



13 October 2015

Memo Regarding 2016-2017 Undergraduate Bulletin Revisions

Dear Office of Undergraduate Curricula:

Greetings from the Department of American Studies. I am writing to outline the changes we have made to the 2016-2017 Undergraduate Bulletin.

Our reasons for making the changes in the attached Word document are straightforward.

- First, we wanted the name, structure, and substance of our major concentrations and minors to reflect what we learned in the process of completing our five-year self-study and external review in the spring of 2015.
- Second, we wanted the names of select categories within the major concentrations and minors to be emblematic of recent curricular innovations and the intellectual pursuits of recent faculty hires and departures.
- Third, we wanted the list of specific courses to reflect the addition of new tenure-track faculty, the departure of others, the addition or elimination of courses offered by departments other than our own, and the addition, revision, or elimination of courses offered by faculty in our department.
- Fourth, we wanted the visual presentation of the courses that count toward the completion of our major concentrations and minors to highlight courses that carry the American Studies (AMST) and Folklore (FOLK) designations.
- Fifth, we wanted to make it clear that we not only encourage but require majors and minors to take at least one course at the 300-level or above.

Upon formal approval, the Director of Undergraduate Studies will notify current majors via our department's email listserv that we have made changes to the major concentrations and minors. The Director of Undergraduate Studies will also invite these students to consider changing their requirement term so that they can take advantage of the changes. And finally, the DUS will invite students to correspond and or meet in person to discuss any questions or concerns they may have.

What follows is a synopsis of the our proposed changes:

- We have added acronyms for each of the major concentrations, which should also be incorporated in Tar Heel Tracker. They are:
 - American Studies (AMST)
 - American Indian and Indigenous Studies (AIIS)
 - Folklore (FOLK)
 - Global American Studies (GLBL)
 - Southern Studies (SOST)
- Following "Core Requirements" for each of the major concentrations, we have revised the text as follows:

- The concentration in X consists of nine courses. Courses listed more than once can be counted for only one category. A least one course must be at the 300-level or above.
- Following the overview of the major concentration description that appears after the Course Requirements for each of the major concentrations, we have added the following sentences:
 - Students may petition the director of undergraduate studies to have courses not listed approved to fulfill major requirements. They will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.
- Following the headings for each of the minors, we have revised the text to read:
 - The undergraduate minor in X consists of five courses. Courses listed more than once can be counted for only one category. At least one course must be at the 300-level or above.
- In consultation with Nick Sientop, we have reordered the courses listed within all of the categories so that AMST courses appear first; AMST courses with cross lists appear second; FOLK courses appear third; FOLK courses with cross lists appear fourth; all other courses appear alphabetically by department acronym.
- Within the American Indian and Indigenous Studies major concentration and minor, we have:
 - Changed “Social Science” to “Law and Social Science”
 - Changed “Expressive Culture” to “Language and Expressive Culture:
 - Changed the “one other course” to “Elective/Hemispheric Perspective”
- We have added new courses pending approval, deleted inactivated courses, and incorporated new courses offered outside the department
- We have added made textual revisions to clarify meaning

We look forward to integrating these changes into the 2016-2017 Undergraduate Bulletin.

If you should have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Bernard L. Herman

Bernard L. Herman, Chair
George B. Tindall Professor of Southern Studies