

DOCUMENTS OF THE GENERAL FACULTY

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE AMERICAN STUDIES DEGREE PROGRAM IN THE COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS CHAPTER IN THE *UNDERGRADUATE CATALOG, 2016-2018*

Dean Randy L. Diehl, in the College of Liberal Arts has filed with the secretary of the Faculty Council the following changes to the *Undergraduate Catalog, 2016-2018*. On March 31, 2015, the Department of American Studies Faculty Committee approved the proposed changes. On May 5, 2015, the College of Liberal Arts Policy and Curriculum Committee approved them, and on May 25, 2015, the dean and the College of Liberal Arts faculty approved the legislation. The secretary has classified this proposal as legislation of *exclusive* interest to only one college or school.

The Committee on Undergraduate Degree Program Review recommended approval of the changes on November 4, 2015, and forwarded the proposal to the Office of the General Faculty. The Faculty Council has the authority to approve this legislation on behalf of the General Faculty. The authority to grant final approval on this legislation resides with the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

If no objection is filed with the Office of the General Faculty by the date specified below, the legislation will be held to have been approved by the Faculty Council. If an objection is filed within the prescribed period, the legislation will be presented to the Faculty Council at its next meeting. The objection, with reasons, must be signed by a member of the Faculty Council.

To be counted, a protest must be received in the Office of the General Faculty by November 18, 2015.



Hillary Hart, Secretary
General Faculty and Faculty Council

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE AMERICAN STUDIES DEGREE PROGRAM IN THE COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS CHAPTER IN THE UNDERGRADUATE CATALOG, 2016-2018

Type of Change Academic Change
 Degree Program Change (THECB form required)

Proposed classification Exclusive General Major

1. IF THE ANSWER TO ANY OF THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS IS YES, THE COLLEGE MUST CONSULT LINDA DICKENS, DIRECTOR OF ACCREDITATION AND ASSESSMENT, TO DETERMINE IF SACS-COC APPROVAL IS REQUIRED.

- Is this a new degree program? Yes No
- Does the program offer courses that will be taught off campus? Yes No
- Will courses in this program be delivered electronically? Yes No

2. EXPLAIN CHANGE TO DEGREE PROGRAM AND GIVE A DETAILED RATIONALE FOR EACH INDIVIDUAL CHANGE:

Under proposed changes, twenty-seven semester hours would be required for the AMS major, an increase from twenty-four hours required under the 2014-16 catalog. The change is designed to strengthen the major and forge a stronger connection between undergraduate students and the department and faculty. The additional hours would be an AMS elective which will provide some added flexibility in a degree plan that is relatively prescriptive. Even with the addition of three semester hours, the total number of required hours remains less than many other COLA majors, particularly since several major courses also fulfill core and COLA degree requirements. AMS does not anticipate the change having a significant impact on the number of students in the major.

The minor requirement was eliminated under the assumption that all Liberal Arts students in the 2016-18 catalog will need to complete a Transcript-recognized minor (TRM) or certificate program.

3. THIS PROPOSAL INVOLVES (Please check all that apply)

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Courses in other colleges | <input type="checkbox"/> Courses in proposer’s college that are frequently taken by students in other colleges | <input type="checkbox"/> Flags |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Course in the core curriculum | <input type="checkbox"/> Change in course sequencing for an existing program | <input type="checkbox"/> Courses that have to be added to the inventory |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Change in admission requirements (external or internal) | <input checked="checked" type="checkbox"/> Requirements not explicit in the catalog language (e.g., lists of acceptable courses maintained by department office) | |

4. SCOPE OF PROPOSED CHANGE

- a. Does this proposal impact other colleges/schools? Yes No
If yes, then how?
- b. Do you anticipate a net change in the number of students in your college? Yes No
If yes, how many more (or fewer) students do you expect?
- c. Do you anticipate a net increase (or decrease) in the number of students from outside of your college taking classes in your college? Yes No
If yes, please indicate the number of students and/or class seats involved.
- d. Do you anticipate a net increase (or decrease) in the number of students from your college taking courses in other colleges? Yes No
If yes, please indicate the number of students and/or class seats involved.

If 4 a, b, c, or d was answered with yes, please answer the following questions. If the proposal has potential budgetary impacts for another college/school, such as requiring new sections or a non-negligible increase in the number of seats offered, at least one contact must be at the college-level.

How many students do you expect to be impacted?

Impacted schools must be contacted and their response(s) included:

Person communicated with:

Date of communication:

Response:

- e. Does this proposal involve changes to the core curriculum or other basic education requirements (42-hour core, signature courses, flags)? No. If yes, explain:

If yes, undergraduate studies must be informed of the proposed changes and their response included:

Person communicated with:

Date of communication:

Response:

- f. Will this proposal change the number of hours required for degree completion? Yes If yes, explain: Forty-five hours total required (previously thirty-nine hours, with twelve-hour minor requirement). Rationale: The elimination of the minor requirement (see first proposed change) meant that IRG needed to insert additional hours into its major requirements if it wished to preserve core area-studies coursework for students. The forty-five hours total (major only) represents a decrease from the fifty-one hours total (major + minor) in previous catalogs, but still considerably more than other COLA degree programs.

5. COLLEGE/SCHOOL APPROVAL PROCESS

Department approval date:	March 31, 2015	Approved by:	Department of American Studies Faculty Committee
College approval date:	May 5, 2015	Approved by:	College of Liberal Arts Policy and Curriculum Committee
Dean approval date:	May 25, 2015	Approved by:	College of Liberal Arts Faculty

PROPOSED NEW CATALOG TEXT:

AMERICAN STUDIES

Major

[~~Twenty-four~~] Twenty-seven semester hours of coursework in American studies, including at least fifteen hours of upper-division coursework. The following courses are required:

1. American Studies 310, *Introduction to American Studies*
2. American Studies 311S, *Introductory Seminar in American Studies*
3. American Studies 355, *Main Currents of American Culture to 1865* and American Studies 356, *Main Currents of American Culture since 1865*
4. Nine semester hours chosen from topics of American Studies 370, *Seminar in American Culture*
5. [~~Three~~] Six additional semester hours of American studies coursework

[~~Minor for American Studies Majors~~]

[~~Twelve semester hours, including at least six hours of upper division coursework, in any one other field of study in the University. Six of the required twelve semester hours must be taken in residence.~~]