COMPARATIVE STUDIES MINOR

14 April 2017

**1. Required Information**

Name of proposed minor: Comparative Studies

Proposed implementation date: Autumn 2017

Academic unit responsible for administering the minor program: The Department of Comparative Studies

**2. Rationale**

Rationale/Purpose

The interdisciplinary minor in Comparative Studies will teach students from a wide variety of majors to investigate how cultures shape the lives of individuals and groups. Interrogating cultural similarities and differences is at the heart of the Comparative Studies program. How, for example, does religion influence social change and stability in different cultures? How do different people express themselves and their concerns through literature and the arts? How do science and technology reflect and transform specific cultural values and beliefs? The questions raised and the skills taught in the Comparative Studies classroom empower students to engage productively with the world around them: to interpret generously, to think critically, and to communicate effectively.

Employers, professional schools, and graduate schools generally value minors as evidence of a breadth of student interests and expertise. More particularly, they value the kinds of cultural competence and critical thinking that a minor in Comparative Studies develops.

Impetus for the proposal

Comparative Studies has offered a major leading to the BA since 1997. At present, about one in four students who pursue the major are double majors, including several in STEM disciplines. However, many students discover the department only in their junior or even senior year and do not have time to pursue the double major. Surveys of non-major students in our classes and focus group discussions were conducted as part of our 2014 review of undergraduate programs. These revealed that a significant number of students who have taken one or two courses in Comparative Studies in order to satisfy general education requirements, return to take other courses in the department purely out of interest. Though they might never seriously consider pursuing the *major*, they do wish to take a group of courses that further develop particular curricular interests, that share a student-centered pedagogical style, and that link work in the classroom with issues of social justice.

Unique characteristics and resources for OSU

Comparative Studies offers more than 60 interdisciplinary courses on topics ranging from “Literature and Society” to “Religious Diversity in the United States” to “Cultures of Medicine.” The program of study in the minor can easily be tailored to specifically complement almost any major offered at Ohio State, or (if a student prefers) to pursue a second area of interest unrelated to the major.

Benefits for students, the institution, the region and the state

Courses in Comparative Studies encourage students to read, think, and write across traditional boundaries of discipline, genre, culture, and language. Students completing the minor would be able to engage people from diverse backgrounds, to question conventional assumptions about intractable problems, to think creatively about their solution, and to communicate effectively with a broad range of stakeholders. This is consistent with the university’s goal of fostering informed and engaged citizenship—of the state of Ohio and the global community. The minor might, for example, be valuable to a business major seeking employment in a corporation with a culturally diverse workforce, to an engineer concerned with the social or environmental implications of her projects, or to a nurse or therapist working in neighborhoods identified with a particular ethnic or religious community.

**3.  Relation of Proposed Minor to Existing Majors and Minor**

The Comparative Studies minor does not duplicate any current minor at the university.  It shares a general orientation with the existing major in the Department of Comparative Studies, but is likely to attract students who would not consider the major for practical reasons. The minor is also distinct from other interdepartmental minors administered by the department: the minors in American Studies, Folklore, Religious Studies, World Literature, and Science and Technology Studies. Unlike those other minors, the minor in Comparative Studies relies exclusively on courses offered in our department.

**4. Student Enrollment**Conversations with faculty, students, and advisors across campus suggest that there will be steady demand for the Comparative Studies minor. There is relatively little useful information from peer institutions, which do not have departments that match the mission and scope of Comparative Studies. We expect an initial group of 10-15 students and foresee an annual total of approximately 40 minors after three years.

**5. Curricular Requirements**

* ASC minor advising sheet (see Appendix)
* List the courses (department, title, credit hours, description) that constitute the requirements and other components of the minor.

This is a 12-credit minor comprising the following distribution of classes:

Required Core Course (3 credits) (Offered every semester)

CMPSTD 2360: Introduction to Comparative Cultural Studies

Introduction to interdisciplinary field of cultural studies; emphasis on relation of cultural production to power, knowledge, and authority, globally and locally. *GE Cultures and Ideas.*

Electives (9 credits)

One Comparative Studies course at the 2000 level or above and two Comparative Studies courses at the 3000 level or above.

* Minimum number of credits required for completion of the minor: 12
* Describe existing facilities, equipment, and off-campus field experience and clinical sites to be used: N/A
* Advising: Advising and approval through the ASC advisors who can refer students for additional advising to David Horn (Comparative Studies)
* Describe additional university resources (including advisors and libraries) that will be required for the new minors: N/A
* Describe the minor as it would appear in the appropriate college bulletin.

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Appendix: ASC minor advising sheet  
The Ohio State University, Arts and Sciences

Comparative Studies Minor

Program Coordinator, David Horn

Department of Comparative Studies

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**Program Advisors:** David Horn (Comparative Studies)

**Descriptive paragraph(s) for students**

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**Electives** (9 credit hours)

One Comparative Studies course at the 2000 level or above and two Comparative Studies courses at the 3000 level or above.

**Comparative Studies Minor program guidelines**

The following guidelines govern this minor:

**Required for graduation** No

**Credit hours required** A minimum of 12 hours. 1000-level courses may not be counted toward the 12 credit hour minimum.

**Transfer credit hours allowed** No more than one half of the credit hours required on the minor.

**Overlap with the GE** A student is permitted to overlap up to 6 credit hours between the GE and the minor.

**Overlap with the major and additional minors**

• The minor must be in a different subject than the major.

• The minor must contain a minimum of 12 hours distinct from the major and/or additional minor(s).

**Grades required**

• Minimum C- for a course to be listed on the minor.

• Minimum 2.00 cumulative point-hour ratio required for the minor.

• Course work graded Pass/Non-Pass cannot count toward the minor.

• No more than 3 credit hours of course work graded Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory may count toward the minor.

**Minor approval** The minor course work must be approved by the Department of Comparative Studies or the ASC advisor.

**Filing the minor program form** The minor program form must be filed at least by the time the graduation application is submitted to a college/school counselor.

**Changing the minor** Once the minor program is filed in the college office, any changes must be approved by the Department of Comparative Studies or the ASC advisor.