### DOCUMENTS OF THE GENERAL FACULTY

# PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE ENGLISH DEGREE PROGRAM IN THE COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS CHAPTER IN THE UNDERGRADUATE CATALOG, 2018-2020

Dean Randy Diehl in the College of Liberal Arts has filed with the Secretary of the Faculty Council the following proposal to change the English degree program in the College of Liberal Arts chapter in the *Undergraduate Catalog*, 2018-2020. The English Undergraduate Curriculum Committee approved the proposal on March 28, 2107; the Curriculum Design and Assessment Committee approved it on April 19, 2017, and the Dean and the College faculty approved it on June 5, 2017. The Secretary has classified this proposal as legislation of exclusive interest to one college or school.

The Committee on Undergraduate Degree Program Review recommended approval of the proposal on November 16, 2017, and forwarded it 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 Provost on behalf of the President.

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 December 4, 2017.

Alan W. Friedman, Secretary of the General Faculty and Faculty Council

The University of Texas at Austin

alan W. Opiekwan

Arthur J. Thaman and Wilhelmina Doré Thaman Professor of English and Comparative Literature

Distributed through the Faculty Council Wiki site https://wikis.utexas.edu/display/facultycouncil/Wiki+Home on November 27, 2017.

### PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE ENGLISH DEGREE PROGRAM IN THE COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS CHAPTER IN THE UNDERGRADUATE CATALOG 2018-2020

TYPE OF CHANGE:		Change					
Degree Program Change (THECB form required)							
PROPOSED CLASSIF	ICATION:	⊠Exclusive	☐ General	☐ Major			
1. IF THE ANSW	ER TO ANY C	F THE FOLLOW	VING QUESTIC	NS IS YES, THI	E COLLEGE		
MUST CONSULT <u>LIN</u>	DA DICKENS,	DIRECTOR OF	<b>ACCREDITAT</b>	ON AND ASSES	SSMENT, TO		
DETERMINE IF SACS	SCOC APPROV	VAL IS REQUIRE	ED.				
<ul> <li>Is this a new deg</li> </ul>	gree program?			Yes [	□ No ⊠		
<ul> <li>Is this program !</li> </ul>	being deleted?			Yes [	□ No ⊠		
<ul> <li>Does the progra</li> </ul>	m offer courses	that will be taught	off campus?	Yes [	□ No ⊠		
<ul> <li>Will courses in t</li> </ul>	this program be	delivered electronic	ally?	Yes	□ No ⊠		

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

Major hours. While keeping the number of hours for the major the same, we are decreasing by three the number of required upper division hours to twenty-one in order to allow lower-division courses that are a content match for the Diverse Perspectives requirement to apply both toward it and the major.

Items 1 and 2. To align with the wording of other English requirements in the catalog, as well as to allow for mid-catalog inventory additions, we are opting for a descriptive statement for these requirements, rather than an itemized list of course options. A list of course options will continue to be available online for our majors.

Item 4. The articulation of a contemporary (1940-present) requirement in the major does not represent a significant change. For our most recent substantive revision to the English major requirements, in 2010, three period-based courses were added (pre-1630, 1630-1830, 1830-1940). At that time, we did not include a 1940-present requirement solely because our students naturally gravitate toward contemporary literature courses when completing the electives within the major, thus rendering a requirement unnecessary. What we've found, though, is that the absence of a formal contemporary literature requirement inaccurately signals to students (and prospective students) that our department does not value contemporary literature, a misconception we'd very much like to remedy. This requirement replaces three hours of lower- or upper-division elective formerly allowed in the major. (Those elective hours are recouped by the deletion of item 8, below.)

Item 8. The bulk of our major requirements aim for breadth of study within English, with an additional now-nine hours of English upper-division elective targeted at building depth. Originally, this requirement intended to serve as a capstone course for English majors; however, our students' interests within English are incredibly diverse, so much so that offering enough topics to appropriately match individual student preparation proved an impossible task, especially in light of course enrollment minimums. As a result, most of our students were forced either to opt for a more generic course that offered some practice in research but no capstone experience, or to settle for an in-depth course on a topic for which they were not sufficiently prepared or invested. In order to continue to provide substantive research opportunities for our students, our intent is to scatter additional independent inquiry-flagged courses throughout our curriculum. Since the Independent Inquiry flag requirement flag has been adopted for the Bachelor of Arts (Plan I) degree, item 8 remains something of a *de facto* requirement for most of our majors, as well.

Other Changes: The other changes are made in the interest of clarity and to provide direction to students. These adjustments allow the requirements to be listed in order of level (two lower-division requirements

first, followed by two requirements that may be met by either lower- or upper-division coursework, followed by seven upper-division requirements) so that students who see the order of requirements as a directive will progress through the major appropriately. Our period requirements (1940-present, 1830-1940, etc.) have been reordered accordingly in order to provide a more logical chronological progression from the post-1940 requirement situated at #4.

Honors 1. Adjusted to reflect the proposed change in the major above (item 8).

Honors 2 and 3. The English Honors Program Committee agreed that moving to a single minimum grade expectation of B+ for all honors courses was both logical and prudent. Additionally, English 679HA and 679HB were replaced by English 368H and 369H in our course inventory, respectively.

Honors 5. In that sixty hours in residence are now required for any UT-Austin Bachelor of Arts degree, this statement is superfluous.

3.	TH	IIS PROPOSAL INVOLVES:	(Please check all that apply)			
	[	Courses in other colleges	Courses in proposer's college that are frequently taken by students in other colleges	☐ Flags		
	]	Course in the core curriculum Change in admission requirements (external or internal)	<ul> <li>☐ Change in course sequencing for an existing program</li> <li>☑ Requirements not explicit in the catalog language (e.g., lists of acceptable courses maintained by department office)</li> </ul>	Courses that have to be added to the inventory		
4.	SC	OPE OF PROPOSED CHANG	GE:			
	a.	Does this proposal impact othe If yes, then how would you do	Yes 🗌 No 🖂			
	b.	Do you anticipate a net change If yes, how many more (or few	Yes 🗌 No 🔀			
	c.	. Do you anticipate a net increase (or decrease) in the number of <u>students from outside</u> of your college taking <u>classes in your college</u> ? Yes ☐ No ☑ If yes, please indicate the number of students and/or class seats involved.				
	d.	courses in other colleges?	e (or decrease) in the number of students from our of students and/or class seats involved.	om your college taking Yes □ No ⊠		
			h yes, please answer the following question			
		• • •	ase in the number of seats offered, at leas	• •		
		college-level.	,			
		How many students do you exp	pect to be impacted?			
		Impacted schools must be cont	acted and their response(s) included:			
		Person communicated with	h:			
		Date of communication:				
		Response:				
	e.	Does this proposal involve cha	nges to the core curriculum or other basic ed	ducation requirements (42-		

If yes, Undergraduate Studies must be informed of the proposed changes and their response

hour core, signature courses, flags)? If yes, explain:

included:

Person communicated with:

Date of communication:

Response:

f. Will this proposal change the number of hours required for degree completion? No Note: THECB Semester Credit Hour Change Form required, download from URL: <a href="http://www.thecb.state.tx.us/reports/DocFetch.cfm?DocID=2419&format=doc">http://www.thecb.state.tx.us/reports/DocFetch.cfm?DocID=2419&format=doc</a> If yes, explain:

### 5. COLLEGE/SCHOOL APPROVAL PROCESS

Department approval date: March 28, 2017 English Undergraduate Curriculum Committee

(Cullingford (Chair), Hutchison and Scala (Associate Chairs), Bruster (Undergraduate Adviser), and Humphries (Academic Advisor); Honors Changes approved by English Honors Committee (Birkholz (Director) et al.)

College approval date: April 19, 20/17 COLA Curriculum Design and Assessment Committee

Dean approval date: June 5, 2017 COLA Faculty and Dean Randy Diehl

#### PROPOSED NEW CATALOG TEXT:

#### **ENGLISH**

#### Major

Thirty-three semester hours of English, including at least [24] twenty-one semester hours of upper-division coursework, consisting of the following:

- 1. An introductory literary skills course, chosen from English 314J, 314L, or 314V
- 2. <u>An introductory literary survey course, chosen from English 316L, 316M, 316N, or 316P</u>
- 3. A diverse perspectives course
- 4. A course in literature or language from 1940 to the present
- [3] 5. An upper-division course in literature or language [prior to 1630] from 1830 to 1940
- [4] 6. An upper-division course in literature or language from 1630 to 1830
- [5] 7. An upper-division course in literature or language [from 1830 to 1940] prior to 1630
- [6. An upper-division diverse perspectives course]
- [7] 8. An upper-division single- or dual-author course
- [8. An upper-division research seminar]
- 9. Nine additional semester hours of <u>upper-division</u> coursework in English [<del>, including at least six semester hours of upper-division coursework</del>]

A list of courses that may be used to fulfill requirements [3–9] is available in the English Advising Office, Parlin Hall 114, and on the Department of English Web site.

The student must make a grade of at least C- in each course counted toward fulfillment of the major requirements. A minimum grade point average of 2.00 in courses taken at the University and counted toward the major is also required.

Students are discouraged from taking more than six semester hours of coursework in English in a semester. No student may take more than nine hours of coursework in English in a semester.

### **English Honors Program**

Majors who plan to seek special honors in English should apply for admission to the honors program prior to their junior year. Application forms and information about the program are available in the English Advising

Office, Parlin Hall 114, and on the Department of English Web site. The requirements for graduation with special honors are

- 1. Completion of the requirements for a major in English [, except that English 679HB is substituted for the research seminar]
- 2. Completion of three or more upper-division English honors courses with grades of at least  $B\pm$ ; these courses may be counted toward the requirements of the major; two of these courses must be completed prior to enrolling in English [679HA] 368H
- 3. English [679H] 368H and 369H, Honors Tutorial Course I and II, with a grade of at least B+ in each [679HA and a grade of at least A- in 679HB], resulting in the presentation and defense of a thesis judged to be worthy of honors
- 4. A University grade point average of at least 3.33 and a grade point average of at least 3.66 in the coursework required for the major and for honors
- [5. Completion in residence at the University of at least sixty semester hours of coursework counted toward the degree.]