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To: [Brenner, Naomi](#); [Smith, Jeremie S.](#)
Cc: [Taleghani-Nikazm, Carmen](#); [Vankeerbergen, Bernadette](#); [Heysel, Garrett](#)
Subject: Islamic Studies major revision and new Islamic Studies minor
Date: Wednesday, November 7, 2018 12:35:00 PM
Attachments: [17_18 Eval Tallies.docx](#)
[2350 Embedded questions rubric.docx](#)
[Assessment rubrics major program.docx](#)
[CurriculumMap Updated September2015.pdf](#)
[Germanic Assessment Plan .pdf](#)
[Goethe Grades 2015.docx](#)
[SRT-A-Language.pdf](#)
[SRT-B-Major-Minor.pdf](#)

Good afternoon,

On Wednesday, October 31, the Arts and Humanities 2 Panel of the ASC Curriculum Committee reviewed a proposal to create a new undergraduate minor in Islamic Studies and a proposal to revise the Islamic Studies major.

The Panel did not vote on the proposals as they would like the following points addressed:

Revision to the Islamic Studies major:

- The department should update implementation dates throughout the proposal to Autumn 2019.
- The chart on page 2 of the proposal says the revised version of the program includes 9 courses and a total of 32 credit hours. This should be 10 courses at a total of 32-34 credit hours.
- Fix issues with current advising sheet (pgs. 4-5) and the revised advising sheet (pgs. 6-7):
 - Persian 2104 and Turkish 2101 are not decimalized. The courses are listed as Persian 2104.01 and Turkish 2101.01 (pg. 6)
 - Turkish 2102 should be titled “Intermediate Turkish III” (pg. 6)
 - Reword the sentence “Half of the total 32 cred hours must be acquired through instruction at OSU,” since the major is 32-34 credit hours (pg. 6)
 - Major electives section is 9 credit hours total, not 12 credit hours total (pg. 6)
 - Indicate that the following courses have language pre-requisites:
 - Arabic 4626 (pg. 6)
 - Arabic 4106 (pg. 7)
 - Arabic 4108 (pg. 7)
 - Remove the following courses from the current advising sheet (pages 4-5) and revised advising sheet (pages 6-7) or remove the courses from limbo:
 - NELC 3508 (pgs. 5, 6, 7)
 - NELC 3504 (pgs. 6 & 7; the Arts and Humanities Panel 1 approved this course with contingencies in 2017, which have not yet been addressed. This course has not been fully approved.)
 - Arabic 5703 (pgs. 5 & 7)
 - Persian 2301 (pgs. 5 & 7)
 - Arabic 5162 (pg. 5; withdrawn)

- Arabic 5202 (pg. 5)
 - History 3360 (pg. 5)
 - Arabic 5702 (pg. 5)
- The current advising sheet has the wrong name for the last section on page 4, which should be titled “Theory and Method for the Study of Religion.”
 - The section also lists a choice of two courses, which are both Religious Studies 3972.
- Why does the advising sheet say “one course may be from any NELC prefix 3000-level or above” on page 6 and page 7? Was this supposed to be non-NELC?
- Why doesn’t the department use consistent numbering for foreign language courses of comparable levels (e.g. Arabic 2104.01, Persian 2104, Turkish 2101)?
- Fix issues with the 4 year plan on page 16:
 - Specify the GE courses in the plan rather than listing GE/minor/2nd major for all non-major and pre-requisite courses
 - Arabic 3504 has not been fully approved
 - The 4th and 5th semester language courses for Arabic, Persian, and Turkish do not have the same course numbers. Only 2104 and 3105 are listed.
- The Panel had concerns about the major assessment plan:
 - Portfolio assessment can be difficult, time-consuming, inconsistent, and unreliable, especially with smaller programs. Assessment should be something simple to implement.
 - For example, the panel recommends choosing specific courses and utilizing rubrics to assess learning goals for specific assignments in those courses.
 - The panel recommends using more measures for the first learning outcome aside from one final exam or project.
 - The indirect methods appear to be copied from the Arabic major assessment plan. Specifically, the indirect measures for goals 2-4 mention 3000-5000 Arabic courses.

Islamic Studies minor (new):

- Minor electives say “one course must be at the 3000 level or above,” but this is not necessary. Only 6 credit hours need to be upper-division, and the required courses are upper-division.
- The Panel felt that having the bulk of the minor (9 credit hours) come from a long list of unstructured courses seems to water down the content of the minor. The Panel recommends adding more structure to the minor.
 - For example, the department could add a 3 or 6 credit hour section composed of courses with a more specific relationship to Islamic Studies (the Panel suggested “History, Contemporary Cultures, and Religion). The remaining hours could then be an elective course for breadth.
 - Having this many courses as elective options can make it difficult to monitor if courses are offered frequently, go into limbo or are withdrawn, especially when they are offered outside the department.

- Fix the following issues with courses on the advising sheets:
 - Arabic 5703, Arabic 3508, and Persian 2301 are not in the course catalog
 - NELC 3204 is listed on the departmental advising sheet, but not on the ASC advising sheet
 - NELC 3504 has not been fully approved
 - NELC 4504 is not a course
- Request concurrence from Comparative Studies, since they have a minor in Religious Studies

I will return the minor proposal via curriculum.osu.edu in a minute to enable the department to address the points above. Please submit the revisions to the Islamic Studies major to Bernadette Vankeerbergen (cc'd here).

I am also attaching the German major assessment plan and related materials as an example of a major assessment plan in a similar field.

Should you have any questions about the feedback above, do not hesitate to contact Carmen Taleghani-Nikazm (cc'd here), faculty Chair of the Arts and Humanities 2 Panel, or me.

My best,
Shelby

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