

# College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Committee on Curricula and Courses, Approved Minutes April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2012

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**Chair:** Robert G. Michel (CHEM). **Members present:** Eldridge Adams (EEB), Margaret Breen (ENGL & WGSS), Austen Clark (PHIL), Martha Cutter (AFAM), Micki McElya (HIST), Jon Gajewski (LING), Bob Gallo (PNB), Lynn Kuo (STAT), Richard Langlois (ECON), Senji Lin (MARN), Rory McGloin (COMM), Letitia Naigles (COGS & PSYC), Kenneth Noll (MCB), Richard Rockwell (SOCL), Ralf Schiffler (MATH), Matt Singer (POLSC), Roger Travis (LCL), Bob Wyss (JOUR)

**CLAS Dean's office:** Davita Silfen Glasberg, Katrina Higgins, Mansour Ndiaye

## Preliminaries

The Chair called the meeting to order at 3:30 PM.

Jon Gajewski was appointed secretary *pro tem*.

Minutes of meeting of March 20, 2012 were approved unanimously by voice vote.

## Proposals Approved by the Chair before the meeting

[2012-036 Special Topics CAMS 3295 The Hellenistic World](#)

[2012-037 Special Topics MARN 3995: Coastal and Estuarine Chemistry](#)

## Proposals for reconsideration

[2012-019 Change capstone and CHEM concentration in Environmental Science Major](#)

### *Approved Catalog Description of Major:*

The major in Environmental Science is based in the physical and biological sciences, but also includes course work in selected areas of the social sciences. The major leads to a Bachelor of Science degree, and may be adopted by students in either the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources or the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. This curriculum offers a comprehensive approach to the study of environmental problems, including not only a rigorous scientific background, but also detailed analyses of the social and economic implications of environmental issues. The complexity and interdisciplinary nature of environmental science is reflected in the core requirements of the major. These courses, assembled from several different academic departments representing two colleges, provide both breadth and depth, preparing students for careers that deal with environmental

issues, and for graduate study in environmental science and related fields.

A. Required courses in Basic Science: ARE 1150; BIOL 1107, BIOL 1108 or 1110; CHEM 1124Q, 1125Q, 1126Q or 1127Q, 1128Q; MATH 1125Q, 1126Q, 1132Q, or 1131Q, 1132Q; PHYS 1201Q, 1202Q or 1401Q, 1402Q; STAT 1000Q, or 1100Q or 3025Q

B. Required Courses in Introductory Environmental Science: Select any two from GEOG 2300, GSCI 1050, MARN 1002, NRE 1000.

C. Required Courses in 2000-level or above in Environmental Science: AH 3175, EEB 2244 or 2244W, GSCI 3020, MARN 3000, NRE 3145

D. Capstone course: NRE 4000W

E. General Education competency requirements: Completion of NRE 4000W will satisfy the writing in the major and information literacy competency requirements. Completion of BIOL 1108 and EEB 2244 will satisfy the Computer Literacy requirement.

F. Concentration requirements. All students majoring in Environmental Science must also fulfill the requirements of a concentration in a discipline associated with the program before graduation. Approved concentrations are listed below.

**Environmental Biology** - Students must complete: EEB 2245 or 2245W; EEB 3307 or 4230W; and at least one course from each of the following groups: Group I -- Ecological Systems and Processes: EEB 2208, 3230, 3247, 4215, 5301, 5302, 5310

Group II -- Plant Diversity: EEB 3203, 3204, 3220/W, 3240, 3250, 3256, 3271, 4272, 4276

Group III -- Animal Diversity: EEB 2214, 3254, 3265, 3273, 4200, 4250, 4252, 4274, 4275, or 4260 and 4261

**Environmental Chemistry** - Students must complete at least 15 credits including CHEM 2443, 2444, 2445 or 2446; or CHEM 2241, 2242; and 3332, with remaining credits from CHEM 3210; CHEM 3334; MATH 2110Q and CHEM 3563; CHEM 4370, CHEM 4371.

**Environmental Geography** - Students must complete: GEOG 3510 or 4500; and at least four of: GEOG 3300, 3310, 3330W, 3410, 3500Q, 4300, 4510

**Environmental Geoscience** - Students must complete five courses from the following list with at least two courses from each group:

Group I. GSCI 3010, 3030, 3040

Group II. GSCI 3710, 4110, 4120, 4130, 4210, 4330, 4735 **Marine Sciences** - Students must complete five courses (fifteen credits) from the following list with at least one course from each group.

Group A: MARN 3014, 3015, 3016, 3017, 4010

Group B: MARN 3003Q, 3030, 4030W, 4050

Group C: MARN 3060, 3061, 4060

Environmental Science also offers the following concentrations through the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources: Environmental Health, Natural Resources, Resource Economics, Soil Science. For the complete requirements, refer to the Environmental Science description in the "College of Agriculture and Natural Resources" section of this Catalog.

### 2012-023 Add course MCB 6000: Rotations in MCB laboratories (description revised)

#### *Approved Catalog Listing:*

#### †MCB 6000. Rotations in MCB Laboratories

1 credit. Laboratory. Open only to students in MCB graduate programs with permission of the instructor. Students taking this course will be assigned a final grade of S (satisfactory) or U (unsatisfactory).

Provides entering graduate students with experience in three different laboratory settings during the first semester of graduate studies to assist with the selection of a research theme for their degree. Students are expected to participate in laboratory meetings, journal clubs, benchwork, and other activities as defined by each of three host faculty members. Grading will be based on an aggregate of the performance in each of the host laboratories. Preference is given to students in the MCB doctoral program.

### 2012-029 Change title and description of MARN 4060

#### *Approved Catalog Listing:*

#### MARN 4060. Physical Oceanography

(270) Three credits. Prerequisite: PHYS 1202, 1402, 1502, or 1602; MATH 1122 or 1132. *Whitney*

Overview of physical properties and dynamics influencing the oceans and coastal waters. Descriptions of global water property distributions, surface mixed layer, pycnocline, surface heat fluxes, and major ocean currents. Introduction to dynamics of ocean circulation, waves, tides, and coastal circulation.

### 2012-030 Change African American Studies Minor

#### *Approved Catalog Description of the Minor:*

This minor provides an interdisciplinary study of African people on the continent and Diaspora through the humanities, social sciences and the arts, with particular emphasis on African Americans. Its broad educational objectives are to engender among all students an intellectual appreciation of black life, to encourage students to develop critical and analytical skills, as well as to appreciate ideals of equality, democracy and humane values.

The requirements include 15 credit hours selected from the following:

- a) AFAM 3211 (Introduction to African American Studies)
- b) One course each from groups A, B, and C
- c) One additional course from any of groups A, B, or C; or AFAM 3295

#### **Group A - History**

AFAM 3224; AFAM/HIST 3564, 3568, 3620, 3752, 3753; AFAM/HIST/HRTS 3563

**Group B - Social and Political Inquiry**

AFAM/ANTH 3025, 3152; AFAM/HRTS/SOCI 3505, 3825; AFAM/POLS 3252, 3642, 3647; AFAM/POLS/WS 3652; AFAM/PSYC 3106; AFAM/SOCI 3501, 3703; HDFS 3422, AFAM 30XX/PP 30XX;

**Group C - Literature and the Arts**

AFAM/ENGL 3214W, 3216W; AFAM/FINA 1100; AFAM/DRAM 3131/W; MUSI 3611

**2012-031 Add new course CHIN 32xy Chinese Composition and Conversation**

*Approved Catalog Listing:*

**CHIN 32XY. Chinese Composition and Conversation**

Either semester. Three credits. Three class periods. In Chinese. Prerequisite: CHIN 1114 or consent of instructor. Graded. May be repeated for up to 6 credits. Development of high intermediate to advanced speaking and writing competency.

**2012-032 Add CAMS 3XXX The Hellenistic World**

*Approved catalog Listing:*

**CAMS 3XXX. Hellenistic World**

Fall (alternate years). Three credits. *Johnson, Sara*  
The Eastern Mediterranean (the Greek east) from Alexander to Cleopatra (336-30 BCE), including historical, cultural, social, and religious developments.

**2012-033 Add New Major – Communication Disorders**

**2012-034 Add New Major – Communication**

**2012-035 Eliminate COMS Major**

[Proposals 33 through 35 were postponed for further discussion at the April 24 meeting]

**2012-038 COMM 4035. Change prerequisite**

*Approved Catalog Listing:*

**COMM 4035. Advanced Study of Media Effects: Sex, Drugs and Rock N Roll**

(235) Three credits. Prerequisite: COMM 1000 and COMM 1300; open to juniors or higher.

Contentious topics in current media effects research, and their theoretical implications. Topics include, but are not limited to, sexual content on television, pornography, alcohol on television, video games, and media impact on body image.

**2012-039 COMM 4220W Change Prerequisite**

*Approved Catalog Listing:*

**COMM 4220W. Small Group Communication**

(225W) Three credits. Prerequisite: COMM 3100 or COMM 3200; ENGL 1010 or 1011 or 3800; open to juniors or higher. Recommended preparation: COMM 3100.

Approaches, methods, and findings of research in small group communication and development of an ability to engage effectively in small group situations.

### **2012-040 COMM 4230 Change prerequisites**

#### *Approved Catalog Listing:*

#### **4230. Organizational Communication**

(226) Three credits. Prerequisite: COMM 3000Q and either COMM 3100 or COMM 3200; open to juniors or higher.

Communication in formal organizations; horizontal and vertical communication; effectiveness of different organizational structures and channels; feedback; networks; norms and roles.

### **2012-041 COMM 4320 Change recommended preparation**

#### *Approved Catalog Listing:*

#### **4320. Media and Special Audiences**

(232) (Also offered as PRLS 4320.) Three credits. Prerequisite: Open to juniors or higher. Recommended preparation: COMM 1000, COMM 1300.

Media content and audience responses. Ethnic, racial, and gender issues in mainstream and ethnic media. Special audiences include Latina/os, African Americans, Asian Americans, Women, Gays, Lesbians.

### **2012-042 COMM 4330 Change prerequisite**

#### *Approved Catalog Listing:*

#### **4330. Children and Mass Media**

(234) Three credits. Prerequisite: COMM 1000 and COMM 1300; open to juniors or higher.

Child development and the effects of mass media on young children. Educational television, frightening media, violent television, computer games, the Internet and media policy.

### **2012-043 ECON 2481 change credits and format of internship course**

#### *Approved Catalog Listing:*

#### **ECON 2481 Internship – Field Study**

(294) Credits up to six. Hours by arrangement. Prerequisite: Instructor consent required; students must have: nine credits of 2000-level or above economics courses (six of which may be concurrent); students must be at least 6th-semester and have a minimum GPA of 2.25 or a minimum of 2.5 in economics courses at the 2000-level or above; students must secure a satisfactory intern position before the end of the second week of the semester of enrollment in this course; they should begin consultation with the instructor several months in advance. Does not count toward the economics major. Students taking this course will be assigned a final grade of S (satisfactory) or U (unsatisfactory).

Supervised fieldwork relevant to some area of economics, with a business firm, government agency or non-profit organization. Evaluation by the field supervisor and by the instructor (based on a detailed written report submitted by the student).

### 2012-044 ECON 2491 Change credits and format of Internship - Research Paper

#### *Approved Catalog Listing:*

#### **ECON 2491. Internship – Research Paper**

(295) One credit. Hours by arrangement. Prerequisite: Instructor consent required; students must have: nine credits of 2000-level or above economics courses (six of which may be concurrent); students must be at least 6th-semester; have a minimum GPA of 2.25 or a minimum of 2.5 in economics courses at the 2000-level or above. Research paper of 3,000-4,000 words on approved topic related to the internship field study.

### 2012-045 ECON 2491W Internship – Research Paper Change credits and format

#### *Approved Catalog Listing:*

#### **ECON 2491W. Internship – Research Paper**

(295W) Hours by arrangement. Prerequisite: ENGL 1010 or 1011 or 3800. Instructor consent required; students must have: nine credits of 2000-level or above economics courses (six of which may be concurrent); students must be at least 6th-semester; have a minimum GPA of 2.25 or a minimum of 2.5 in economics courses at the 2000-level or above.

### 2012-046 SOCI Major – change writing in the major requirements

#### *Approved Catalog Description of the Major:*

Sociology is an analytic discipline concerned with understanding people as creators of, and participants in, society. The field is broadly concerned with the study of modern society and its social organizations, institutions, groups, and social roles. Sociologists study social influences on human behavior, such as sexuality, ethnic identity, and religious belief, and how individuals become members of families and communities. The field is also concerned with social problems, especially all forms of prejudice, discrimination, and inequality, and with poverty, crime, violence, and the threatened environment. Sociologists emphasize sources of social problems in the organization of society, public policies for their alleviation, and today's questions of social justice. Finally, they study how individuals, both alone and working in groups, can change the society in which they live. A major in sociology opens many doors for careers and is excellent background for advanced training in a variety of other fields.

At least 24 credits of SOCI courses at the 2000-level or above are required.

Three specific courses are required of all majors: SOCI 3201, 3211Q, 3251. (Note: Students must take SOCI 1001, 1251, or 1501 prior to taking SOCI 3201, 3211Q, and 3251.)

Passing SOCI 3201 satisfies the information literacy competency, and passing SOCI 3211Q satisfies the computer technology competency. The writing in the major requirement can be satisfied by passing any 2000- or 3000-level W course in Sociology.

At least one course must be taken from the following group: Inequality, Diversity, and Change (SOCI 2827, 3221, 3222, 3421, 3429, 3501, 3503, 3505, 3511, 3601, 3621, 3701, 3703, 3801, 3821, 3825 or 3905).

Twelve additional credits (usually four courses) must be taken from any 2000-level or above courses offered by the department, including those listed above. (Note: No more than three credits of SOCI 3990 can apply to the major).

### 2012-047 Add POLS 3XXX Politics and human rights in global supply chains

#### *Approved Catalog Listing:*

#### **POLS 3XXX: Politics and Human Rights in Global Supply Chains**

Three credits. Open to juniors or higher. Recommended preparation: POLS 1202 and 1402 and POLS/HRTS 3212

Political and human rights implications of regulating contemporary global supply chains: official regulatory frameworks; non-regulatory approaches to rule-making (such as voluntary corporate codes of conduct and industry standards); social responses to the dilemmas of “ethical” sourcing of goods and services.

#### **POLS 3XXXW: Politics and Human Rights in Global Supply Chains**

Three credits. ENGL 1010 or 1011 or 3800. Open to juniors or higher. Recommended preparation: POLS 1202 and 1402 and POLS/HRTS 3212

### 2012-048 Cross list POLS 3XXX with HRTS Politics and human rights in global supply chains

#### *Approved Catalog Listing:*

#### **POLS 3XXX/HRTS 3XXX: Politics and Human Rights in Global Supply Chains**

Three credits. Open to juniors or higher. Recommended preparation: POLS 1202 and 1402 and POLS/HRTS 3212

Political and human rights implications of regulating contemporary global supply chains: official regulatory frameworks; non-regulatory approaches to rule-making (such as voluntary corporate codes of conduct and industry standards); social responses to the dilemmas of “ethical” sourcing of goods and services.

#### **POLS 3XXXW/HRTS 3XXXW: Politics and human rights in global supply chains**

Three credits. ENGL 1010 or 1011 or 3800. Open to juniors or higher. Recommended preparation: POLS 1202 and 1402 and POLS/HRTS 3212

## Reports of Committees

### Study Abroad ad hoc committee on Study Abroad Accreditation. Sub-committee report.

The committee voted unanimously to accept the following report.

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UConn Study Abroad has three types of programs. In the first, such as in London, Florence and some other places, UConn faculty teach or supervise classes in such a way as to maintain UConn standards, and our students can transfer their classes like a regular class with UConn credits and grades that count towards the degree. A second type of program is governed by agreements between institutions, the nature of which varies. The vexation is that, under a statement in the University Senate By-laws<sup>1</sup>, a third activity essentially allows the transfer of any course credit, together with its grade, for any classes taught at foreign universities, including those whose standards are not controlled by members of the UConn faculty or are unknown to UConn faculty. Our normal Transfer Credit program at UConn only transfers credits, and NOT grades<sup>2</sup>. This means that a course at Yale would not transfer with its grade, but a course from, say, *Tasmania* taught by an unknown faculty member would transfer both credits and a grade.

**Recommendation:** It seems self-evident that the Study Abroad program at UConn should conform to the same rules that UConn uses to transfer credit from domestic institutions: it should give graded credit only for Study Abroad programs for which academic standards are determined by, or directly supervised by, UConn faculty. The logical inconsistency in the By-laws that allows transfer of both credit and grades for all Study Abroad courses should be eliminated by incorporation of wording to ensure the use of traditional transfer credit practices for courses that are not supervised by our faculty.

We have looked at a couple of other universities, and they are not so generous at awarding grades to study abroad classes. Two examples are Eastern Connecticut State University<sup>3</sup> and Duke University<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Senate by-laws: <http://policy.uconn.edu/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/SenateBylaws20120326.pdf> "It is expected that advanced course work in the major will be completed in residence. Students must earn a minimum of thirty credits in residence toward a degree at the University, though particular schools and colleges may require more. Courses taken at the University and through the University's Study Abroad, National Student Exchange and Early College Experience programs are all deemed in-residence."

<sup>2</sup> Transfer admission rules: <http://transfer.uconn.edu/guidelines.htm> , and Transfer of Credit quoted from Senate By-laws: "Students whose records are acceptable may be admitted from other collegiate institutions having requirements similar to those of the University of Connecticut. The number of transfer credits such students receive depends upon the character, quantity, and quality of the work they have done. Each applicant for admission with advanced standing must present a complete official transcript of all work, which he or she has previously taken at other colleges or secondary schools.

Transfer credit will be given only for courses in which the student earned a "C" grade or higher (2.0 on a 4.0 scale). Transfer students shall be required to meet the scholastic standards of their semester classification. The grade point average of transfer students will be computed on the work taken at the University of Connecticut only."

<sup>3</sup> Eastern Connecticut State University: <http://www.easternct.edu/internationalstudyabroad/about.html>: "Credits earned abroad will count as transfer credits and they will not be calculated in the GPA. "

<sup>4</sup>Duke University: <http://psychandneuro.duke.edu/undergraduate/study-away> Study Away: If you plan to take psychology courses elsewhere, you must have them approved in the Undergraduate Studies Office and your Dean's Office prior to leaving campus. Only two psychology courses taken off campus while you are a Duke student may count towards the major; others may count towards the total of 34 credits needed for graduation. If you hope to have



**Recommendation:** It is suggested that the Study Abroad program form a faculty governing board, chaired and composed of faculty, that not only oversees the individual programs abroad, as at present, but also has an additional committee to oversee Curricula and Courses-related issues. Such a C&C committee, chaired and composed of faculty, would coordinate both individual course approvals for credit and all existing and new agreements with universities abroad. Such coordination would include review by the relevant UConn departments. Following this approval process, decisions would be submitted for approval to the School or College C&C committees that are relevant to the course(s) or programs under consideration. This would be analogous to the C&C committees of UConn Schools and Colleges that oversee C&C issues in departments and programs. Further, existing agreements should be reviewed to determine their level of conformity with UConn faculty standards and eligibility for both credit and grade transferability.

**Other points concerning these matters:**

The study abroad accreditation issue is of present concern, because Study Abroad administrators are asking all Schools and Colleges to create catch-all courses in departments, XXXX 1193, etc. and on up to higher levels, to hold credit for Study Abroad where an equivalent UConn course does not match. As this also transfers grades, according to the above-mentioned section of current UConn Senate By-laws, the transfer of grades for these courses raises serious questions about academic standards represented by our degrees.

It is further apparent that it is not appropriate to transfer grades from a university abroad no matter how good, when we do not do the same for US universities.

It has been suggested that Study Abroad courses not supervised by UConn faculty be S/U graded, but this argument is not compelling in the face of the present practice of giving no grades whatsoever for transfer credits through the Transfer Credit office. Why do this for courses taken abroad but not for courses taken at domestic universities and colleges?

Further, it is observed that while there may be arguments related to recruitment into the Study Abroad program, which in some respects may be related to tuition paid by students, such arguments should not in any way supersede the standards of the university presently defended by the longstanding Transfer Credit System.

*Respectfully Submitted in this Draft 2 form by an ad hoc committee of the CLAS C&CC.*

*Robert Henning; Richard Rockwell; Robert G Michel (Chair)*

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courses taken elsewhere count for credit in Psychology, bring a Tentative Approval Form to the DUS for signature. For study abroad, obtain the forms from the Office of Global Education for Undergraduates <http://studyabroad.duke.edu/> for study at other institutions within the U.S., you may receive transfer credit, but not a grade. For courses not in Duke administered programs abroad (e.g. "Duke in France," etc.). The course numbers will be 888 for any lower-level courses and 999 for upper-level courses. Some courses which have exact equivalents at Duke will also be given credit for that equivalent course, but not a grade. You may receive credit and a grade for courses in Duke administered programs abroad (e.g. "Duke in France," etc.). For exact equivalents, you will receive credit for that course. For non-equivalent courses you may receive XXXX for lower-level courses, and XXX for upper-level courses. A separate suffix will be given to each of these standard course numbers. All forms should be signed by a Director of Undergraduate Studies and your Dean before you leave campus to take the course.

## **Old Business - none**

## **New Business**

### **Accreditation of graduate classes, including special topics.**

This committee has not traditionally requested to review graduate-level special topics courses, as these are presently being approved directly by the heads of departments and programs. As this committee typically approves new graduate courses, departments and programs are reminded that special topics courses are to be taught only three times before they are either dropped or a new course created. A reminder is also appropriate that often there is a variable topics course in many departments that is very distinct in its function from a special topics experimental course. There continues to be some flux and grey areas associated with the role of this committee in the approval of graduate classes.

### **Policy on student workload – credit hour**

It was recommended by the chair that members refer the Provost's proposed policy on the amount of student work expected per credit hour in an undergraduate course to their departments and programs. The chair requested that any feedback concerning this proposal be emailed to the chair. There was some discussion on the importance of the amount of time a student spends on a class. While the 3hrs per credit hour in the report is meant to be an average, which acknowledges the differing abilities of students and differing levels of difficulty of material, it is unreasonable to expect more on average, as this affects the academic freedom of other faculty and students in other classes.

### **Incentives for online courses – memo from the Dean to Department Heads**

Held over for the next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 5:41 PM.

Submitted by Jon Gajewski, secretary *pro tem*.