

TO: Lawrence Williams, Chair
Undergraduate Council

FROM: Richard Scamell
Degree Programs Committee: Programs

SUBJECT: Proposals UC 9805 08F, UC 9889 08F, UC 9890 08F, UC 9847 08F, and UC 9848 08F

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The Committee met on Wednesday, November 5 to consider requests from the Women's Studies Program (UC 9805 08F), the Department of English (UC 9889 08F and UC 9890 08F), and the Moores School of Music (UC 9847 08F and UC 9848 08F) Participating in the discussion were committee members Roger Blakeney, Partha Krishnamurthy, Iain Morrison and Richard Scamell. Jay Kastely and Lynn Lamkin attended the meeting as guests.

UC 9805 08F – Program Name Change Request

The proposal from the Women's Studies Program requests permission to change its name from the Women's Studies Program to the Women's Gender and Sexuality Studies Program. The rationale for this name change is that the proposed name does a better job describing the thrust of its two minors: Women's Studies and Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender (GLBT) Studies. The GLBT Studies minor was approved by the Undergraduate Council in the Spring Semester 2008. The proposed name change is the same title as that used at Yale University and is very similar to that used at Rice University. Rice's title is Center for the Study of Women, Gender and Sexuality. The national pattern in this area is toward changing to more inclusive titles.

UC 9889 08F – Proposed Change to the Undergraduate BA Degree in English With a Concentration in Linguistics

The purpose of this proposal is to correct a typographical error in the catalog by inserting ENGL 3317 (the British Novel Before 1832) into the list of courses that satisfy the pre-1798 British literature requirement for the Linguistics concentration. This proposal also affects the Creative Writing concentration (UC 9890 08F). ENGL 3317 currently appears in the catalog in the list of courses that satisfy the pre-1798 British literature requirement for the third concentration offered by the Department of English – the English Literature concentration.

UC 9890 08F - Proposed Change to the Undergraduate BA Degree in English With a Concentration in Creative Writing

For a number of years, staffing issues combined with high student demand for creative writing courses has led to over-enrolled sections. In fact, students frequently simply enroll in whichever creative writing course is open, often taking advanced courses before more basic courses. This results in a heterogeneous collection of students within each individual course which weakens the educational value of the current creative writing concentration. UC 9890 08F creates a more specialized degree in creative writing while at the same time addressing the needs of the student who has interest in creative writing for personal enrichment. Major elements of the proposal are summarized below.

- ENGL 3329 – Beginning Creative Writing: Fiction and Poetry is now a required gateway course for all students who wish to take creative writing. After taking ENGL 3329, the student wishing to major in creative writing must take either ENGL 3330 – Beginning Creative Writing: Fiction or ENGL 3331 – Beginning Creative Writing: Poetry. Any student may enroll in these courses (i.e., these 3000 level course comprise the introductory level of courses that are open to the general student interest.
- Admission to the concentration in creative writing requires the submission of a portfolio of writing which is evaluated through a blind review by two faculty members and/or Ph.D. students. Blind review of portfolios takes place once each semester. Students who are not admitted into the concentration the first time may reapply the following semester. Approval of the Director of the Creative Writing Program must be obtained in order to apply again. It is expected that admission to the concentration will take place at the end of a student's sophomore year or during their junior year.
- Only students admitted to the creative writing program may enroll in the following 4000 level creative writing courses shown on the next page.

- Three hours in ENGL 4353 - Writing Projects: Fiction or ENGL 4354 – Writing Projects: Poetry
- Three hours in ENGL 4355 – Fiction Forms or ENGL 4356 – Poetic Forms
- Three hours in ENGL 4350 – Short Story Writing, ENGL 4351 – Poetry Writing, ENGL 4352 – Nonfiction Writing or any other 4000 level creative writing course or repeats of a 4000 level course with approval of the instructor.
- The total number of twenty-four literature hours and their distribution across British, American and elective categories remain the same. A new requirement adds that three of these hours be in literature (either British or American) after 1950.

CBM 003 forms have been submitted with changes to the course descriptions of all creative writing courses: (ENGL 3329-3331 and 4350-4356). It should be noted that these name changes are not reflected in the names that appear above.

UC 9847 08F – Addition of a Three-Hour Thesis Courses – MUSI 3399 to the Bachelor of Music in Theory Degree

This proposal requests permission to add a three hour thesis course MUSI 3399 to the existing three-hour thesis course, MUSI 4399. There are two reasons behind this request. First, due to a restructuring of the theory component of the Bachelor of Music in Theory degree plan, the total number of credit hours for the degree stands at 118 rather than the required 120 hours. Addition of this course will increase the number of credit hours to 121. The second reason is that by adding a second thesis course, theory majors will have more time for research and analysis in preparation of their thesis. Likewise, this will bring the number of thesis credit hours in line with those of other disciplines that offer students an undergraduate thesis such as Computer Science, Psychology, Pharmaceutical Sciences, and English. It should be noted that the number of students working toward a Bachelor of Music in Theory degree is typically fewer than five at any one time.

UC 9848 08F- Addition of a One-Hour Course – MUSI 4197* – Electronic Composition to the Bachelor of Music in Composition Degree

This proposal requests permission to add a one hour course, MUSI 4197 – Electronic Composition to the Bachelor of Music in Composition Degree plan. Including a course focusing on the skills to compose in electronic media in the composition degree will enable students to establish a basic competency in electronic music composition and allow the Moores School of Music to successfully meet the National Association of Schools of Music accreditation standards for undergraduate studies in composition. Inclusion of this course will raise the number of credit hours required for the degree to 121. It should be noted that the number of students working toward a Bachelor of Music in Composition degree is typically fewer than ten at any one time.

*This course must be renumbered as the number nn97 is reserved for only three hour courses that begin with the digit 4.

A Final Comment

The Degree Programs Committee supports each of these proposals.