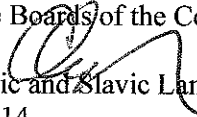




To: Administrative Boards of the College of Arts and Sciences and the General College  
From: Clayton Koelb   
Chair, Germanic and Slavic Languages and Literatures  
Date: October 15, 2014  
Re: Request for Changes in Major Concentrations in Germanic and Slavic Languages and Literatures

In addition to new course submissions, GSSL wishes to delete (inactivate) a string of dormant courses, the majority of which are RUSS and SLAV courses, and make changes in (add or inactivate) several cross-listings.

We are also submitting the following proposals for curricular revisions:

**I. Changes in German Studies Concentration:**

Most notable in this year's submissions for changes is our curricular revision of the existing German Studies major concentration.

In light of declining enrollments in this concentration, and in particular, enrollments of German Studies students in the sole unique required course for that concentration, namely GERM 257, the German faculty has agreed to refocus the interdisciplinary thrust of this concentration.

To that end, we would like to re-name and re-design the German Studies concentration, so that it focuses tightly on issues of artistic expression, film and media, in their cultural-historical context; this reflects already existing strengths in GSSL. The revised track will thus tend more toward the humanities rather than the social sciences (without wholly excluding our allies in History).

At the same time, this allows us to widen the net of possible extra-departmental courses that are appropriate for these majors to choose, for fulfilling their requirements. In fact, we have increased the number of approved courses by 20 percent.

Another positive result is that our majors in this concentration will be more likely to choose honors thesis topics (even if interdisciplinary) that are related to the topics in which our faculty have specific expertise.

We are proposing the new name of the concentration to be "**German Media, Arts, and Culture**" (hereafter referred to as "MAC" in this document).

The requirements, enumerated in the Undergraduate Bulletin text revisions, will be changed as follows:

We will retain the three core courses that are required for all students with any major concentration related to German.

Secondly, we are replacing the single German Studies-required course GERM 257, which has been a bottle-neck in the concentration, with any GERM course higher than 206 pertaining to media, arts or culture.

Thirdly, we are revising the existing list of approved extra-departmental, interdisciplinary courses, such that they focus on media, arts, or culture; students may choose from this list or from GERM courses numbered higher than 206 to fulfill this requirement. (The new list of courses is detailed in the attached Undergraduate Bulletin text.)\*

Finally, we are increasing the required number of courses taught in German from three to four, to ensure that our students graduate with a stronger mastery of German. This will assist with our annual assessment outcomes.

All elective courses taken toward the MAC requirements will be selected in consultation with the DUS.

## **II. Changes in Central European Studies Concentration:**

We've also reviewed the courses currently approved for our interdisciplinary Central European Studies concentration and have a few changes to propose:

As departments change and update their courses, it periodically becomes necessary to review the courses that we have approved for undergraduate major credit, to ensure the courses currently listed remain appropriate, and to add in new courses that have been created that fit the parameters of our concentration. (This pertains to one of GSSL's courses, as well, as we are stepping down from sponsoring a complex 4-way crosslist.)

To this end, we have edited the list of courses in the Undergraduate Bulletin as follows:

Add:  
POLI/PWAD/SOCI 260  
EURO/HIST 252\*

Delete the GERM portion of:  
GERM/HIST/POLI/SOCI 257

**Changes to Undergraduate Bulletin Text:** Please see attached document.

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\* We are including HIST/EURO 252 in both lists of approved courses (ie, for both MAC and Central European Studies): This is a new course currently being submitted by the History department on "Politics, Society and Culture in Modern Germany [1871–1945]".

In addition, we are including GSSL 284 on the list of approved courses for MAC (it's already within the approved parameters for Central European Studies): This is a new course currently being submitted by our department on "Literature and the Arts".