The University of Oklahoma

**Academic Programs Council**

**Program Proposal Requests Distributed for March 3, 2017 meeting**

**SUBSTANTIVE:**

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Environmental Studies, Master of Arts in Environmental Studies (RPC TBD, MC TBD). Addition of program. A total of 30 hours is required for the degree, consisting of 15 hours required coursework, 3 hours electives, 6 hours of independent study and directed readings, and 6 hours thesis research. Admission is based on the standards for admission established by the Graduate College. Any student who, at the end of a semester, has failed to maintain an overall "B" average in his/her graduate work will be placed on probation. If the average is not brought up to "B" in 1 2 credit hours of enrollment, further enrollment will be denied.  
Reason for request: Student demand for Environmental Studies is high. Numerous IPE students have expressed interest in a multidisciplinary graduate program that would prepare them for either the broad environmental workforce or further graduate studies in environmentally related fields ranging from public service and politics to environmental consulting, journalism and corporate public relations. Past and present M.S. students in Biology have expressed similar desires, as the current M.S. biology program does not provide a foundation in communication skills, nor does it provide any emphasis on the human dimensions of environmental issues. Employer demand for Environmental Studies Master's graduates is high, nationally, regionally, and locally. Because Environmental Studies students will have invested in developing critical thinking skills and how to learn, they will excel in the job market, outshining fellow graduates with more narrowly focused degrees in the natural and social sciences. Environmental Studies students will not only be committed to making a difference in the world, they will have further developed the communication-related skills necessary to contribute meaningfully to an interdisciplinary chorus of professionals and lay people to address the often highly complex, multidimensionality that accompanies most environmental issues. Businesses from the smallest family operated lawn-care specialist to the largest of corporate businesses all recognize today the critical importance of being able to respond appropriately and effectively to the environmental challenges they will face, ranging from seemingly trivial decisions relating to the fate of junk mail in the office to the global implications of dealing with governmental regulation of industrial pollution. Likewise, municipal, state, regional, tribal, and federal agencies, political, social, national, and global advocacy institutions, as well as environmental, conservation, and natural resources special interest groups are looking to graduates of environmental studies programs to fill positions that bridge the socio-political, economic, and technical complexities inherent to all environmental concerns. The majority of demand is expected to be filled by bachelor's and graduate degree candidates. Within the State of Oklahoma, the future outlook for Environmental Studies Master's degree graduates is similarly optimistic. At a recent College of Arts and Sciences Annual Recruiters' Day event, human relations and other corporate recruitment staff from Oklahoma businesses, including AT&T, Dell, Enterprise Holdings, Chickasaw Nation Industries, Phillips 66, Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation, Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality, and many others, voiced unanimous enthusiasm for the Environmental Studies program, as all mentioned their growing awareness of the need to address numerous environmental concerns facing their businesses. The need for broadly trained graduates who excel in critical thinking and problem solving, work equally well independently and in teams, and who demand challenge were among the desirable qualities of future employees sought by the companies represented. These qualities are central to the training received by Environmental Studies students.

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Religious Studies, Bachelor of Arts (RPC 078, MC B820). Course requirement change. Removing courses that are no longer taught because faculty are no longer here or no longer teach them, or special topics numbers or other offerings we rarely use. Adding new courses from new faculty. Of the courses being added, three are revisions and updates of old courses, with new titles, one is the restoration of a previously existing course now being scheduled for use in the major, seven are new either in Religious Studies or one of our contributing departments. Of the courses being removed, nine are special topics numbers which we no longer require, since faculty have established permanent numbers, fifteen are courses no longer taught because faculty are no longer here or no longer teaching these courses, two remain in the catalog because they may return to the curriculum, and one has been changed/revised to an upper division level course with a new title and updated content. Total credit hours for the degree will not change.  
Reason for request: To reflect more accurately the options available to meet the requirements of the major, and to assist accurate degree audit.

COLLEGE OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

International and Area Studies, Bachelor of Arts in International and Area Studies (RPC 018, MC B605, B604, B597, B694, B075, B420P576). Course requirement change. International Studies option: Remove IAS 1303 from the History & Culture category; add IAS 3383 to the International Relations category; add the IAS 3223 and IAS 3543 to the History & Culture category; and correct the course number for Nationalism in the Middle East in the Politics & Society category. International Security Studies option: Add P SC 3513 and IAS 3383 to the International Security Issues category. International Development option: Add IAS 3383 to the Social, Cultural, and Historical Perspectives category. Middle Eastern Studies option: Add IAS 3393 and IAS 3783 to the Arts & Culture category. Asian Studies option: Update the course number for Science & Technology in Asian History under the History category; add the following ENGL 2970, FMS 3843, IAS/PHIL 1223, IAS/PHIL 3343, IAS/PHIL 4343, MLLL 3223, MLLL 3233, MLLL 3633, and MLLL 3753 to the Arts & Humanities category. European Studies option, Russian & East European Studies area of concentration: Add JMC 4970 to the History, Politics & Ideas category. Total credit hours for the degree will not change.  
Reason for request: International Studies option: International Studies option: While updating the IAS majors during the AV 2016-2017, IAS 1303 was accidentally marked twice on the check sheet; this should only be listed once under the Politics & Society category. IAS 3223 and IAS 3543 were both accidentally removed from the major check sheet and the course number for Nationalism in the Middle was accidentally added with the incorrect course number. The IAS department submitted a course proposal for IAS 3383 in early February, and would like for it to be added to the check sheet as well. There is currently not a class offered at OU that focuses on the United Nations; students have expressed an interest in the roles played by the UN and related IGOs in world politics, and this class will be an important part of the International Studies curriculum. International Security Studies option: While updating the IAS majors during the AV 2016-2017, P SC 3513 was accidentally removed from the major check sheet. The course has been considered a major elective since 2008 when the ISS major was created; the department would like to make sure the class remains an approved course option for ISS majors. The IAS department submitted a course proposal for IAS 3383 in early February, and would like for it to be added to the check sheet as well. There is currently not a class offered at OU that focuses on the United Nations; students have expressed an interest in the roles played by the UN and related IGOs in world politics, and this class will be an important part of the ISS curriculum. International Development option: The IAS department submitted a course proposal for IAS 3383 in early February. There is currently not a class offered at OU that focuses on the United Nations. Adding a class on the UN will enrich the International Development curriculum, and serve as a good major elective for students who have expressed an interest in learning about the roles played by the UN in world politics and development. Middle Eastern Studies option: The IAS department has added several new faculty members in the past couple of years, resulting in several new course offerings for our students with an interest in the Middle East. Since the IAS offerings have expanded greatly, and since the major is now more reliant on IAS designated courses, the major check sheets need to be updated accordingly. Asian Studies option: The course number for Science & Technology in Asian History was added to the major check sheet with the incorrect course number several years ago. IAS would like the correct course number to be reflected on the check sheet (this course is approved for Non-Western Culture credit). While updating the IAS majors during the AV 2016-2017, a number of classes were accidentally not added to the Arts & Humanities category. The other courses that were removed had been on the major check sheet for several years (and Non-Western Culture approved); the department would like to make sure these classes continue to be approved courses for Asian Studies majors. European Studies option, Russian & East European Studies area of concentration: The REES major check sheet that was proposed for the AY 2016-2017 included JMC 4970 as an option under the History, Politics & Ideas category; this class was accidentally removed in the final stages while updating the new check sheet.

COLLEGE OF LAW

Indigenous Peoples Law, Master of Legal Studies (RPC 158, MC M522). Course requirement change. Replace LAW 5933, LAW 5683, and LAW 5981 with LAW 5622, LAW 5632, and LAW 5723. Total credit hours for the degree will not change.  
Reason for request: The faculty teaching in the program believed from teaching student for the past several years that more time needed to be dedicated to the study of the history of Federal Indian Law and Policy and Tribal Courts. They therefore recommended the deletion of the Capstone and Tribal Economic Development and the expansion of the History course to a four credit sequence split between two courses. The Non-JD faculty program committee approved these changes.

**ADMINISTRATIVE/INTERNAL**

COLLEGE OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

African Studies Minor (N016). Course requirement change. Add HON 3993 Christianity & Sub-Saharan Africa, HON 3993 Modern African Lives through Biography & Autobiography, and HON 3993 Africa & the Urge to Help: Humanitarianism in Historical Perspective as approved upper-division minor electives. Total credit hours for the Minor will not change.   
Reason for request: These additions will give students more course options for completing the African Studies minor credential. Since the minor focuses specifically on Africa, there is a limited number of courses that students can take for minor credit. Adding the three HON 3993 classes to the minor check sheet gives African Studies minors more courses to consider when enrolling in classes approved for minor credit.

Iranian Studies Minor (N609). Course requirement change. Replace ARCH 4183 Survey of Middle Eastern Architecture with ARCH 4283 Persian Architecture; and add IAS 3393 Iranian Society through Cinema. Total credit hours for the Minor will not change.  
Reason for request: These changes will give students more course options for completing the Iranian Studies minor credential. A Persian Architecture course is more appropriate for minor credit than ARCH 4183 since its main focus is on Iran. There is currently a limited number of courses that students can take for minor credit, however, the number of Iranian Studies faculty continues to grow and new courses get added to the course inventory. Adding ARCH 4283 and IAS 3393 to the minor will greatly help students when looking for options to complete the minor.

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL STUDIES

Course Designator request. Request for LSRL course designator for Liberal Studies Community Recreation Leadership.  
Reason for request: The College of Liberal Studies is currently exploring the possibility of creating a new Master's degree program in Community Recreation Leadership. In order to accommodate the creation of this new degree program, we are requesting that a new course prefix be generated: LSRL. This new prefix would match the pattern of our existing prefixes, where the 'LS' represents the academic unit (liberal studies), and the 'RL' represents the proposed academic program (recreation leadership).

Course Designator request. Request for LSIS course designator for Liberal Studies Integrated Studies.   
Reason for request: The College of Liberal Studies is currently revising its Master's-level program in Integrated Studies. In order to accommodate the creation of new track areas in the Integrated Studies program, we are requesting that a new course prefix be generated: LSIS. This new prefix would match the pattern of our existing prefixes, where 'LS' represents the academic unit (liberal studies), and 'IS' represents the academic program (integrated studies).