

From: David Horn <horn.5@osu.edu>
Subject: Re: World Literature major
To: Jennifer Lando <lando.5@osu.edu>, horn.5@osu.edu, lynd.1@osu.edu
Cc: adelson.3@osu.edu, fink.5@osu.edu

Jennifer,

I'm not sure I'll be able to come as I teach Thursday morning, but Marge should be able to be there.

I've added my responses to the questions below. Marge may want to add more detail in some cases.

David

At 04:48 PM 1/13/05, Jennifer Lando wrote:

Dear David and Marge:

The proposal for the new undergraduate major in World Literatures will be considered by the Humanities Curriculum Committee next Thursday, January 20th. Would you be able to attend at 9 a.m.? The meeting will be held in 105A Brown Hall.

I met with Ed this morning to review the proposal. There are a few initial changes/questions:

- Concurrences for the major are included from Dean John Roberts, Spanish and Portuguese, DEALL, English, and NELC, however included in the major are courses from AAAS, Medieval/Renaissance Studies, Women's Studies, Classics, German, Modern Greek, Russian, Slavic, Scandinavian, Polich, and Linguistics. Were these departments asked for concurrence?

We asked all of the departments with courses included in the major for letters of support; all of the language and literature departments were also asked to complete a concurrence form for CS 573. They were all told that we would assume their support if with did not hear back by November 30. You should know that this major has been discussed with all of the COH department chairs at meetings of the College executive committee, and with the foreign language chairs at a couple of their monthly meetings. All provided feedback on earlier drafts, and the proposal was modified accordingly. This was, in every sense of the word, a collective, college-wide undertaking, and there is no reason to suspect that any COH department has any objections to what is currently proposed.

- Please provide a list of all the departments that you sent the letter dated 8 November 2004.

Same as above.

| - Please provide Ed with advice on who else you think may want to comment on the major.

The only program I can think of is International Studies, though this major is quite distinct from anything they do.

| - There is a section of offerings called "North America and Europe." Is there any reason that French and Italian literature courses are not included in this list?

To my knowledge, French and Italian do not currently offer any courses on literature that are taught in English and are above the 100 level. If they create such courses, they can of course be added to the major at any time.

| The first sample syllabus for CS 273 does not include statements on academic misconduct or disability services (and I'm certain the CoH CC will ask for instructor's contact info (or spaces for) on the syllabus as well).

This is easily fixed, of course.

||||| - I've gone ahead and pulled the copy of the syllabus from CS 373 (Problems in Literary and Cultural Translation) to attach with the proposal, as this is a required course in the major.

||||| - On the actual proposal, II. General Information 2. What degree students completing the major will receive lists Bachelor of Arts in World Literatures. Is this meant to be a tagged degree?

No

| If not, I'll go ahead and white out "in World Literatures" for now.

Please let me know if you have any questions, and if you will be attending the meeting on the 20th.

Thanks,
Jennifer

PLEASE NOTE NEW ADDRESS AS OF 1/3/05:

Jennifer Lando
Director, ASC Curriculum Office
The Ohio State University
105 Brown Hall, 190 W. 17th Ave

| Curricular forms are located on the web:

From: David Horn <horn.5@osu.edu>
Subject: Re: Humanities Response to the World Literatures proposal
To: Jennifer Lando <lando.5@osu.edu>
Cc: fink.5@osu.edu

Dear Jennifer and Steve,

Sorry to be late in replying, but we'll have an opportunity to talk over some or all of this tomorrow.

David

At 05:16 PM 2/10/05, you wrote:

Dear David and Marge:

I am writing on behalf of the Humanities Curriculum Committee, to inform you of the result of their vetting of the proposal to establish an undergraduate major in World Literatures. It is the job of the Humanities Curriculum Committee to facilitate what the departments would like to do. The proposal, in its current form, would not pass through the several stages of committees for approval, and at this time, the Humanities Curriculum Committee does not support it. The committee would welcome a re-articulation of the proposal. The main concerns of the Committee centered on the rationale and course development for the major.

The Committee felt that the rationale needs to be more compelling. Specifically, the following questions were asked:

- Why is this not being proposed as a new track in Comparative Studies?

This proposal was generated by an interdepartmental committee charged by the Dean of the College of Humanities; it was never imagined as a part of the existing CS major, and would require substantial revision if it were (at the very least, the addition of the three courses required for all CS majors, and a removal of the cap on CS courses).

- What is the rationale/advantage of not housing it in the Department of Comparative Studies?

I don't understand the "not" in this question. The major was from the beginning intended to be a college-wide major that would be housed in and administered by CS, given its experience in interdisciplinary degree programs.

- It seems as if this would be a great major for students who are interested in teaching Language Arts. What are the requirements for Language Arts teachers for licensure, and how does this program fit into it?

We have had discussions with, and continue to collaborate with, faculty from the College of Education about meeting state licensure requirements and other needs of their students. Middle school teachers are required to complete a world literature requirement, but this can be

satisfied by a single course.

- What are the limitations of Literature as it currently exists (English major, Foreign Language majors) and how does this proposed major meet the need?

Students who are not proficient enough in a foreign language to read and analyze literature are limited to the English major, which does not expose students to many of the world's literary traditions.

- The proposed major is broad but is lacking in depth. The proposed major does not seem "cutting edge" but rather, an easier major to complete than Comparative Literature (as there is no foreign language requirement).

This issue was addressed in detail at public fora and in departmental meetings devoted to review of the world literature proposal. Individual faculty may disagree about whether and how world literatures should be taught, and about what is or is not "cutting edge." I defer to the judgment of the authors of the proposal, each of whom knows the field well, and to the endorsements of the language and literature departments.

In terms of course development, the required and elective courses do not seem to genuinely cover the five areas in a substantive way. The model/sample was weak. For example, covering the Asian and Latin America areas with the courses proposed did not constitute genuine coverage. The menu of courses was straining, and many of them are not really "literature" courses. The Committee feels that this weakens the overall program. How will course development evolve?

There are some gaps in the courses currently available to students (it is notable, for example, that neither French nor Italian offers a course on literature in translation above the 100 level), but I expect these will be filled in as enrollment demands. Many courses that do not include literature in their titles are nevertheless devoted substantially to literary works; the major requires ongoing review of syllabi and is necessarily advising intensive.

If you have any questions or would like further information, please contact Steve Fink, Chair of the Humanities Curriculum Committee (fink.5@osu.edu) or myself.

Jennifer

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