12. Special Consideration

College of Liberal Arts
   Department of European and Classical Languages and Cultures
   Minor in Classical Studies – departmental and requirement changes
Memorandum

Date: September 6, 2009

To: Pamela Matthews, Associate Dean Chair, Undergraduate Instruction Committee College of Liberal Arts

From: R. J. Golsan, Head

Re: Changes to Minor in Classical Studies (CLAS)

The Department of European and Classical Languages and Cultures respectfully requests the following changes to the Minor in Classical Studies:

1. Change of the current Interdisciplinary Minor to a Departmental Minor.

2. Changes in the CLAS Minor curriculum.

Reason for Change. The minor in Classical Studies was established in 1989 as an interdisciplinary program to build student interest in the study of Greek and Roman Antiquity. Since 2004, there has been neither a coordinator named by the College, nor an interdisciplinary program steering committee, and the degree has been administered, as a matter of fact, by the Department of European and Classical Languages and Cultures. The creation of a B.A. in Classics in 2007 has now resulted in the awkward situation where the major is located in a department, while the corresponding minor is nominally an interdisciplinary degree directly supervised by the College. In view of the Department’s de-facto administration of the minor for the past five years, it seems appropriate to officially sanction this situation, and re-cast the Classical Studies minor as a departmental minor, in line with the other foreign languages that offer both a major and a minor (French, German, Russian, and Spanish).

As conceived in 1989, the degree structure focussed on classical civilization courses and required only minimal knowledge (2 semesters) of classical languages. For a new minor-only program in an environment hitherto lacking in Classics-oriented study opportunities, this was appropriate. Twenty years later, Classical Studies are flourishing at Texas A&M, with a broad range of course offerings (approx. 30 sections per year), including advanced courses in the classical languages. The requirements for the minor, however, have not grown along with the program, and now present a troubling discrepancy, especially in the area of language preparation, when compared to those of the major. All other foreign language programs offering both a major and a minor (French, German, Russian, Spanish) require for the minor at least 12 hours of advanced—i.e., 300/400 level—courses taught in the target language, since culture and literature cannot be explored meaningfully, even in the reduced scope of a minor, through a curriculum based entirely on texts read in translation. Majors and minors learn together in advanced courses. Yet under
the current degree structure of the Classical Studies minor, students have no incentive to proceed beyond the first year (i.e., elementary or 100 level) of Greek or Latin, let alone to the advanced (i.e., 300 level) courses in those languages. This results in an artificial separation of Classics students into two classes: minors, who (with rare individual exceptions) have no significant contact with the classical languages and therefore approach their field of study almost exclusively through courses taught in translation, and majors, who must acquire advanced skills in the languages but cannot by themselves sustain a consistent offering of advanced courses in Greek and Latin.

The proposed changes in the Classical Studies minor will enhance students’ experience in the classical languages while retaining a substantial component of classical civilization courses (broadly defined), and create a closer correspondence between minor and major. It will bring the minor into compliance with the College requirement that 18-hour minors entail at least 9 hours of upper-division coursework, and establish a degree of academic rigor comparable to the minors in French, German, Russian, and Spanish.

**Minor in Classical Studies (CLAS): Changes in Curriculum**

**proposed:**

18 hours required:
- at least 9 hours must be at 300/400 level.

A. 6 hours in one language:
- CLAS 211 and 311 or 312 if Greek
- CLAS 221 and 222 if Latin

B. 12 hours in Classical Studies:
- At least 6 hours must be from CLAS 330-499.
- Select from CLAS 300-499 or the following:
  - ANTH 317 Introduction to Biblical Archaeology
  - ANTH 351 Classical Archaeology
  - ARCH 430 History of Ancient Architecture
  - ARCH 434 Sculpture and Painting in Ancient Architecture
  - ARTS 335 The Art and Architecture of Rome
  - PHIL 410 Classical Philosophy

**current:**

18-20 hours required:
- at least 6 hours must be at 300/400 level.

A. 6-8 hours in one language:
- 2 semesters at any level (usually 101, 102 if Greek; 121, 122 if Latin)

B. 12 hours in Classical Civilization:
- At least 3 hours must be non-CLAS;
- select from CLAS 200-499 or the following:
  - ANTH 317
  - ANTH 351
  - ARCH 430
  - ARCH 434
  - ARTS 335
  - PHIL 410
following three-hour courses: APST 201, ANTH 315, ENGL 205, ENGL 993, HIST 300, HIST 301, HIST 344, HIST 345, HIST 346, COMM 425, SOCI 317 or SOCi 323.

Requirements for the minor in Classical Studies include 18 hours to be taken as follows: (1) two semesters of either Greek or Latin language at the college level; (2) a minimum of four courses in classical civilization from an approved list.

Requirements for the interdisciplinary minor in Asian Studies total 18 credit hours, as follows: (1) six hours of Asian Studies humanities courses; (2) six hours of Asian Studies social sciences courses; (3) a three-hour Asian studies capstone course selected in consultation with the program coordinator; and (4) three hours of Asian Studies electives. Up to six hours of upper-division Asian language courses (300 level or higher) may count toward the minor.

If six hours of language courses are used for the minor, the required hours in Asian Studies humanities and social sciences courses will be reduced from 12 hours to 9 hours, and the Asian language courses will be credited as electives.

Requirements for the minor in Film Studies total 18 hours including: (1) a foundation course which is FILM 201 or (with approval of the program coordinator) ENGL 251; (2) FILM 481; (3) FILM 301; (4) three additional FILM courses (9 hours). Courses that are primarily concerned with film and which are offered in any department within the College may be credited for the minor with the approval of the program coordinator.

Requirements for the minor in Hispanic Studies total 18 hours including (1) two courses (6 hours) in upper-level Spanish language courses: SPAN 301, Hispanic Culture and Civilization; SPAN 302, Comparative Grammar; SPAN 303, Composition and Conversation; SPAN 304, Advanced Grammar for Native Speakers; or SPAN 350, Phonetics; (2) three courses (9 hours) in Hispanic topics and issues, to be selected from a list of recommended courses, with no more than two courses from any area; and (3) one "capstone" or "exit course" (3 hours) selected in consultation with the program coordinator.

Requirements of the interdisciplinary minor in Journalism Studies include 18 credit hours, not counting JOUR 102, a 3-hour prerequisite for admission to the minor. Fifteen credit hours are devoted to: (1) basic news-gathering and writing courses (6 hours), a choice among advanced reporting, editing or communication law courses (3 hours), and (3) two "capstone" courses that include a media internship and a professional practice course taught by visiting Journalists-in-Residence (6 hours). The final three hours can be taken in a number of classes offered through Anthropology, Communication, Economics, English, History, Music, Political Science, Psychology or Architecture.

Requirements for the minor in Religious Studies total 18 hours, including: (1) 6 hours of World Religious Traditions taken as RELS 303 and 304; (2) 3 hours in Religious Texts selected from RELS 211, 213, 351, 350 or 392; (3) 3 hours in Religion in History selected from RELS 220, 317, 347, 355 or 404; (4) 3 hours in Religion in Psychology and the Social Sciences selected from RELS 326, 403 or 405; and (5) RELS 331, Philosophy of Religion.

Requirements for the minor in Women's Studies total 18 hours, including at least 6 hours at the upper-level, as follows: WMST 200, WMST 481, 3 hours in humanities women's studies courses, 3 hours in social science women's studies courses, and additional women's studies courses as approved by the coordinator of women's studies and the dean's office.

Six hours in either Greek (CLAS 211 and 311 or 312) or Latin (CLAS 221, 222) language; (2) twelve hours in Classical Studies (at least six hours from CLAS 330-499);