



Department of French and Italian

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April 4, 2018

Dear Meg,

The Department of African American and African Studies submitted a revision to their major to Arts and Humanities Panel (1). In order to increase enrollments in the major and facilitate double majors, they are streamlining the course of study and updating their major course requirements to account for current scholarship in the discipline and better reflect the program goals. The revision includes the following changes:

1. Lower the overall credit hour requirement for the major from 36 to 30;
2. Eliminate the “capstone seminar” (AAAS 4998) which has never been offered, in part due to difficulty staffing the course.
3. Make AAAS 4921 (“Intersections”) a fourth core requirement rather than an option. Currently, students take either AAAS 3340 (“Theorizing Race”) or 4921, so this revision reflects the importance of critical race and intersectional studies to the current discipline.
4. Eliminate the four “cognate areas” (or tracks) (Representation & Performance, Social Issues, Community Development, & Public Service, Histories, Cultures, Languages, & Literatures, and Race, Ethnicity, Gender, & Sexuality) since they are confusing and nearly impossible to fulfill as degree requirements because of limited course offerings.
5. Eliminate the ‘breath’ requirement, which is three 4000-level courses in the three other cognate areas not chosen by the student. Since many of their majors declare in the sophomore or junior years, the six breath credit hours add an excessive burden on the advanced students (juniors and seniors) working toward the completion of their degree. Furthermore, undergraduate advising suggests that these additional credit hours dissuade potential majors from pursuing the degree.

The revised major is significantly simplified to include four required core courses (12 credit hours): (one 2000-level course, two 3000-level courses and one 4000-level course) and six elective courses (18 credit hours), of which three courses must be 2000-level or above and three courses must be at the 4000-level.

This revision came to our panel two times. The first time we did not vote and asked them to provide a four-year plan and adjustments to the assessment plan. The second time the revision passed unanimously with recommendations to correct minor inaccuracies and provide a transition plan, which they did.

Sincerely,

Janice M. Aski