11-12-2013

Dear Garett,

Attached you will find the recently updated Andean & Amazonian Studies (AAS) minor. I have established an AAS working group within the Department and together we have begun to consider issues related to the growth of the minor and the sustainability of our Andean language offerings. Upon thorough review of the minor, the working group found numerous opportunities to increase the flexibility of the minor in order to yield greater and more rapid growth of this unique curricular offering.

In the introduction, you will find general changes to the contact information consistent with the restructuring of staff in Hagerty Hall, more concise language describing the minor, and a clear identification our targeted student population. We have deleted repetitive language that appears appropriately at the end of the document under “Andean & Amazonian Studies minor program guidelines” section.

In the requirements description for languages, we have articulated Quechua to match that of Spanish and Portuguese because Quechua levels 1-3 now hold GE status. We have also added language that clarifies how this change will affect those in International Studies wishing to use this minor to satisfy their language and major requirements.

In addition to the above changes, we felt that requiring both History 2111 and Spanish 2332 may be too much to ask of students for scheduling purposes under the semester timeline – several members of the AAS working group expressed concern that students would have to delay the completion of the minor due to scheduling overlaps or lack of course availability. Thus, we have moved History 2111 to the “Core Courses” section, raising the minimum limit to 9 credit hours, and lowering the “Required Courses” section to 3 credit hours to allow for more flexibility. Instead of distinguishing “Core” from “Elective” courses based on percentage of content (50/75%), we have replaced it with language that allows for students to petition inclusion of courses in particular areas. Finally, we have included intermediate Quechua courses as options within the core in order to ensure that these courses have a place on an approved academic degree plan.

I fully support these changes to the AAS Minor. I believe that these adjustments will allow for growth in student numbers due to more flexible requirements, that they will boost enrollment numbers in Spanish 2332 and in Quechua and Portuguese language courses, and most importantly, that they will increase student interest in the Andean & Amazonian region.

Please contact me if you have any further questions or concerns.

Respectfully submitted,

Glenn Martinez