# Department of English

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The Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee

CAMPUS

Dear Committee,

We are requesting approval for the revised English major represented in the attached documents. All aspects of the request have undergone multiple layers of review and have the approval of the Chair, the Executive Committee, the Undergraduate Committee and the English Department Council. The Department of English has given considerable care and thought to creating a major that will help our majors develop core knowledge and skills yet remain adaptable to our students’ many focus areas of study and career directions. The Department’s previous Directors of Undergraduate Studies, Professors Manny Martinez and Luke Wilson, made major contributions to the development of the new major, as did many members of our staff and especially Debra Lowry and Ruth Friedman.

During the course of program assessment as we planned the conversion to semesters, the Faculty body as a whole agreed that the English major should include options to represent the different strands of English study and that it should introduce students to the cultural diversity of the field. The original plan was to add the diversity requirement but to retain a twelve-course major by restructuring our historical surveys. This was deemed unacceptable by the Ohio Board of Regents, who wished our historical surveys to continue to align with those of other institutions. Our new major is therefore structured as previously but with the addition of the diversity requirement, resulting in a 13-course major. Because of our very active advising program to ensure that majors take the courses they need, we do not anticipate that students will take any longer to complete the program.

While retaining the historical survey components and basic structure of the major as we have taught it for many decades, the revised major acknowledges the different ways in which our department teaches English studies by creating four concentrations for study: Literature (including film, popular culture, and critical theory); Writing, Rhetoric and Literacy (including business and technical writing); Creative Writing; and Folklore. To this end we have re-thought the “gateway” course for our major, formerly 3398 as a “methods” course for each of our new concentrations. First, we are requesting that it should be a 2000-level course to encourage students to take it as early as possible. Secondly, we are requesting approval to create different versions, 2279 and 2298. The first would be for those taking the Writing, Rhetoric, and Literacy concentration and the second for those taking the Literature and Creative Writing concentrations. The Folklore concentration would use English 2270, Introduction to Folklore, as its “Methods” course.

To complement our proposed new major program, assessment plan, and advising plans, all of which are attached, we are therefore requesting approval of three new courses:

English 2298, Introduction to the Study of Literature, to replace English 3398.

English 2279, Introduction to Writing, Rhetoric, Literacy—parallel course to 2298.

English 4589, Studying the Margins: Power, Language and Culture—special topics course fulfilling the diversity requirement.

Should you have any further questions, please let me know.

Sincerely yours,

Clare A. Simmons

Director of Undergraduate Studies

Department of English

Approved by

Sebastian D.G. Knowles

Chair

Department of English