



Department of French and Italian

200 Hagerty Hall  
1775 College Road  
Columbus, OH 43210-1340

Phone (614) 292-4938  
Fax (614) 292-7403

April 29, 2016

Dear Meg,

The Arts and Humanities panel met on April 12, 2016 and discussed the new Science and Technology Studies Minor (STS) proposed by the Department of Comparative Studies. The Department of Comparative Studies has offered STS courses since 1990, and is currently home to an interdepartmental concentration in STS within the Comparative Studies major. Like the proposed minor, the major draws on courses from across the College of Arts and Sciences. Whereas the major will remain an attractive option for a small number of students, the minor will attract new students to the field, especially in STEM disciplines where making room for a double major is practically difficult.

The STS minor does not duplicate any current minor. It shares a general orientation and structure with the existing STS major in the Department of Comparative Studies, but is likely to attract students who would not consider the major. The minor differs in focus and curricular structure from the minor in Science, Engineering, and Public Policy minor offered by the Glenn School, which has a policy orientation and includes only one Arts and Sciences course. Finally, the minor complements rather than competes with the newly created minor in Medical Humanities. Although the list of the electives has some courses in common with minor in Medical Humanities, there is no overlap of core or foundational courses, and no course with a central focus on medicine or health has been included in the STS minor. The expectation is that students with a primary interest in medicine and the health sciences will seek out the Medical Humanities minor, while those with primary interests in engineering and non-medical sciences will gravitate toward the STS minor.

The Department of Comparative Studies already offers two courses (CS 2340 and CS 2341) that provide interdisciplinary introductions to the field of STS and that can serve as required core courses. Demand for those courses has regularly exceeded capacity, but they offer each course every semester. The Department has two regular faculty, one visiting assistant professor, and one senior lecturer who teach full time in STS. History, Philosophy, and Sociology also regularly offer courses that introduce students to particular disciplinary approaches to the study of science and technology; together with more advanced courses in Comparative Studies and Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies, these constitute a list of "foundations" courses from which students choose two (six credits). The rest of the minor is composed of two electives (six credits) chosen from a long list of courses in 17 different departments, and which allow students to tailor the minor to their particular interests: for example, science and technology in popular culture, environmentalism and global politics, or genomics and agriculture.

The Arts and Humanities panel unanimously approved the new minor with recommendations for tweaks to the advising sheet. Those were approved by Barry Shank and Bernadette made the changes in the revised proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Janice m. Aski".

Janice M. Aski