

From: [Heysel, Garrett](#)
To: [Aski, Janice](#)
Cc: [Vankeerbergen, Bernadette](#); [Fink, Steven](#); [Davidson, John](#)
Subject: RE: Concurrence comp studies and film studies
Date: Wednesday, April 01, 2015 8:07:16 PM

Okay, sorry for the slow uptake on this. Therefore, concurrence is not granted and that information needs to be passed along to the course as it goes from ASC to OAA. OAA will not be happy to see this but it isn't something that I can decide, it is an OAA-ASC issue at Steve's level or David's level. Thanks for the follow-up.
Garrett

From: Aski, Janice
Sent: Wednesday, April 01, 2015 7:47 PM
To: Heysel, Garrett
Cc: Vankeerbergen, Bernadette
Subject: Re: Concurrence comp studies and film studies

Well, he says he doesn't give concurrence without the change. And I agree with him.

Sent from my Verizon 4G LTE Smartphone

----- Original message-----

From: Davidson, John
Date: Wed, Apr 1, 2015 7:44 PM
To: Heysel, Garrett;
Cc: Aski, Janice; Vankeerbergen, Bernadette;
Subject: FW: Concurrence comp studies and film studies

Garrett, Sent this 2 weeks ago. It has a paragraph about 3625 as well. Sorry I didn't more explicitly cross-reference.

jd

John E. Davidson, Director
OSU Film Studies Program
Executive Editor, *Journal of Short Film*
Professor, Germanic L&L
Tel. (001-614) 292-6010
FAX (001-614) 292-5308

From: Davidson, John
Sent: Sunday, March 15, 2015 8:31 PM
To: Barry Shank; Heysel, Garrett
Cc: Shank, Barry; van Bladel, Kevin T.; Vankeerbergen, Bernadette; Aski, Janice; Fink, Steven; Hugh Urban; Isaac Weiner; Kasulis, Thomas; Johnston, Sarah
Subject: RE: Concurrence comp studies and film studies

All,

The Film Studies Program appreciates the opportunity to consider Near Eastern Languages and Cultures 2367.01, "Scripture and Script: The Bible and Contemporary Literature and Film," for concurrence. The Interdisciplinary Film Studies Committee has had a lively discussion about the course, finding it a wide-ranging and thought-provoking offering.

Much of the film faculty's conversation centered on the quantity and quality of cinematic engagement reflected in the syllabus and ancillary materials. The IFSC came to the strong consensus that there is

insufficient film-studies content to warrant inclusion in our lists or justify advertising through our program. Given that students are not always exactly in seeking out advising – and often simply assume that courses with “film” or “cinema” in the titles automatically satisfy Film Studies requirements – we worry that this course may cause us unnecessary administrative work down the road. These situations can rise to the level of impinging on our program when, for example, seniors seeking to graduate realize that they are short of necessary coursework and come to us asking for exceptions to our program requirements.

We have worked long and hard to reduce this problem with existing courses. (To give an example: I myself inherited a German course entitled “Weimar & the Third Reich in Literature and Film,” which did not count in the FS major even when I taught it, and which has since undergone a name change in part to avoid any confusion.) We are very resistant to new courses being created that extend this problem and, thus, respectfully request that this course be re-titled to avoid reference to “film” or “cinema.”

Two apt alternatives were suggested by the IFSC:

- “The Bible in Literature and Visual and Performing Arts”; or,
- “The Bible in Contemporary Culture and Politics.”

The former was the first suggestion proffered, since that is the GE designation that NELC is seeking. Both of these suggestions reflect the proposed course content better than the current title. Without such a title change, Film Studies does not feel it can offer concurrence.

It is worth mentioning at this juncture that the IFSC has recently made a similar suggestion for another NELC course: we asked that NELC 3625, “Understanding Bollywood, Knowing India: Hindi Cinema since 1960,” be reduced to simply “Understanding Bollywood, Knowing India” for the reasons adduced above. The response was a hesitation because the course might not draw as well without the term “cinema.” While we understand the pressure to push enrollments in the current climate, if NELC wants to profit from the perception that film is a popular avenue of study, then it should appoint a colleague or colleagues with bon fides in film scholarship to teach such courses. We would welcome it. Indeed, as Film Studies does every year, we have recently pointed out the gap in our expertise and offerings in Near- and Middle-Eastern material. In tandem with the Deans, we have encouraged units to partner with us to invest in such areas where OSU lacks expertise. Should such expertise be acquired in NELC, Film Studies would be eager to invite that colleague to develop or adopt film-studies courses in these vital traditions. We would support those courses fully by considering them for our major lists, advising our students to take them, and advertising them as we do all the relevant courses in units that partner with us.

As a final note, the question of whether New Testament material should be included was raised in our review (parallel to that of Comparative Studies). A difference was also remarked between “the Bible” in the title and “the Hebrew Bible” in the description, which we pass along as an observation.

Sincerely,

John E. Davidson, Director
OSU Film Studies Program
Executive Editor, *Journal of Short Film*
Professor, Germanic L&L
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FAX (001-614) 292-5308

From: Barry Shank [barryshank@gmail.com]

Sent: Tuesday, March 10, 2015 1:24 PM

To: Heysel, Garrett

Cc: Shank, Barry; Davidson, John; van Bladel, Kevin T.; Vankeerbergen, Bernadette; Aski, Janice; Fink, Steven; Hugh Urban; Isaac Weiner; Kasulis, Thomas; Johnston, Sarah

Subject: Re: Concurrence comp studies and history

All,

I have surveyed the Religious Studies faculty on duty in Comparative Studies. There were two relatively small questions raised. The first turns around this wording: "to determine what the Bible does (or does not) say about our time."

The faculty member concerned about this asked if it would be possible to reword that phrase to say something like "to see how the Bible has been understood as relevant to our time"

OR

"to determine how the Bible might or might not be considered relevant to our time" in order to avoid the appearance of basing the issue on belief.

The second question asked if it would be possible to expand the purview of this course so that the New Testament could become part of its content.

In neither case was the concern sufficient to block concurrence, so this email should be considered concurrence from Comparative Studies. But if our questions could be considered, we would appreciate it.

Thank you,

Barry

On Fri, Mar 6, 2015 at 7:30 PM, Heysel, Garrett <heysel.1@osu.edu> wrote:

Hello Barry and John,

I'm writing following the recent A&H curriculum panel discussion about the attached course. We found it to be a great course and well-constructed. There were some issues with GE assessment over course assessment but that is not why I'm reaching out to you now. In our discussion it became clear that it would be appropriate to seek concurrence from your programs for this course. **Please remember that concurrence is not a request for approval.** We want your individual programs to be **aware** of this curricular offering; to be able to **suggest**, recommend improvements, cautions, overlap, etc. to the initiating unit; and mostly to let you know about the course proposal so that, should you wish, let your faculty and students know about the course.

Concurrence is considered granted if no response is received within 2 weeks of this request. If you do not concur, the course request will move forward with your input to the next level of review. Eventually, it is the discretion of the Executive Dean to resolve concurrence roadblocks.

Thanks in advance for reviewing it. Feel free to reach out to me, or to the initiating unit directly with your questions/concerns.

Best regards,

Garrett

From: Heysel, Garrett

Sent: Friday, March 06, 2015 1:22 PM

To: Heysel, Garrett

Subject: Concurrence comp studies and history

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Barry Shank

Professor & Chair

Department of Comparative Studies

The Ohio State University