



April 7, 2023

Associate Professor Brad Steinmetz  
Chair, Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee

RE: Changes to the English major

Dear Brad and Members of the Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee,

At its meeting on February 23, 2023, the Arts and Humanities 2 Panel of the ASC Curriculum Committee reviewed and unanimously approved with contingencies a proposal for changes to the current English major. The proposed changes involve:

1. Going from 39 to 36 credit hours to make the English major more consistent with English programs at peer institutions and with other majors at OSU by reducing the required number of lower-level literary history survey courses from 3 courses (9 credits) to 2 courses (6 credits). For students to fulfill the lower-level literary historical survey requirement, the department will increase the variety of courses students can take by offering more diverse curricular options — both in terms of subject matter and course level.
2. The elimination of the Folklore Specialization, and the incorporation of its curriculum into the Literature, Film, and Popular Culture Specialization along with the name-change to Literature, Film, Folklore and Popular Culture Specialization to indicate the inclusion of the folklore curriculum. This change will better serve students interested in advanced folklore studies as these courses will be folded into the curricular options of the largest concentration.
3. The reduction of honors seminars for Honors students from 3 courses (9 credits) to 2 courses (6 credits) due to the number of honors students majoring in English declining and to not being able to offer more than 1 honors seminar each semester. Since English 4578H is no longer a course the department offers, the course will no longer be a requirement that honors students in the Pre-Education Specialization take.
4. The requirements for the Pre-Education Specialization are being changed slightly to accommodate the new requirements for English 2269 or 4569 (Digital Media), and English 4572 (Traditional Grammar & Usage). Since there have always been a handful of classes that students needed to take outside of the English Major to fulfill prerequisites for the English Language Arts (7-12) M.Ed., EDUTL 3356 has been added to the pre-requisite list and removed from the major requirements. Inversely, English 2269 or 4569 and English 4572 have been removed from the pre-requisite list and incorporated into the major program's curriculum. English 2269 or 4569 will also now fulfill the Embedded Literacy-Technology requirement for the Pre-education Specialization students.
5. Eliminating the application process to the Creative Writing Specialization, which will allow wider access to the Specialization and the ability to continue robust offering of CW curriculum at the 4000-level. Faculty will still conduct portfolio reviews of students' work prior to allowing them to enroll in 4000-level CW seminar courses to ensure good alignment between student and faculty styles and genres.

We believe that the proposed changes to the English major will provide the foundational curriculum expected for all students, while also allowing them to move more easily through the major. All contingencies have been met; therefore, we advance the proposed revision to the English major with a motion to approve.

Regards,

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