have about this request.

Sincerely yours,



Debra A. Modellmog
Professor of English
Coordinator, Interdisciplinary Sexuality Studies Program

Cc: Mollie Blackburn, Assoc. Professor of Teaching and Learning