



November 13, 2019

Associate Professor Alison Crocetta
Chair, Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee

Re: Approval of Proposal to Revise the Comparative Studies Graduate Program

Dear Alison,

At its meeting on Wednesday, October 30, the ASCC Arts & Humanities Panel 2 unanimously approved a proposal to revise the Comparative Studies Graduate Program. The proposed revisions, based on a 2017 external review of the department, as well as on the results of various initiatives designed to elicit input from department stakeholders, seeks to rationalize the department's course offerings and requirements to better reflect its mission and prepare graduate students for a range of employment options.

The proposed revisions first of all replace an existing pair of required courses (6390 and 6391) with a series of four Critical Foundations courses (6100 through 6400), which will be taught in rotation over a two-year period and which are designed to be taken by students in any order. The emphasis throughout will be on teaching comparative and interdisciplinary methodologies, on collaborative research methods, and on public-facing inquiry. The proposal also calls for a required Teaching Seminar (6500); a required two-semester, team-taught "Interdisciplinary Learning Laboratory" Seminar (8100-8200), in which the second semester will be centered around a collaborative class project (a conference, exhibition, curatorial project, or the like); and a required "Dissertation Writing Workshop" (8990).

These revisions are prompted by the recognition that the department's core mission resides in the promotion of interdisciplinary and multi-disciplinary research, in collaborative practices (including team teaching), and in public humanities. It is also responsive to the realities of the job market as well as considerations of managing time-to-degree. The proposal includes a full reassessment and revision of the program's learning goals and expected outcomes and proficiencies.

Panel 2 judged the proposed revisions remarkably well conceived, and it now advances the proposal to the Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee with a motion to approve.

Best,

Luke Wilson
Associate Professor
Department of English
Chair, ASCC Arts & Humanities Panel 2