

Arts & Sciences Curriculum Committee

Draft Minutes

February 9, 2016

3:30-5pm

CNS 6

In attendance:

Steven Bayne, Johanna Garvey, Terry Ann Jones, David Learner, Margaret McClure, David McFadden, John Miecznikowski, Laura Nash, Michael Pagano, Aaron Perkus, Kraig Steffen

Meeting began at 3:30.

MA 15- Mathematics: An Exploration

- Laura Nash- This class was created in anticipation of the core change.
- John Miecznikowski – Full-time faculty will teach the course because they will cover higher-level mathematics for mathematics majors. Some of the topics are interesting as they relate to everyday life, practical mathematics to real world problems. It will be taught three classes a week. Minutes are included and they answered the committee’s past questions.
- Michael Pagano – Is this a shell course?
 - Laura Nash – It is like RS 101 where each professor teaches a different topic/area within the framework of the course.
- Steven Bayne – The syllabus included is not a syllabus it’s more of an outline (new form requires a submission of a syllabi, old form does not). No mention of academic dishonesty. We should recommend adding academic dishonesty policy to the syllabus.
 - Terry Ann- it contains all the relevant information but not in a syllabus form.
- Aaron Perkus – Concerned that there are no standard learning outcomes. Disagrees that outcomes varies from instructor to instructor - it should all be the same for each course.
 - David McFadden – Agrees it should not be different from instructor to instructor.
 - Laura Nash- It seems like they did have a discussion about this according to their minutes this but did not articulate it in the syllabus.
- Laura Nash – nervous that this has been made before the approval of the new core.
 - Steven Bayne – It looks like this course could fit in the current core.

Motion: David McFadden moved for *conditional* approval. Johanna Garvey seconded.

Condition: Work with Aaron Perkus on creating consistent and clear learning outcomes and create and send Laura Nash a sample syllabus with learning outcomes on it.

All in favor.

MA 401- Mathematics: Introduction to Applied Mathematics

- John Miecznikowski – This course looks like an upper level mathematics course intended for graduate students who have not had sufficient background for the graduate program. It will cover linear algebra and differential equations.

- Laura Nash – The mathematics department has done a lot of work in evaluating their graduate program and noticed that there are some missing elements. This course helps fill some of the missing pieces.
- John Miecznikowski – This course does have clear learning outcomes
 - Steven Bayne – It does not have DSS or academic honesty policy, but not clear that this is a syllabus. Recommend that these should be on the syllabus.
 - Laura Nash – Thinks that DSS statement is recommended, not required according to Journal of Record. The academic honesty policy is.
- Aaron Perkus – It appears that this is just an elective course.
 - Steven Bayne – It says in the minutes it's a prerequisite for MA 531 and MA 532 but doesn't say that in the actual syllabus.
 - Laura Nash – Thinks this course is a requirement for mathematics graduate students who do not have the necessary background in linear algebra and graduate engineering students.
 - John Miecznikowski – Each student's transcript will be evaluated to see if they have the necessary coursework completed, if not, they will be required to take this course. It will be determined if they have to take this course when they are accepted into the program.
 - Laura Nash – It is not required but we can ask for their curriculum map – what courses lead to what and how does this lead to that.
- Michael Pagano – Is there a policy on finals for graduate courses? This course does not have a final listed.
 - David McFadden – There is no policy on finals for graduate courses, it's not required.
 - Aaron Perkus – There is no final for MFA program.
 - Michael Pagano – On the grading, it says that 75% of their final grade is 6 bi-weekly problems that leaves 25% for in-class quizzes.

Motion: Kraig Steffen moved for *conditional* approval. Michael Pagano seconded.

Condition: Clarify where this course fits into the overall graduate mathematics curricular map (see Aaron Perkus for help). Is it a prerequisite for 531 and 532 or not?

All in favor.

IT 290- Italian American Cinema

- David Lerner – Film, TV and Media Arts should have been part of the conversation. It is a film course that is taught in English on American films. It seems like a great class but it seems like it would fit more with FTM than it does in Italian. I don't think it's our task to stand in the way of departmental approvals but wishes that FTM was part of the conversation.
 - Laura Nash – A great question is how did modern languages approve a class that is not taught in a foreign language. Which goes against their goals of expanding proficiency in a foreign language.
 - David McFadden – Isn't there a course that covers this topic?

- David Lerner – Kind of, there is a World Cinema (FTM 103) course that covers a nation each week. Italian cinema occupies a week or 2 of the course. But it covers Italian cinema not Italian-American cinema.
- David McFadden – It seems like it is better in FTM. Bothered by the fact that people are not consulting the right people before creating new courses.
- Terry-Ann Jones – Italian Studies covers culture of Italy, wouldn't this course fit in that program?
- David Lerner – Italian Studies takes its courses from other departments. It would fit into Italian studies but from which department is the question.
- Margaret McClure – In their minutes they did discuss that there are plans to consult with FTM. It seems like they considered it. They also mentioned that they need more electives in Italian and less taught in English. Is this a concern for us in terms of resources?
- Aaron Perkus – This leads to problems with redundancy and lack of communication. There should be importance in collegiality and communication before a proposal is sent to this committee.
- Laura Nash – Jiwei Xiao who teaches Chinese Cinema had concerns about students not having a background in film studies. Would they be able to analyze films in class at a 200-level without basic and introductory film knowledge?
- David Lerner – The syllabus is asking for a lot for students who do not have a basic film terminology and background. And I think they mentioned that as well.
- David McFadden – Thinks the proposal should be sent back for departmental consideration and for the consultations with FTM.
- Laura Nash – Their minutes show that they were not ready to approve but they approved anyway.

Motion: David McFadden moved for *revise and resubmit*. John Miecznikowski seconded. Need to discuss how they will and have solved the issues and questions in their minutes. 10 in favor, one opposed.

EN 205- Literary Fairy Tale Tradition

- David McFadden – What is different with this course and the one Dr. Epstein teaches in fairytales (EN 103)? Is it just the level?
 - Steven Bayne – It says students cannot take this one if they have taken lower level EN 103.
 - David McFadden – Why it seems like this course is double dipping with EN 103.
 - Margaret McClure – This class is for majors who cannot take the 103 course, English majors can only take one 100-level class.
 - Aaron Perkus – It makes sense for this class to go explore deeper for majors as long as the course of study is more advanced since it is a higher level.
 - Johanna Garvey – The material is very different from the 100-level course.
- Steven Bayne – The academic dishonesty is inaccurate. No DSS statement, it is not required but we recommend it.

- Steven Bayne – Also no mention about rotation of the course within the English Department. How often and when will this course be taught?

Motion: John Miecznikowski moved for *conditional approval* with rotation and academic dishonesty changes. Kraig Steffen seconded.
All in favor.

EN 145- King Arthur

- Laura Nash – Since this is a 100-level course it can only be counted as core or major for English majors.
- Steven Bayne – This one has the same issues with rotation, academic dishonesty and DSS statement.

Motion: David McFadden moved for *conditional approval* with rotation, academic dishonesty and DSS statement changes. John Miecznikowski seconded.
All in favor.

RS 228- Early Christianity

- David McFadden – Their minutes are the best minutes we’ve had.
- Michael Pagano – Is there a final?
 - David McFadden – Yes it is a final paper.
 - Laura Nash – It counts for 30% of the final grade.
- Steven Bayne – Is there anything like this taught in the history department?
 - David McFadden – No one teaches in this area of expertise. This course is needed.

Motion: John Miecznikowski moved for *approval*. Terry Ann Jones seconded.
All in favor.

FTM Minors- Two Tracks: Analytical and Production

- David Lerner – This idea will help focus students in one way or another towards an analytical track or a production track. They will be required to take one course in the other track to get some experience to see what is it like in the other one. This will help solve two issues: focusing student interest and better prepare students for work after graduation. They will be more expert in whichever track they choose. The two tracks will help serve students better with the two main areas that the FTM offers.
 - Laura Nash – This is great because students can now choose their path better. Some students do not want to learn about equipment or learn the history of and the background so now students can choose which path they are more interested in.
 - David Lerner – The change would not require any new classes, stipends, or new faculty, just reorganization of current classes.
- Johanna Garvey – What if students are interested in both areas?

- David Lerner – They can as an FTM major or take more classes an elective. This are just minors to focus students more.
- Margaret McClure – Will this change anything in the distribution of students? Breaking up the classes in half sounds easy but will there be enough students in both?
 - Laura Nash – We have considered that and come up with a rotation they will work. We have also thought about having entry courses often so students will be able to do it whenever.
- David Lerner – We think the tracks will create clearer paths for minors.
- Aaron Perkus – It looks like this is a 19-credit minor. The Journal of Record says minors are typically 15-18 credits. To me, a minor that is half of a major makes sense. This minor is almost 2/3rds of the way to the major.
 - Laura Nash – One credit of the 19 is working on a production set. FTM students want to do that and this is a way to give them credit for it and keeping in the academic division. They have to write a reflection paper on their experience.
 - David Lerner – I hear that argument of maybe making it 16-credits instead of taking that 1-credit away. Students want to be on set and get that experience so that 1-credit class is important to them and the program itself.
- Kraig Steffen – Who are the minors and which majors are they from?
 - Laura Nash – The majority of our minors come from Marketing, Communication, and Digital Journalism. We think once the minor is more streamlined we will have more. Some students are not interested in production and because of the new proposed tracks they don't need to be.
- Aaron Perkus – Is there a capstone for a minor?
 - David Lerner – Not for minors, only for majors but minors will be making film.
 - Laura Nash – They will have a portfolio of work but not the big capstone project. Students will work on smaller projects throughout the minor.

Motion: Kraig Steffen moved for *approval*. Michael Pagano seconded.
All in favor.

To be discussed at next meeting:

- Irish language course by John Feeney
- Nutrition – They need to consult with the Dean
- Studio Art – Reorganizing the curriculum and make learning outcomes better. Aaron would like to help with learning outcomes.

Meeting Ended at 5pm.

Minutes Submitted by: Kat Phrasavath