January 2017

**Proposal to Restructure the Major and Minor Degree**

**Programs in Globalization Studies**

**To:** The Council on Academic Affairs

**From:** Anthony Mughan, Director, International Studies

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**Background**

In 2011, the Undergraduate International Studies Program (UISP) sponsored a new major, Globalization Studies, to introduce students to the phenomenon of the growing cultural, economic, political and social interdependence of peoples and states - a trend with profound implications for both the international order and the internal structure of states. The new major was designed to complement, rather than compete with, the ten majors that UISP already offered. At the same time, however, it differed from these existing majors in two important respects. First, the latter were overwhelmingly social science-based, whereas the Globalization major was designed to introduce students to the cultural and humanistic as well as the economic, social and political dimensions of globalization. Thus, students were “forced” to take 50 per cent of their major courses in arts/humanities departments and 50 per cent in social science departments. At the same time, a largely social science-based Globalization minor that was already in existence at the time the major was proposed was revised to follow this same “50-50” curricular pattern.

The second distinctive feature of the original Globalization major was its different curricular structure from the other ten majors in UISP. The ten majors all follow the same curricular template. In each of them, all majors are required to take four “foundations” courses that provide a shared body of knowledge on which subsequent course choices can be based. There is then a highly selective number of “critical perspectives” courses that allow students to pursue particular interests they might have within their overall specialization of choice; students select four “critical perspectives” courses. That leaves two courses to satisfy the 30-hour major requirement, and these are selected from a wide-ranging list of electives that can come from either the list provided on the curriculum sheet or from courses that students identify for themselves and petition to have included in their major. There might, for example, be a visitor to campus who offers a one-time a course that is relevant to the student’s particular interests.

The structure of the Globalization curriculum, on the other hand, was more complex. While it too contained a required foundation of four courses (two from arts/humanities and two from the social sciences), it parted ways after this point. The remaining six courses in the major were chosen from three thematic groupings: “Economy, Environment and Health,” “Violence, Conflict and Reconciliation,” and “Global Cultures, Networks and Institutions.” Students choose two courses from each grouping, with the proviso that, overall, three of the six courses must come from the Arts/Humanities and three from the social sciences.

A by-product of the Globalization Studies major’s unique curricular structure was that it was not counted as a straightforward addition to UISP’s stable of majors. Instead, it was constituted as a stand-alone major for which UISP bore administrative responsibility. This meant, for example, that it required its own assessment report even though it is assessed in the same way as the other majors for which UISP is responsible.

The final distinctive feature of the current Globalization major is that, unlike the other majors in the UISP stable, it does not have a BS option. This proposal would create such an option and it would be configured in exactly the same way as the BS options of the other UISP majors.

In sum, this proposal envisages restructuring the Globalization Studies specialization so that it conforms to the same curricular template as the other majors in UISP, but without sacrificing its dual arts/humanities and social science character. At the same time, it is proposed that the restructured Globalization Studies major and minor will become simply a major and minor “like the others” in the UISP stable. In other words, it will have a number of pre-major requirements and all students, whether they be BA or BS majors, will complete the curriculum requirements set out in this proposal. BA majors will also have to complete a minor in a foreign language and BS majors a minor chosen from an approved list.

**Rationale**

The reason for this proposed change is simple, actual enrollment in the Globalization Studies specialization has fallen far short of expectations. The hope of the committee that wrote the proposal setting it up was that, like a number of similar UISP specializations including Development Studies and World Economy & Business, it would attract somewhere in the region of 100 majors given the large academic literature on globalization and its “real world” impact in domains of human activity like culture, economics, politics and society. In practice, however, enrollment has fallen well short of this projected number. In the six years between Spring 2011 and Spring 2016, for example, the number of majors averages out at about 21, with a low of 16 in Spring 2011 and high of 26 in Spring 2014. Nor does there seem to be much chance that these numbers will get better. At the time of writing (early January 2017), 17 students have applied to the Globalization Studies major for the 2017-2018 academic year, and two of them have been admitted. This compares with 356 applications and 124 admittances for the other ten majors in UISP combined.

After perusing the current major very carefully in light of low enrollment numbers and talking to a small number of students, I have come to the view that enrollments would grow if the major’s curricular structure were simplified. In particular, there seem to be two special problems with it now. One, with six courses having to be chosen from three thematic groupings and the Arts/Humanities-social science balance having to be achieved in the aggregate, student choice is complex and limited at the same time. It is complex because the long list of courses from which choices have to be made and balanced are currently divided into two types (arts/humanities vs. social sciences) and three thematic groupings (“Economy, Environment and Health,” “Violence, Conflict and Reconciliation,” and “Global Cultures, Networks and Institutions”). It is limited because the balance requirement can lead to students taking courses that might be no better than their second or third choice. This proposal overcomes these weaknesses of the major through simplification of choice; it eliminates the three thematic categories that currently exists and gathers the centrally relevant courses in a single “Critical Perspectives” category, and students have to choose any four of them. In other words, depending on their own interests, they can if they wish choose two arts/humanities and two social science courses or they can choose four that fall into either one of these categories. That leaves two courses still to be chosen and they will come from a wide-ranging “Electives” category. The idea here is that students can choose courses in an area of special interest to them but in which they were only able to take one course in the “Critical Perspectives” category. Alternatively, this option will enable them to petition to have a course included in their major that is not included in the published curriculum, perhaps a course taught by a new faculty member or a one-off course taught by a visitor to the campus. The “Electives” category allows for the curricular flexibility required to study an ever-changing and multi-faceted phenomenon like globalization.

The second problem with the current curricular structure for the Globalization Studies major is that the proliferation of thematic categories and types of course has encouraged the inclusion in the choice set courses whose relevance to the globalization phenomenon might not be immediately obvious to students, even potential majors and minors. Random examples include Linguistics 4597.02: *Language and the Law* and Political Science 4216: *East European Politics*. The proposed revised curriculum will include courses whose relevance to the globalization phenomenon is evident from either or both their title and subject matter. The list of courses will be reviewed periodically and updated as faculty members leave and new ones arrive or new courses come online from faculty already in the university.

This proposal, therefore, represents an effort to inject new life (and popularity) into the Globalization Studies specialization and to do this essentially by simplifying its curricular structure so as to bring it in line with other IS majors of proven rigor and popularity. A comparison of the current and proposed major and minor sheets will show that the overall goals remain the same and that what has changed is that the choice set confronting students has been narrowed and curricular structure simplified to allow them to make a more focused and coherent selection of courses based on their own interests.

**Curriculum: Major**

The proposal is for a revised, 30-hour multidisciplinary major in Globalization Studies that follows the same curricular structure as the ten other specializations in UISP at the same time as being intellectually separate from them. Thus, the separate Globalization Studies specialization that currently exists must be dropped and reincarnated as simply the 11th specialization in UISP. Students must earn a C- or higher on all courses in the major and have a minimum 2.0 grade point average.

**Required Foundations (12 hours)** (This is exactly the same list of courses as on the current curriculum)

Comparative Studies 3360 Introduction to Globalization and Culture (3)

International Studies 3850 Introduction to Globalization (3)

International Studies 4850 Understanding the Global Information Society (3)

Political Science 4330 Global Governance (3)

**Critical Perspectives: Choose four (12 hours)**

Anthropology 5602 Women’s Health in Global Perspective (3)

Comparative Studies 4597.01 Global Studies of Science and Technology (3)

Comparative Studies 4597.02 Global Culture (3)

ECON/INTSTDS 4560 Cooperation and Conflict in the Global Economy (3)

Geography 3900 Global Climate Change: Causes and Consequences (3

Geography 5802 Globalization & Environment (3)

History 3706 Coca-Cola Globalization: The History of American

Business and Global Environmental Change 1800-Today

(3)

Music 3348 Music on the Move in a Globalized World (3)

Political Science 4210 The Politics of European Integration (3)

Political Science 4331 The United Nations System (3)

RELSTDS/INTSTDS 4873 Religious Movements in a Global Context (3)

SLAVIC/WGSST 5450 Global Human Trafficking: Realities and Representations (3)

Sociology 5450 Sociology of Global Health and Illness (3)

Sociology 5525 Global Criminology (3)

WGSST 3505 Feminist Perspectives on Globalization (3)

**Electives: Choose two for BA, choose one for BS (3 or 6 hours)**

AAAS 3310 Global Perspectives on the African Diaspora (3)

AAAS 4570 Theorizing Colonialism and the Postcolonial (3)

AEDECON/INTSTDS 4532 Food Security & Globalization (3)

Anthropology 3597.01 Crisis! An Anthropological Perspective of Global Issues (3)

Classics 4597 Nationalism Revisited (3)

Communication 3443 Global Media (3)

Communication 3668 Intercultural Communication

Comparative Studies 3645 Cultures of Medicine (3)

Comparative Studies 4597.03 Global Folklore (3)

COMPSTD/INTSTDS 3661 The City and Culture (3)

Economics 4130 World Economic Development in Historical Perspective (3)

ENG/GEOG 3597.03 Environmental Citizenship (3)

ENR 5480 Local Peoples and International Conservation (3)

EARTHSC 3411 Water Security for the 21st century (3)

EARTHSC 5203 Geo-environment and Human Health (3)

EARTHSC 5663 Global Change and Sustainability in the Earth System (4)

Geography 3601 Global Politics and the Modern Geopolitical Imagination (3)

Geography 3701 The Making of the Modern World (3)

Geography 5501 Urban Spaces in the Global Economy (3)

History 3376 The Silk Road (3)

History 3630 Same Sex Sexuality in Global Content (3)

History 3705 History of Capitalism in Comparative and Global Perspective (3)

International Studies 5801 Children and War

Political Science 4940 The Politics of Immigration (3)

PUBHEAL, EHS 5320 Climate Change and Human Health (3)

SPANISH/INTSTDS 5640 Globalization and Latin America (3)

**Curriculum: Minor (15 hours)**

The proposal is for a revised, 15-hour multidisciplinary minor in Globalization Studies that follows the same curricular structure as the other minors in UISP at the same time as being intellectually separate from them. Up to two courses, or six credit hours, are permitted to overlap with GE requirements. All students minoring in Globalization Studies must pass all courses in the minor with a grade of C- or higher.

**Required Courses: 6 hours**

Comparative Studies 3360 Introduction to Globalization and Culture (3)

International Studies 3850 Introduction to Globalization (3)

**Electives: 9 hours**

AEDECON/INTSTDS 4532 Food Security & Globalization (3)

Anthropology 5602 Women’s Health in Global Perspective (3)

Communication 3443 Global Media (3)

Comparative Studies 4597.02 Global Culture (3)

ECON/INTSTDS 4560 Cooperation and Conflict in the Global Economy (3)

Geography 3900 Global Climate Change: Causes and Consequences (3)

Geography 5501 Urban Spaces and the Global Economy (3)

History 3630 Same Sex Sexuality in Global Context (3)

International Studies 4850 Understanding the Global Information Society (3)

Political Science 4330 Global Governance (3)

Political Science 4331 The United Nations System (3)

RELSTDS/INTSTDS 4873 Religious Movements in a Global Context (3)

SLAVIC/WGSST 5450 Global Human Trafficking: Realities and Representations (3)

Sociology 5450 Sociology of Global Health and Illness (3)

Sociology 5525 Global Criminology (3)

WGSST 3505 Feminist Perspectives on Globalization (3)

**Administration**

To declare a major, students will meet with a UISP advisor, who will help them to plan their major or minor program. Proposed changes to the course content of the major or minor will be discussed and approved by the UISP Oversight Committee.

Departments wishing to propose courses for the Globalization Studies major and/or minor should submit the following to the UISP Director:

* A fully articulated syllabus for the course(s);
* A statement (two pages maximum) describing how the proposed course(s) would add to the Globalization Studies major and/or minor;
* A description of the history of the proposed course. Is it new? How many times has it been offered before and how often will it be offered in the future?
* A short biography of the faculty member who will have primary responsibility for teaching the course

The courses that figure, now or in the future, in the “Foundations” and “Critical Perspectives” groupings will have to share the characteristics of being offered regularly, preferably once a year but no less than once every two years.

**Implementation of Proposed Restructured Major and Minor**

It is hoped that the proposal will be approved by both ASC Curriculum Committee and CAA by the end of the 2017 Spring semester so that the restructured major and minor will become available to students in Autumn 2017.

Questions regarding this proposal should be addressed to Anthony Mughan, 33 Townshend Hall, 1885 Neil Avenue, CAMPUS; his telephone number is 292-9657 and his e-mail address is mughan.1@osu.edu.