



Department of French and Italian

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*Janice*

April 27, 2016

Dear Meg,

The Department of Design has proposed a minor in Design Thinking. With this newly structured minor, they intend to present a cohesive narrative about the usefulness of design thinking as an approach to solving problems and creating innovative ideas. This specially-designed non-professional curriculum for non-design students will engage students in the study and understanding of the discourse of design practice so that they can explore design methods to encourage the broad application of design thinking to problems that reside in a wide range of fields and disciplines.

This minor was created by revising the Design Minor, which was one minor with two tracks: Track 1 for students outside of Design or pre-Design, and Track 2 for Pre-Design students not accepted in the Design Major. Track 1 was adjusted to put the focus on Design Thinking (rather than Design) and becomes the new minor. Recent course changes for 3105, 3305, and 3505 go hand-in-hand with the revision of Track 1 and creation of the minor. Track 2 now becomes the Design Minor, which has undergone a name change to "Design Foundations". In short, two tracks of one minor now become two discrete minors.

The two minors were unanimously approved at our Arts and Humanities panel meeting of March 8 with the understanding that they would move on to ASCC once the 3 courses were fully approved (which has now happened: 3105 and 3305 had been approved with contingencies and then were resubmitted and advanced on April 5 and April 12 respectively; 3505 was fully approved by the A&H Panel on April 12 and advanced the next day).

A transition plan is in place. Students will have the option of continuing with the current Track One requirements or may switch to the new Design Thinking Minor requirements — whichever allows for the most efficient completion of their minor program. They also plan to grant permission to reduce the number of hours for completion from 18 to 15 for any students following the Track One requirements during the transition period. They will also honor elective courses taken in the Track One program for students who wish to switch to the new Design Thinking Minor during the transition period. The Track One elective courses (Design 4405, 4505, 5405, and 5505), will continue to be offered during the transition period as needed for students who continue to follow the Track One program requirements.

Sincerely,  
*Janice m. Aski*  
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