

Curriculum Committee Meeting, March 4, 2009

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

1. The committee agreed to formally recommend to the executive committee that the following courses be eliminated from the LACS curriculum:
 - 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
 - k. SOCI3400 – Environmental Sociology
 - l. ECOL3700 – Organic Agriculture Course: An Ecosystem Approach

Members of the committee agreed 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 on a semester by semester basis.

2. The committee agreed to formally recommend to the executive committee that the following courses be included in the LACS curriculum as part of the TRACK because of their significant Latin American content:
 - 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)
 - d. AFAM/ROML4860 – Multicultural Black Diaspora Literature: Afro-Hispanic (Afro-Latin American) Identity
3. The committee reviewed the Upper Division Electives area of the LACS major and decided that it is not needed because the course selections in this area are exactly the same as the TRACK classes. As a result, the committee would like to formally recommend to the executive committee that the upper division elective area be eliminated from the LACS major and the TRACK course requirement increase from 6 to 8 to offset the loss of hours based on this elimination.
4. In order to maintain the interdisciplinary nature of the major the committee feels that it is important for students to take courses from multiple tracks and from more than one department within tracks. Leara Rhodes will research the way that other institutions accomplish this within their programs and present a summary of her findings at our next meeting. Kathleen will provide the committee with a breakdown of the LACS courses (including titles) by discipline.

5. The committee rendered a decision on Christine Philpott's proposal to substitute an honors research course focused on Latin America for the required LACS4911 (senior capstone) so that she can graduate in December of 2009. It was decided that Christine cannot substitute the honors course for LACS4911, rather she can substitute another upper division LACS course for the required capstone course.
6. The discussion of both Proseminar courses was revisited. There is general consensus that one of these courses should be redesigned to become an Introduction to Latin America and the Caribbean. Leara Rhodes will forward names of programs that contain such courses to Kathleen, who will collect syllabi and course descriptions for the committee to consider as an example for creating such a course at our next meeting.
7. The committee began reviewing requirements for AREA VI and the following initial points were discussed:
 - a. Since all LACS majors must take 3 upper division language classes it is not necessary to require a 2000 level course in the major language in AREA VI.
 - b. ROML/SPAN2550 should not be a course option in the TRACK since they are lower division courses. An alternative is to move these courses into Area VI.
 - c. It might be a good idea to offer a choice of lower division geography courses in Area VI as an alternative to requiring GEOG4720 as an upper division course because it is difficult for students schedule this course since it is only offered once each year. Kathleen will provide course descriptions of the lower level geography courses for the committee to review for this purpose at our next meeting.
8. At the next meeting Kathleen will also provide syllabi for GEOG4720 and the senior capstone course so that the committee can begin to review the upper division required courses.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Schmaltz