



February 6, 2015

Dr. Marymegan Daly  
Chairperson  
ASC Curriculum Committee  
College of Arts and Sciences  
Via Email

Dear Dr. Marymegan Daly:

On behalf of the Latina/o Studies Program Faculty, I would like to advise the College Curriculum Committee on changes we would like to make to the Minor in Latina/o Studies to ensure that these meet College requirements. Thank your for the preliminary review of our proposal, and please accept our revised proposal as follows.

We propose an implementation date of Summer 2015 for these changes in order to make the curriculum available to students as soon as possible. The new academic unit responsible for the administration of the Latina/o Studies Minor program is DISCO: Diversity and Identity Studies Collective within the College of Arts and Sciences.

#### Rationale For Changes

We do not propose any major change in the purpose of the Minor or radical shift in courses that count for Minor. Instead, we propose some fine-tuning in the number of courses required for the Minor and how courses count for the Minor, as well as additions to course list. These changes are driven by faculty and student feedback on the difficulty of completing the Minor in the current three-track arrangement, and a review of the curriculum by the newly formed (for first time in 2014) of Latina/o Studies faculty Advisory Council. Our proposed revisions reflect both growing interest in Latina/o Studies at OSU and the recent hires of Latina/o Studies faculty in several Departments and Colleges/

Given the interest of SPPO in offering a Major in Latina/o Languages, Literatures, and Cultures, this new Minor structure also distinguishes itself from the new SPPO Major, which will remain strongly oriented to training students in advanced language use in Spanish while also introducing students to the Latina/o literatures and the complexity of language use in Latina/o communities. In contrast, the Minor offers a strong interdisciplinary course of study, designed to provide a more comprehensive understanding of Latina/o experience, history, culture, literature, and art, and their interrelationship. This Minor will benefit OSU by providing students with an opportunity to complement their Major with focused work in Latina/o Studies, an inter-discipline increasingly relevant in multiple fields. It will also benefit OSU by providing faculty in the international and national field of Latina/o Studies a research and curricular home for their interdisciplinary work. It will further benefit OSU by advancing knowledge about Latinas/os in Ohio.

While course enrollments in Latina/o Studies courses have steadily increased, enrollments in the Minor have not for a variety of reasons, including challenges in advising, administration,



and faculty involvement. With Latina/o Studies now located in DISCO, a newly formed Advisory Council, and collaboration with SPPO on the differences and commonalities between our programs, we expect enrollment of Minors to increase to at least fifty students per year from all Major programs.

#### Summary of Proposed Changes

1. Change Minor name from "Latino" or "Latino/a Studies" to "Latina/o Studies." The program has long been identified by the masculine universal "Latino," and apparently was shifted to "Latino/a" in recent year though publicity and branding remained mixed. The faculty chose to adopt the term widely used in the field to indicate conscious gender inclusivity, "Latina/o Studies," and are active in advising all of this change.
2. Simplify structure of Minor. Rather than require student concentration in one of three sub-areas (formerly these were Culture, Literature, Arts; History; Social Issues), we now identify courses by two broad areas of interest (Culture, Literature, and Arts; History and Social Issues) and require students to take courses in both. This will reduce student confusion about the Minor and difficulty in completing the Minor due to multiple tracks. Pedagogically, this shift will also encourage students to study across disciplines, building on the interdisciplinary focus of our Introduction to Latina/o Studies course, and allows us to work with multiple Departments to develop courses that could more easily count for the Minor (and our planned new Major).
3. Reduce the required number of credit hours for the Minor from fifteen (15) to twelve (12). Our experience is that students often change majors within the first two years, making second majors or minors difficult to achieve. We feel that 12 credit hours will allow students to gain strong education in Latina/o Studies while also completing college education in four years.
4. Addition of courses to our selection list, and reiteration of proviso that other courses may be counted toward Minor with approval of Coordinator (to ensure that special topics courses that arise can be included, or courses developed by new or visiting faculty can be added).
5. In contrast to SPPO Major, where language of instruction and coursework in Latina/o Literature and Language is in Spanish and at least 30% of materials must be in Spanish language for courses in Latina/o literature or language, the majority of interdisciplinary Latina/o Studies Minor courses will be in English, but SPPO has agreed to allow us to asterisk their courses and allow individual students to take them with permission if they have language proficiency.
6. We are adding to our list of electives the option of one language course in Spanish.
7. Update information and contact information on Advisor and Coordinator.

#### Transition From Old to New Requirements

For students who completed the Minor requirements under the old plan, we propose to honor their work by awarding them the Minor as they expected when they enrolled. For students currently enrolled in the Minor, or enrolling in the Minor prior to implementation of these



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proposed changes, we propose to give them the option of completing the requirements for the Minor under the new plan if they so choose.

Attached is a copy of the proposed revised Latina/o Studies Minor academic advising sheet. All changes are clearly marked in Track Changes format. Please let me know if you require any additional information. We have received concurrence from SPPO for this proposal.

Sincerely,

Theresa Delgadillo, Ph.D.  
Associate Professor, Comparative Studies  
Coordinator, Latina/o Studies Program