



UNC
COLLEGE OF
ARTS & SCIENCES

THE UNIVERSITY
of NORTH CAROLINA
at CHAPEL HILL

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH AND
COMPARATIVE LITERATURE
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To: Administrative Boards of the College of Arts and Sciences
From: Beverly Taylor, Chair
RE: Revision of the International Literature and International Film and Literature Tracks within
the Comparative Literature Major
DATE: October 15, 2014

I am pleased to present this request to revise the International Literature and International Film and Literature tracks within the Comparative Literature Major. We are requesting to revise the International Literature track in a way that places greater emphasis on Comparative Literature as a discipline by increasing the number of Comparative Literature elective courses required for the major, while simultaneously reducing the number of foreign and classical language literature courses required. Additionally, we seek to clarify for students what courses offered in other departments fulfill requirements in the CMPL major, while still allowing the option for students to use other classes for that purpose on a case-by-case basis.

We also hope to streamline and strengthen the course offerings in film studies and create a more coherent major track (renamed Global Cinema Studies) that responds to demands among undergraduate students. Our film faculty have composed a detailed explanation of, and justification for, these changes, and I am including that for your reference.

You will find with this memo the edited bulletin text that reflects these requested changes. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns. Thank you for your assistance with this process.

Sincerely,

Beverly Taylor
Chair, Department of English and Comparative Literature

Enclosure

Gregg Flaxman
Inga Pollmann
Rick Warner

Justification and Explanation

This proposal to revise the undergraduate "Film and Literature" track in Comparative Literature in order to streamline and strengthen our course offerings in film studies and create a more coherent major track responds to a demand among our undergraduates and reflects a commitment among faculty in the department and beyond. It's our good fortune to be able to match the desires of our students with a critical mass of professors, courses, and—we hope—a curriculum with new options. Indeed, we believe that we've reached the moment when we can reasonably and responsibly institute a full-blooded "film track," a curriculum designed to rigorously introduce undergraduates to the history, theory, and practice of the cinema in the broader context of the visual arts. Far from displacing the literary arts, we propose to integrate the fundamental elements of the International Literature track into the Global Cinema Studies (GCS) track. We want to preserve the rigor of the International Literature track and to encourage our students to take courses in that track (and in foreign language departments). Ultimately, we believe that literary training invariably makes our current film-focused students better critics, scholars, and writers, and we are unwilling to compromise the standards that the literature track has established.

The proposed GCS track consists in ten courses, six of which are required. Four of our six requirements correspond to requirements in the Literature track, and the others (ENGL 142 and CMPL 143) have been the mainstays of our interdisciplinary Global Cinema Minor for the past several years. By making these two courses the pillars of the GCS track, we believe that we can draw Global Cinema minors (many of whom are not otherwise affiliated with English or Comparative Literature) into the major. In essence, *anyone who has fulfilled the film minor will have already completed at least half of the major* (five of ten total units). While the GCS track suits our declared and prospective majors, the other great advantage is that it suits our faculty. We have organized the curriculum to take advantage of structures and courses that are currently in place: the required six courses for the major are already being offered by faculty in Comparative Literature. Thus, our innovations are not offered as replacements for the requirements of the literature track so much as they are meant to expand the range of options available to our students.

To this end, we propose to offer courses focused on visual culture and cinema that correspond to Great Books 2 as well as Introduction to Literary Theory. Of the two classes, the former would be required for film majors. Thus, GCS students would take Great Books 1, Visual Culture 2, and Introduction to Film Theory or Introduction to Literary Theory. The benefit of this structure is that it allows for students to discover all kind of possible paths through the major without sacrificing the fundamental presuppositions of Comparative Literature—aesthetic and critical fluency, historical

grounding, the capacity to close read different kinds of texts, and the knowledge of one or more foreign languages.

Moreover, the curriculum of the GCS track does not unduly burden the film faculty in the department: the aim of this proposal is to establish a curriculum which exploits courses that are already being offered (or that have been offered under different rubrics) without demanding that Visual Culture 2 or Introduction to Film Theory be taught every semester. Instead, we anticipate that both classes will be offered once per year: the latter can be regularly taught by Professors Pollmann and Warner, and Professor Flaxman is prepared to shift from annually offering Great Books 2 to Visual Culture 2. Professors Warner and Pollmann are also prepared to teach Visual Culture 2. As for Visual Culture 1 (to be proposed at a later date), Professors Legassie and Wolfe have offered to teach the course, as a visually oriented version of Great Books 1).

The six required courses in the GCS track are intended to rigorously acquaint students with a broadly visual (and literary) history and a specifically cinematic one. The remaining four courses in the GCS track are electives, but we stipulate that these film courses must be taken above the 200 level (with one exception, noted below). Further, the GCS track requires that at least one of these courses must be devoted to a foreign (non-U.S.) cinema, preferably a course conducted in a foreign language. The only exception to the rule that electives must be above the 200 level will be granted in the case of CMPL 144: Film Culture. Beginning in the fall of 2014, Comparative Literature will offer this "supercourse," with an enrollment of up to three hundred students, once per year. Inasmuch as we hope to use this course to recruit or convert undergraduates to the Global Cinema Minor and the GCS Major, we believe that the course should be allowed to count within the proposed curriculum.

B.A. Major in Comparative Literature: Global Cinema Studies Track

The Global Cinema Studies (GCS) track of the Comparative Literature major is intended to introduce students to the history of motion pictures in view of a broader history of visual arts and culture. Just as the international literature track covers an extensive international history of literature, the cinema studies track covers an extensive and international history of the visual (and literary) arts, but this track is distinct insofar the history of images provides a context for the rigorous study of moving images—primarily cinematic images, but also electronic, video, and digital images.

The GCS track is composed of ten total units (or courses), six of which are required. Four of these requirements correspond to those in the literature track: Great Books 1, Great Books 2, Introduction to Literary Theory, and the Senior Seminar.

Students in the GCS track may take either the literary or the visual versions of these classes, but they must take Visual Culture 2.

The remaining required courses, ENGL 142 and CMPL 143, are also the core courses of the Global Cinema Minor, and students who pursue this minor will quickly realize how feasible it is to major in Global Cinema Studies or to add it as a second major. In

essence, anyone who has fulfilled the film minor will have already completed at least half of the major (five of ten total units).

The remaining four courses are electives that must be taken above the 200 level (with one exception, noted below); further, the Global Cinema Studies Major stipulates that at least one of these courses must be devoted to a foreign (non-U.S.) cinema and, preferably, conducted in a foreign language (see below for more on language requirements). The only exception to the rule that courses must be above the 200 level will be granted in the case of CMPL 144: Film Culture.

Core Requirements

Students take **six** required courses or their respective substitutes:

1. CMPL 120-129: Great Books 1
2. CMPL 142: Visual Culture 2 (new course, see attached syllabus)
3. ENGL 142: Film Analysis
4. CMPL 143: History of Global Cinema
5. CMPL 240, 251: Introduction to Literary Theory or CMPL 253: Introduction to Film Theory (new course, see attached syllabus)
6. CMPL 697: Senior Seminar

Students take **four** elective courses in cinema studies. All of these classes must be above the 200 level (exceptions will be made for CMPL 144: Film Culture)

Additional Information

Sophomores planning to major in comparative literature must take one course under the Great Books I rubric, which treats ancient and premodern literature, and Visual Culture II, which treats the visual from 1750 to the present. Any one (but only one) of the Visual Culture/Great Books classes can be used to fulfill the General Education literary arts Approaches requirement.

Students may choose Global Cinema Studies as a second Major, and in certain cases, courses in another major can count for up to four units of the Global Cinema Studies Major. Undergraduates majoring in Global Cinema Studies may minor in any department, curriculum, or school in which a minor is offered (note that if a student majors in Global Cinema Studies, he/she may not acquire a minor in Global Cinema Studies).

Majors should expect to work closely with the undergraduate advisor to design and follow a coherent and cohesive plan of study. Students who study abroad can generally apply their cinema credits towards the major. All majors in Comparative Literature, regardless of their chosen track, must obtain at least a level 4 proficiency in a foreign language, and the Global Cinema Studies track recommends that students take film classes conducted in a foreign language when possible.

Siedentop, Nicholas J

From: Taylor, Beverly W
Sent: Wednesday, January 14, 2015 5:42 PM
To: Siedentop, Nicholas J
Cc: Cowan, Tara L
Subject: RE: Comparative Literature Changes

It's fine from a department perspective to make the change. This has been vetted in the department and there's no one else you should contact.

Thanks for checking, Nick.
All best,
Beverly

From: Siedentop, Nicholas J
Sent: Tuesday, January 13, 2015 4:54 PM
To: Cowan, Tara L; Taylor, Beverly W
Subject: FW: Comparative Literature Changes

Tara and Prof. Taylor,

Inger Brodey and I have been exchanging a few emails regarding the curriculum changes for the comparative literature major. Evidently CMPL 142 "Visual Culture II" is considered a "Great Books II" course, but it's not coded that way.

Do either of you have any concerns with revising the **Great Books II** sequence (and requirement) to read "**CMPL courses numbered between 130 and 142**"? If not, I will update the information that will go to the Administrative Boards for review.

Is there anyone else who I should consult?

Thanks,
Nick

From: Brodey, Inger S
Sent: Tuesday, January 13, 2015 4:19 PM
To: Siedentop, Nicholas J
Cc: Pollmann, Inga
Subject: Re: Comparative Literature Changes

Yes, I believe that is right. Thank you for the correction!

On Jan 13, 2015, at 4:15 PM, Siedentop, Nicholas J <nick_siedentop@unc.edu> wrote:

Hi Inger,

Thanks for getting back to me. Currently, the Great Books II category is defined in the Undergraduate Bulletin as CMPL courses numbered between 130 and ~~139~~. This is also how Tar Heel Tracker is coded/programed.

If CMPL 142 "Visual Culture II" is considered a GBII course, does this mean that the "Great Books II" requirement for the international literature track needs revising, to read "One course from Great Books II (CMPL courses numbered between 130 and 142)"?

Thanks!
Nick

Nicholas Siedentop
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Office of Undergraduate Curricula
Campus Box 3504 | Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3504 | T 919.962.5819

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From: Brodey, Inger S
Sent: Tuesday, January 13, 2015 3:32 PM
To: Siedentop, Nicholas J
Cc: Poilmann, Inga
Subject: Re: Comparative Literature Changes

Hi Nick,
Yes, the CMPL 142 is considered a course in the GB II sequence.
Please let me know if this does not answer your question.
Thank you!
Inger

On Jan 13, 2015, at 12:30 PM, Cowan, Tara L <tlcowan@email.unc.edu> wrote:

Hi, Inger.

Can you answer Nick Siedentop's question about the curriculum change request in CMPL?

-Tara Cowan

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From: Siedentop, Nicholas J
Sent: Monday, January 12, 2015 2:33 PM
To: Cowan, Tara L; Taylor, Beverly W
Subject: Comparative Literature Changes

Dear Tara and Professor Taylor,

The memo describing the changes to the comparative literature major (attached) includes the following statement about the global cinema studies track (page 2, second paragraph):

"The proposed GCS track consists of ten courses, six of which are required. Four of our six requirements correspond to requirements in the Literature track, and the others..."

I'm having trouble determining which four of the six required courses correspond to the literature track. Is CMPL 142 "Visual Culture II" considered a course in the Great Books II sequence?

Can you help me with this, or perhaps forward my question to the DUS in CMPL?

Thanks,
Nick

Nicholas Siedentop
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<Comparative Literature Major Tracks Revision Memo and Justification
2015.pdf>