



Arts and Sciences

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July 14, 2009

W. Randy Smith  
Vice Provost  
Office of Academic Affairs  
203 Bricker Hall, 190 N. Oval Mall  
CAMPUS

Dear Randy:

The Arts and Sciences Committee on Curriculum and Instruction (CCI) unanimously approved a revision to the **Popular Culture Studies Interdisciplinary Minor** on June 12, 2009. The CCI Subcommittee on Interdisciplinary Initiatives approved the minor at their meeting on April 8, 2009. This committee also functions as the college committee for Interdisciplinary Program proposals. Please see the attached transmittal history for detailed minutes from these meetings.

The proposed revision adds English/Comparative Studies 264 and Women's Studies 230 as options to the required core courses, allowing students three options for fulfilling the core course requirement (5 credits out of 24 total credits for the minor). The remainder of the minor remains unchanged.

Both the CCI and the CCI Interdisciplinary Subcommittee thought these changes were appropriate and increased student choice in this growing minor.

Please see the attached transmittal letter from Larry Krissek for more detail.

Please let me know if I can be of further assistance as CAA considers this proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kathleen M. Hallihan".

Kathleen M. Hallihan  
Director, Curriculum and Assessment

c: Randy Smith  
Melissa Soave  
Terry Gustafson

**Date:** 8 May 2009  
**Subject:** Proposed Revisions to the Interdisciplinary Minor in Popular Culture Studies  
**From:** Larry Krissek, Chair, Interdisciplinary Initiatives Subcommittee

The Interdisciplinary Initiatives Subcommittee considered the proposal for revisions to the Popular Culture Studies Minor at its meeting of 8 April 2009. Jessica Mercerhill provided background about the motivation for the proposed revision (i.e., to provide students with more flexibility in designing and scheduling their program), as well as the history of development of this proposal. Subsequent discussion by the Subcommittee concentrated on the degree of similarity/equivalence of the three courses proposed to meet the “core requirement” for the revised minor.

As a result of its discussions, the Subcommittee: 1) agreed that the three courses listed in the proposed revision are similar enough to serve equally well as the “core requirement” for this minor, and 2) recommended that ASC 264 be maintained as a course for the present time, despite its staffing issues. One of the outcomes of an upcoming review of the Popular Culture Studies minor, however, may be a recommendation to discontinue offering ASC 264, if staffing issues persist with ASC 264 and the needs of the minor can be met by English/Comp Studies 264 and Women’s Studies 230.

The Subcommittee then voted unanimously to approve the proposed revisions to the Interdisciplinary Minor in Popular Culture Studies. As a result, that proposal is being moved to the CCI for its consideration.

As presently structured, the Popular Culture Studies Minor requires 24 credits; these include a 5 credit “core” course (ASC 264), and 19 credits from a list of ~72 “advanced elective” courses. The selection of “advanced electives” is subject to distribution requirements:

- 1) at least one course must involve the study of a historical popular culture (pre-1945);
- 2) at least one course must focus on a popular culture outside majority-U.S. culture;
- 3) no more than two film courses;
- 4) only one course from the major department, and that course may not be counted on the major;
- 5) no more than two “advanced electives” that are 200-level courses.

The principal revision proposed is the addition of English/Comp Studies 264 (“Introduction to Reading Popular Culture Studies”) and Women’s Studies 230 (“Gender, Sexuality, and Race in Popular Culture”) as options for the required “core course”. As a result, a student can satisfy the requirement for a “core course” by completed either ASC 264, English/Comp Studies 264, or Women’s Studies 230. The remainder of the minor is unchanged by the proposed revision.

March 26, 2009

Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee  
c/o Jessica Mercerhill  
4132 Smith Lab  
174 W. 18<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
CAMPUS

Dear Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee:

As coordinator of the interdisciplinary minor in Popular Culture Studies, I am requesting a change to our core requirements for the Minor. As originally formulated, the Minor required all students to take Arts and Sciences 264 (Introduction to Popular Culture Studies). At our last meeting, the Minor's Advisory Committee, in consultation with Dean Gustafson and Jessica Mercerhill, voted to instead invite students to choose from three introductory courses to fulfill this requirement. In addition to ASC 264, the other two courses that would fulfill the introductory course requirement are English/Comparative Studies 264 (Introduction to Reading Popular Culture Studies) and Women's Studies 230 (Gender, Sexuality, and Race in Popular Culture). We are requesting this change for the following reasons:

1. Staffing of Arts and Sciences 264 has become a serious challenge, with few clear solutions emerging in the near future. As the Minor grows, we need to be able to offer the course at least twice a year (ideally 3x), and this has proved impossible in both 2008-09 and 2009-10.
2. English/Comparative Studies 264 has been redesigned since the Popular Culture Studies minor has come on line to make it more responsive to the needs of the Minors. The course addresses many of the core issues central to ASC 264, including introducing students to key research methods and theoretical concepts in the class.
3. Women's Studies 230 was designed after the Minor was approved, and it offers a vital introduction to many of the key issues in the field in a course taught by faculty and instructors in the field.
4. Offering Minors a choice of one of three introductory courses will give students considerably more flexibility in terms of designing and scheduling a program that works with their interests and graduate schedule. Whereas we were able to offer ASC 264 only once in 2008-09, both English/Comparative Studies 264 and Women's Studies 230 are offered at least three times a year.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Syllabi from professors teaching these three courses are included in this packet.

Sincerely yours,

Jared Gardner  
Associate Professor of English and Film  
Coordinator, Interdisciplinary Popular Culture Studies Program

**The Ohio State University  
Arts and Sciences  
Interdisciplinary Programs  
Popular Culture Studies Minor (Pop Cult, 293)**

Minor Coordinator: Prof. Jared Gardner [gardner.236@osu.edu](mailto:gardner.236@osu.edu).  
Students should see the minor coordinator to discuss and declare the minor.  
[popularculturestudies.osu.edu](http://popularculturestudies.osu.edu).

The goal of the minor is to provide tools for students to build bridges between the popular, public, and material cultures of their daily lives and the cultures that are the traditional objects of study.

The Popular Culture Studies minor requires the completion of 24 hours, which consists of an introductory course (5 hours), and the selection of courses following these guidelines: a) at least **one** course involving the study of a historical popular culture (pre-1945) b) at least **one** course focusing on a popular culture outside majority-U.S. culture c) no more than **two** film courses.

**Required introductory course - Choose One (5 credit hours)**

English/Comparative Studies 264 (5)  
Women's Studies 230 (5)  
ASC 264: Introduction to Popular Culture Studies (5)

**Advanced Electives**

**Historical (pre-1945) Popular Culture:**

Arts College 350: History of Animation (5)  
Chinese 674: Chinese Opera (5)  
Classics 230: Medicine in the Ancient World (5)  
Classics 250: Sports and Spectacles in the Ancient World (5)  
COMM 648.01: History of American Newspaper Comic Strips (5)  
COMM 648.02: History of Amer. Newspaper Political Cartoons (5)  
Comparative Studies 677.01: Genres of World Folklore (5)  
Compar Studies 677.02: Themes in World Folklore (5)  
Compar Studies 677.03: Folk Custom, Art, and Material Culture (5)  
Compar Studies 677.04: Comparative Folk Groups (5)  
English 264: Reading Popular Culture (5)  
English 577.01: Folk Groups and Communities (5)  
English 577.02: Folklore Genres: Form, Meaning, and Use(5)  
Film Studies H670/German H670:Cinema and the Historical Avant Garde (5)\*  
Theatre 367.01: Self Images: America on Stage 1830 to the Present (5)  
Women's Studies 317: Women and Film (5)\*

**Popular Culture from Outside Majority-U.S. Culture:**

AAAS/MUS 288: Bebop to Doowop to Hiphop: (5)  
AAAAS 571: Images of Black People in Mass Media Production (5)  
Chinese 674: Chinese Opera (5)  
Compar Studies 241: Introduction to Asian American Studies (5)  
Compar Studies 242: Introduction to Latino/a Studies (5)  
Compar Studies 677.01: Genres of World Folklore (5)  
Compar Studies 677.02: Themes in World Folklore (5)  
Compar Studies 677.03: Folk Custom, Art, and Material Culture (5)  
Compar Studies 677.04: Comparative Folk Groups (5)  
English 270: Introduction to Folklore (5)  
English 577.01: Folk Groups and Communities (5)  
English 577.02: Folklore Genres: Form, Meaning, and Use (5)  
English 577.03: Issues and Methods in the Study of Folklore (5)  
English 597: Critical Issues: Disability in Film and Literature (5)\*  
German 250: German Literature and Popular Culture (5)  
History of Art 260: Introduction to World Cinema (5)\*  
Modern Greek 268: Modern Greek Folklore (5)  
Music 253: Introduction to Jazz (5)  
Music 294: Rap Music in Context (5)  
Russian 235: Modern Russian Culture (5)  
Russian 360: Modern Russian Experience through Film (5)\*  
Women's Studies 215: Reading Women Writers: (5)  
Women's Studies 317: Women and Film (5)\*  
Women's Studies 375: Women and Visual Culture: (5)  
Women's Studies 576: Women and Visual Cultures of Latin America (5)

**Other Advanced Electives**

*Students may use additional electives from the courses listed below to complete the minimum of 24 hours for the Minor. Several of these electives are variable topics courses and might count for either the pre-1945 or non-Majority-U.S. culture requirements, depending on the focus of the class.*

Art Education 255: Engaging Visuality (5)  
Art Education 367.03: Criticizing Television (5)

COMM 642: Mass Communication and Society (5)  
COMM 666: Communication and Popular Culture (5)  
Compar Studies 234: American Icons (5)  
Compar Studies 264: Reading Popular Culture (5)  
Compar Studies 336: Cultural Studies in American Popular Music (5)  
Compar Studies 394: Religion and Media (5)  
Dance 357: Dance in Popular Culture (5)  
Engineering 367: American Attitudes about Technology (5)  
English 263: Introduction to Film (5)\*  
English 364: Special Topics in Reading Popular Culture (5)  
Film Studies 270: Introduction to Film Studies (5)\*  
English 378: Special Topics in Film and Literature (5)\*  
English 578: Special Topics in Film (5)\*  
Music 252: History of Rock and Roll (5)  
Music 646: History of Music in the United States (5)  
Music 341: American Popular Music (5)  
Philosophy 240: Philosophy of Art (5)  
Psychology 301: The Psychology of Extraordinary Beliefs (5)  
Sociology 302: Technology, Society & Social Change (5)  
Sociology H367.01: Politics and American Society (5)  
Sociology 606: Social Movements  
Sociology 608: Gender, Race, Class and Media (5)  
Sociology 640: Sociology of Everyday Life (5)  
Sociology 655: Sociology of Sport (5)  
Textiles & Clothing 200: Fashion, the Body and Popular Culture (3)  
Theatre 597: Censorship and Performance (5)  
Women's Studies 230: Gender, Sexuality, and Race in Popular Culture (5)  
Women's Studies 517: Women Film Directors (5)\*  
Women's Studies 527: Studies in Women and Cinema (5)\*

**Note: Only one course may be from the major department and may not be counted on the major. Not including the required introductory course, no more than two courses may be taken at the 200-level, and no more than two film courses (marked with an asterisk). No more than two courses to be counted for the minor may be taken from a single department.**

**Arts and Sciences minor program guidelines**

The following guidelines govern minors.

Required for graduation No  
Credit hours required A minimum of 20 (some minors require more)  
Transfer credit hours allowed A maximum of 10  
Overlap with the GEC Permitted, unless specifically disallowed by an individual minor program.

Overlap with the major Not allowed and

- The minor must be in a different subject than the major.
  - The same courses cannot count on the minor and on the major.
- Overlap between minors Each minor completed must contain 20 unique hours.

Grades required

- Minimum C- for a course to be listed on the minor.
- Minimum 2.00 cumulative point-hour ratio required for the minor.
- Course work graded Pass/Non-Pass cannot count on the minor.

Approval required The minor program description sheet indicates if the minor course work must be approved by:

- The academic unit offering the minor, or
- A college/school counselor.

Filing the minor program form The minor program form must be filed at least by the time the graduation application is submitted to a college/school counselor.

Changing the minor Once the minor program is filed in the college office, any changes must be approved by:

- The academic unit offering the minor, or
- A college/school counselor (depending on the minor)

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JLM 3/27/09

## Transmittal History for Revision to Popular Culture Studies Minor

### Committee on Curriculum and Instruction- Friday, June 12, 2009

Excerpt from Unapproved Minutes

1. Pop Culture Minor Revision (Larry Krissek)
  - These are fast-tracked changes with the approval of the Interdisciplinary Subcommittee Chair (L Krissek) & CCI Chair (C Highley)
  - The CCI Interdisciplinary Subcommittee reviewed this proposal, which has been an existing minor for 3-4 years. It has a 4-credit required course, and a large list of electives. The change is from having 1 core course (ASC 264) to an option of 3 courses (ASC 264, English/Comparative Studies course, Women's Studies 230). Those involved in these courses have talked to one another, to make sure they are offering similar things. There have been staffing issues in offering ASC 264, in terms of making the core course available to students on a regular basis. So, instead of requiring just one course, the option for students is now to take 1 of 3 courses to fulfill the 1-course core.
  - Letter from the Subcommittee stands as a motion to approve; 2<sup>nd</sup> - Shanda
  - **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**

### CCI Interdisciplinary Initiatives Subcommittee Wednesday, April 08, 2009

Excerpt from Approved Minutes

4. Pop Culture Studies Minor revision
    - ASC 264, the current required course, has staffing issues so they would like 3 possibilities for their required course- ASC 264, Engl/CS 264, WS 230
    - How different is the ASC course from the Comp Stds course? Is the ASC course as rigorous as the Engl/CS 264?
      - Over the course of time, the cross-listed course has incorporated a number of the ASC 264 elements
      - Permanently, the committee felt they did not want to totally rescind ASC 264 from the minor; they will make a rigorous review of the minor and request that depts. provide syllabi and send depts. a notice to send in any courses that might fit into the minor
      - With a 3-way signal to the student to provide the course, but with only 2 viable options for students, that is the only concern here
    - A growing, popular minor; in existence since about 2006; now has about 65 students currently in the minor
    - Making this step now seems reasonable and with a review coming, why take the class off the books? Better to slide into limbo than remove immediately and permanently
- Watson, Harvey- **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**