



UNC
COLLEGE OF
ARTS & SCIENCES

THE UNIVERSITY
of NORTH CAROLINA
at CHAPEL HILL

OFFICE OF THE DEAN T 919.962.1165
205 South Building F 919.962.2408
CAMPUS BOX 3100 college.unc.edu
CHAPEL HILL, NC 27599-3100

Dr. Erika Lindemann
Associate Dean for Undergraduate Curricula
Office of Undergraduate Education
3018 Steele Building, Campus Box 3504
Carolina Campus

Dear Erika,

I am happy to support the proposed concentration in Central European studies (defined here as Czech, German, Hungarian, and Polish) within the BA major in Germanic and Slavic Languages and Literatures. If approved, undergraduates majoring in Germanic and Slavic Languages and Literatures will be able to elect one of five concentrations: the German literature and culture concentration, the German studies concentration, the Russian language and culture concentration, the Slavic and Eastern European languages and cultures concentration, and the Central European studies concentration. I agree with the assessment put forward by the chair of the department: "This new concentration will foster increased cooperation both within the department and with other units at Carolina conducting teaching and scholarship in the history and culture of Central Europe."

Sincerely,

Terry Ellen Rhodes
Senior Associate Dean, Fine Arts and Humanities



To: Erika Lindemann
Associate Dean for Undergraduate Curriculum
From: Clayton Koelb
Chair, Germanic and Slavic Languages and Literatures
Date: November 20, 2012
Re: Request to establish a new Major Concentration in Germanic and Slavic Languages
and Literatures: **Central European Studies**
AND
Request to establish a new course identifier: **GSSL**

The creation of the Department of Germanic and Slavic Languages and Literatures (GSSL) from the merger of two formerly distinct departments in 2011 has generated an opportunity for the creation of a new undergraduate concentration in Central European Studies (defined here as Czech, German, Hungarian, and Polish). GSSL is positioned uniquely for such an endeavor not only because of our new institutional structure but also because of the inclusion of Hungarian in our course offerings (thanks to the Laszlo Birinyi, Sr., Distinguished Professorship in Hungarian Language and Culture). Unique in the US, this new undergraduate concentration in Central European Studies will make Carolina a leader in the growing field of Central European Studies and address the geopolitical changes within Europe and the European Union—in particular, those changes involving much of the former Soviet Bloc.¹ We hope to begin offering this new concentration with the Fall semester, 2013.

This new concentration will foster increased cooperation both within the department and with other units at Carolina conducting teaching and scholarship in the history and culture of Central Europe. The departments of History and Political Science will provide vital support for the Central European Studies concentration curriculum. We hope to work closely with the Center for European Studies, the Center for Slavic, Eurasian, and East European Studies, Comparative Literature, Jewish Studies, Economics, Peace War and Defense, Anthropology, Art History, Music, and the School of Business. Indeed, a new core course will be developed to provide a comprehensive introduction to the literature and culture of Central Europe. There is already a course in the history department that addresses analogous developments in history and politics. This new GSSL core course will serve as a gateway to the new concentration and is predicted to have broad appeal to the undergraduate student population.

At present nearly all of our students have interdisciplinary interests and combine their work in German and/or Slavic with other majors. In fact, of the 59 students who applied to graduate in May 2012 with a major or minor in German or Slavic, more than half had an

¹ In our preliminary research, we found that curricula in European Studies tend to have an overall focus on the Western part of Europe, not only at UNC, but also at other programs across the United States, and their course offerings tend to reflect that focus. We found no degree programs at all that consider countries of the former Eastern Bloc in tandem with Germany and Austria.

additional major or minor in History, Political Science, European Studies, Global Studies, PWAD, or Business. The availability of a major concentration in Central European Studies could be used to guide students into a more comprehensive study of a region in which they have already exhibited great scholarly interest.

We would like to continue to encourage this laudable interdisciplinarity and allow students to combine this new concentration as broadly as possible in double majors: While we believe that European Studies might not combine well (since there would be too much overlap), most other majors should be allowable.

In order to facilitate this new major concentration, and also in order to allow our faculty to develop courses which reflect the new, broader focus of our department, we will also need to create a new course identifier: GSLL.

Our new core course would, of course, need to fall under this rubric. The core course under development is not a prerequisite, though we would encourage students to take it early in their studies in order to gain a broader understanding of the region. And students should also begin language study as early as possible in order to ensure they have time to learn two possibly quite disparate languages. Many students will choose German as one of their languages, and students often enter UNC with a considerable amount of German knowledge; other students come with heritage knowledge of Eastern European languages; however, the advantage of the structure of this new concentration is that students can begin taking courses toward the major at any time, including their first year of studies at Carolina. In fact, they may take a relevant course for some other reasons and then find that it leads them to consider this concentration. Our Director of Undergraduate Studies, in consultation with our Slavic Advisor, will direct students into appropriate courses—both those offered by GSLL and also courses offered by other departments.

I should note that while we recognize that under normal circumstances “courses must be approved and in the ConnectCarolina course inventory to be included in the proposal,” this is impossible in the current circumstances since the GSLL identifier does not yet exist. Thus, for now we are including in the attached updated Undergraduate Bulletin text the list of new courses that we wish to create once GSLL is available.

New Bulletin Text for new Central European Studies Concentration:

B.A. Major in Germanic and Slavic Languages and Literatures: Central European Studies Concentration

Core Requirements

- *GSLL 260*
- *HIST 260*
- *Two departmental courses (6 credit hours) in CZCH, GERM, GSLL, HUNG, or PLSH numbered above 200 (not including introductory or intermediate foreign language courses, and not including GERM/SLAV 252, or GSLL 282)*

- *Four additional courses (12 credit hours) which may include departmental courses in CZCH, GERM, GSLL, HUNG, PLSH, or SLAV numbered above 200 (not including introductory or intermediate foreign language courses, and not including GERM/SLAV 252, or GSLL 282), or approved Central European Studies Electives: ANTH 449; ART 455; CMPL 270, 279, 281; GEOG 464; HIST 140, 159, 257, 406, 458, 460, 461, 462, 463, 481; JWST 140, 159, 239, 260, 262, 465, 467; PWAD 236, 257, 438; PHIL 224, 423, 427, 471, 438; RELI 239, 454, 522; SLAV 464, SOCI 257, WMST 250.*

Students may petition the director of undergraduate studies to include other courses with significant Central European content.

- *ONE of the following courses may count toward the major: GSLL 691H, 692H, or 693H.*

At least four of the above courses (12 credit hours) must be taken at UNC–Chapel Hill to fulfill the requirements of the major. Majors who study abroad or wish to transfer credit from another institution may apply to transfer a maximum of four courses counting toward the major. Before their departure for a study abroad program, students should consult with the relevant director of undergraduate studies about appropriate courses for the major to be taken abroad.

Additional Requirements

- *Credit for four semesters of study in one Central European Language (Czech, German, Hungarian, Polish)*
- *Credit for two semesters of study in an additional Central European Language*

New courses to be added under the GSLL identifier (once it is approved):

89 First-Year Seminar: Special Topics (3). Special topics course. Content will vary each semester.

260 From Berlin to Budapest: Literature, Film, and Culture of Central Europe (3). Central Europe, at the center of dramatic historical changes--WWI, emergence of independent nation states, WWII and Holocaust, Communism and its end, incorporation into the European Union--produced unprecedented cultural results. The creative voices of these writers and filmmakers have relevance far beyond this region.

282 The Dialectic of Whiteness and Blackness in Atlantic Cultures (3). Traces invention of race, racism and discourses of cultural inferiority/superiority throughout Western culture: What historical events created the necessity for racist thinking? How colonialism and transatlantic migration changed Atlantic cultures? Why did Black culture become fashionable? Is the 21st century “post-racial”? Readings and course descriptions in English.

691H Honors Course (3). Permission of the director of undergraduate studies. Majors only. Reading and special studies under the direction of a faculty member.

692H Honors Course (3). Permission of the director of undergraduate studies. Majors only. Reading and preparation of an essay under the direction of a faculty member, designed to lead to the completion of the honors thesis.

693H Honors Seminar (3). Permission of the director of undergraduate studies. Majors only. Introduction to research techniques and preparation of an essay, designed to lead to the completion of the honors thesis.