

Curriculum Committee Meeting , February 11, 2009

Members Present: Sergio Quesada, Paul Duncan, Leara Rhodes, Mark Anderson, Susan Thomas, Silvia Giraudo, Kathleen Schmaltz

1. The committee examined the following courses that currently serve as options for LACS majors in the upper division elective requirement and/or track:
 - a. AESC3150 – Special Topics
 - b. AESC3910 – Special Topics
 - c. CMLT3990 – Special Topics
 - d. CMLT4970H – Special Topics
 - e. CMLT4980H – Special Topics
 - f. ELAN5560 – Student Teaching
 - g. INTB4800 – Internship
 - h. ROML3000 – Special Topics
 - i. WMST3250 Special Topics
 - j. FREN4170 – Francophone, Film, Literature and culture

Members of the committee agreed and would like to recommend to the executive committee that these courses be removed from the LACS curriculum because their content does not necessarily focus on Latin America or the Caribbean. Rather than provide these courses as an option, the committee recommends that LACSI's advisor review the content/focus of the courses each semester. Those that contain significant Latin American and/or Caribbean content can be approved for the track or upper division elective on a semester by semester basis.

2. The committee also examined courses for inclusion in the curriculum that do have significant Latin American and/or Caribbean content. These courses included:
 - a. HIST4230/6230 - Supernatural Latin America: Readings on Witchcraft, Shamanism, and Popular Religion
 - b. JRLC(LACS)5060 – Telenovelas, Culture, and Society
 - c. AFST(LACS) 43.../63... - African Religion in Diaspora (Submitted to CAPA for approval)

The committee would like to recommend to the executive committee that these courses be added to the LACS curriculum as options for upper division electives or track.

3. Additional information is needed to complete the review of these three courses, which are also being examined for inclusion in the curriculum:
 - a. SOCI3400 – Environmental Sociology
 - b. ECOL3700 – Organic Agriculture: Ecological Agriculture and the Ethics of Sustainability
 - c. AFAM(ROML)4860/6860 – Topics in Afro-Hispanic Identity
4. A discussion ensued about the interdisciplinary nature of the major and the current stipulation in CAPA that students should narrow their focus to one track. Concern was expressed that this restriction allows a student to take all of his/her upper division electives and track classes (8 upper division courses) within the same department, which defeats the purpose of an interdisciplinary program. The committee decided to make a recommendation to the Executive committee to require students to choose track courses from at least 2 different departments within tracks and to choose their upper division electives from at least 2 different tracks.

5. The current language requirements for the major were reviewed. The committee feels unanimously that the current language requirement is satisfactory and should not be changed.
6. The committee also discussed the current history course requirements in AREA VI. Everyone agreed that the two required courses (HIST2221 & 2222) are an essential component for the major and should continue to be a required part of the curriculum.
7. Finally, the committee began reviewing and discussing ideas for the required proseminar classes. Due to time constraints, the committee decided to table this discussion until we meet again.

The next meeting date is scheduled for March 4, 2009.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathleen Schmaltz