



Department of French and Italian

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October 16, 2016

Dear Meg,

The Arts and Humanities panel met on Tuesday, September 20, 2016 and reviewed the new minor in World Literatures (WL) proposed by the Department of Comparative Studies. This minor explicitly connects literary study to the consideration of cultural contact and processes of globalization and enables students to meaningfully engage with resources across multiple departments. It is particularly useful for students interested in a global perspective on literature but whose primary areas of study render a double major practically difficult.

The Department of Comparative Studies has offered courses in world literatures since its founding, and it is currently home to an interdepartmental major in world literatures as well as a comparative literature option within the Comparative Studies major. A revision to the literature major options in comparative studies is currently underway. As with the approved redesign of several of the comparative studies majors, this effort will maintain the strengths and flexibility that are hallmarks of literary studies in the department while creating a clearer trajectory for students.

This is a 12 credit (four course) minor. The required course is CS 2301 Introduction to World Literatures. Minors then choose one of two foundations courses: 3302: Translating Literatures and Cultures and CS 3303: Approaches to World Literatures (formerly CS 4903 World Literature: Theory and Practice), one of which will be taught every semester. The remaining six credits are completed by choosing from courses on literature in translation, both within comparative studies and from departments across the humanities (e.g., African American and African Studies, Classics, East Asian Languages and Literature, French and Italian, and Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies). However, they note that Students with a primary interest in literature in the context of a specific foreign language will likely pursue a minor offered through a language department.

One point brought up in the panel discussion was that since the two electives can be two literature courses in a foreign language instead of two literature courses taught in English translation (if they have the necessary foreign language ability), this minor may not be significantly distinct from a minor in a foreign language. However, the conclusion was that there is a distinct comparative approach that is not present in foreign language minors, which is obtained in the first two required Comparative Studies courses. The panel also asked why this minor is not 15 credits like other minors in the Department of Comparative Studies. The department responded that they consulted with departments on the issue and that many, the College of Education and Human Ecology in particular, stated that a 12 credit hour minor would attract significantly more students because of reducing possible conflict with their major requirements.

This course was unanimously approved with contingencies pertaining to the advising sheet.

Sincerely,

Janice M. Aski
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