



Department of English

164 West 17th Avenue  
Columbus, OH 43210-1370

Phone 614-292-6065  
FAX 614-292-7816

March 26, 2009

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 Popular Culture Studies, I am requesting a change to our core requirements for the Minor. As originally formulated, the Minor required all students to take Arts and Sciences 264 (Introduction to Popular Culture Studies). At our last meeting, the Minor's Advisory Committee, in consultation with Dean Gustafson and Jessica Mercerhill, voted to instead invite students to choose from three introductory courses to fulfill this requirement. In addition to ASC 264, the other two courses that would fulfill the introductory course requirement are English/Comparative Studies 264 (Introduction to Reading Popular Culture Studies) and Women's Studies 230 (Gender, Sexuality, and Race in Popular Culture). We are requesting this change for the following reasons:

1. Staffing of Arts and Sciences 264 has become a serious challenge, with few clear solutions emerging in the near future. As the Minor grows, we need to be able to offer the course at least twice a year (ideally 3x), and this has proved impossible in both 2008-09 and 2009-10.
2. English/Comparative Studies 264 has been redesigned since the Popular Culture Studies minor has come on line to make it more responsive to the needs of the Minors. The course addresses many of the core issues central to ASC 264, including introducing students to key research methods and theoretical concepts in the class.
3. Women's Studies 230 was designed after the Minor was approved, and it offers a vital introduction to many of the key issues in the field in a course taught by faculty and instructors in the field.
4. Offering Minors a choice of one of three introductory courses will give students considerably more flexibility in terms of designing and scheduling a program that works with their interests and graduate schedule. Whereas we were able to offer ASC 264 only once in 2008-09, both English/Comparative Studies 264 and Women's Studies 230 are offered at least three times a year.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Syllabi from professors teaching these three courses are included in this packet.

Sincerely yours,

Jared Gardner  
Associate Professor of English and Film  
Coordinator, Interdisciplinary Popular Culture Studies Program