



October 28, 2014

Dr. Marymegan Daly  
Chairperson  
ASC Curriculum Committee  
College of Arts and Sciences  
Columbus, OH 43210  
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.

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 how courses count for the Minor, and 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. We propose to eliminate the three tracks in the Minor and instead require students to take courses across disciplines. This will reduce student confusion about the Minor and difficulty in completing the Minor due to multiple tracks. Our update to the course list reflects new offerings due to growing interest in Latina/o Studies at OSU, the recent hires of Latina/o Studies faculty in several Departments and Colleges, and the expertise of our faculty in varied disciplines.

Given the interest of SPPO in offering a Major in Latina/o Languages, this new Minor structure also distinguishes itself from the new SPPO Major in Latina/o Languages, Literatures, and Cultures, 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.

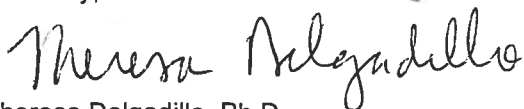
The changes we propose are as follows:

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 choose to adopt the term widely used in the field to indicate conscious gender inclusivity, "Latina/o Studies," and are active in advising all of 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. Pedagogically, this shift is to 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 what we hope will eventually be a Major).
3. 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).
4. 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.
5. We are adding to our list of electives the option of one language course in Spanish.
6. Update information and contact information on Advisor and Coordinator.

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 requested concurrence from SPPO approximately two weeks ago, and have not received a reply, therefore, we assume that the proposed changes are acceptable to SPPO. An added reason for assuming concurrence is that SPPO faculty have participated in crafting these proposed changes.

Sincerely,



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