

# UC 11286 11S

TO: Simon Bott, Chair  
Undergraduate Council

FROM: Richard Scamell  
Academic Policies and Procedures Committee

SUBJECT: UC 11099 10F: Credit By Examination/Hindi  
UC 11100 10F: Placement/Credit Exam For Heritage Learners in the Spanish Program  
UC 11103 10F: Clarification of GPA Calculation for CLASS Majors and Minors  
UC 11104 10F: Request to Update CLASS Nine Hour Block Requirement

DATE: February 9, 2011

APPROVED FEB 23 2011

The Academic Policies and Procedures Committee met on Wednesday, February 2 and again on Wednesday, February 9 to consider a series of proposals from the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences. Participating in one or both of the discussions were committee members Betty Barr, Martha Dunkelberger, Debbie Hermann-Henry, Peter Lam, Christine Leveaux, Richard Scamell, Larry Williams and Louis Williams. Patrick Daniel, Marta Fairclough and Jyoti Cameron attended the February 2 meeting as guests

### UC 11099 10F: Credit By Examination/Hindi

The Department of Modern and Classical Languages is requesting that course credit be given to students who successfully complete the Language Testing International (LTI) language proficiency test<sup>1</sup>. The LTI is a licensee of the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL). The American Council of Education's Credit Recommendation Service has evaluated the recommended college credit for the **Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI)** and the **Written Proficiency Test (WPT)** through the LTI.

The WPT is a standardized test conducted in a testing environment. It assesses the global assessment of functional writing ability and measures how well a person writes spontaneously in a given language. Each writing assessment is independently rated by at least two ACTFL certified raters. The OPI is conducted live via telephone for 20 to 30 minutes with an ACTFL certified tester. The interview is interactive and adapted to the experiences and competency of the candidate. The assessment is recorded and rated by two or more ACTFL certified testers or raters.

The specific proposal calls for students rated at the following levels to the following course credit and subsequent course credit.

Level <sup>2</sup>	UH Course Credit	UH Course Placement
Novice High to Intermediate Low	No credit	HINDI 1501
Intermediate Mid	HINDI 1501	HINDI 1502
Intermediate High to Advanced Low	HINDI 1501	HINDI 1502
Advanced MID	HINDI 1501, 1502, 2301	HINDI 2302
Advanced High to Superior	HINDI 1501, 1502, 2301	HINDI 2302

The Committee recommends approval of UC 11099 10F.

<sup>1</sup> The Language Testing International (LTI) language proficiency test includes a two hour written component and a 30 minute oral component. Cost of the test is \$200.00, much of which is to defray the cost of the certified testers and raters hired to administer and grade the test.

<sup>2</sup> A description of each ACTFL level is available at <http://www.actfl.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid=4236>.

## **UC 11100 10F: Placement/Credit Exam For Heritage Learners in the Spanish Program**

The statement that all students with previous Spanish background (heritage or non-heritage learners) are required to take the appropriate Spanish placement test **before enrolling in a Spanish course** used to be included in the departmental program notes in the printed course schedule<sup>3</sup>. When the University went to an online catalog, the program note inadvertently disappeared.

Thus the Placement and Credit By Examination Section in the online course catalog should read as follows. The change requested in UC 11100 10F appears in bold and is highlighted.

### PLACEMENT AND CREDIT BY EXAMINATION

The Spanish Program offers two basic language programs that satisfy the foreign language requirement and prepare students for upper-division courses in linguistics, culture, literature, business and other practical areas:

1. Basic Spanish Language Program for Spanish Foreign Language Students. (A four semester sequence: SPAN 1501, 1502, 2301, 2302 – This program is designed for students whose home language is not Spanish).

Students with previous studies in Spanish are required to take a placement exam, at the Testing Center (Student Service Center, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor), before enrollment. Enroll (register online at [www.las.uh.edu/uts/](http://www.las.uh.edu/uts/)).

Eligibility for credit by examination is determined by subsequent enrollment and academic performance in the class into which the student was placed. See departmental advisor for further information.

2. Spanish Program for Hispanic Heritage Learners. (SPAN 2307/2308 – Heritage language learners are students who grew up speaking Spanish at home). Hispanic Studies offers a Placement/Credit Exam designed for Hispanic heritage learners, **who are required to take this exam before enrolling in a Spanish course**. Students may be placed in SPAN 1507, 2307, 2308, 3308, or higher, and may earn up to 12 semester hours in Spanish. Credit at the 4000 level may not be earned by examination. For designated test times, see schedule online at [www.class.uh.edu/hispanicstudies/](http://www.class.uh.edu/hispanicstudies/).

The Committee recommends approval of UC 11100 10F

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<sup>3</sup> The term "printed schedule" used in UC 11100 10F in the Justification paragraph should have been "printed course catalog."

**UC 11103 10F: Clarification of GPA Calculation for CLASS Majors and Minors**

The purpose of this proposal is to clarify the calculation of grade point average for CLASS majors and minors. Under this proposal (1) all coursework attempted in the subject area (field) of the major in residence and (2) all coursework attempted toward requirements of the major in residence, regardless of subject area, are calculated toward the minimum 2.00 grade point average requirement. The College feels that this clarification is particularly important for interdisciplinary majors and minors which include a wide range of subjects in their requirements. The current wording in the CLASS General Degree Information section along with suggested catalog wording contained in UC 11103 10F follow.

Current Catalog Wording

10. A minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.00 on all work attempted in the major in residence.

Proposed Catalog Wording

10. A minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.00 on all coursework attempted in the major in residence, including all coursework attempted in the subject area of the major in residence and all coursework attempted towards requirements of the major in residence, regardless of the subject area.

11. A minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.00 on all coursework attempted in the minor in residence, including all coursework attempted in the subject area of the minor in residence and all coursework attempted towards requirements of the minor in residence, regardless of the subject area.

The Committee found the use of the term "subject area" in the proposed catalog wording confusing. After considerable discussion, the following revised catalog wording (shown by the highlighted text and strikethroughs) is being proposed instead.

10. A minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.00

- on all coursework attempted in the major in residence, including all coursework attempted in the subject area of the major in residence and also
- all University of Houston coursework outside the subject area of the major if approved by the department to meet major requirements. ~~attempted towards requirements of the major in residence, regardless of the subject area~~

11. A minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.00

- on all coursework attempted in the minor in residence, including all coursework attempted in the subject area of the minor in residence and also
- all University of Houston coursework outside the subject area of the minor if approved by the department to meet minor requirements. ~~coursework attempted toward requirements of the minor in residence, regardless of the subject area.~~

The Committee recommends approval of UC 11103 10F with its proposed revised catalog wording.

## **UC 11104 10F: Request to Update CLASS Nine Hour Block Requirement**

The purpose of this proposal is to enable the CLASS nine hour block requirement to be accurate and inclusive of all CLASS subjects, which in turn would eliminate the need to update the catalog each time a new field of study is introduced. UC 11104 10F recommends that the proposed revision apply to all CLASS students rather than only to those students under the catalog in which the update is approved. The current and suggested catalog wording in the CLASS General Degree Information section follow.

### Current Catalog Wording

*Satisfactory completion of nine additional semester hours of credit in three of the following fields of study: Forty-six specific fields (i.e., subject areas) of study are listed; with the addition of Military Leadership, Naval Science, Air Force Leadership, Kinesiology and Nutrition, this list grows to fifty-one. The current catalog wording contains the following restrictions.*

- a. credit must be in a field of study outside of the student's major*
- b. credit must be in addition to that used to satisfy any core curriculum requirement*
- c. credit must be in addition to that used to satisfy the B.A. degree's foreign language requirement.*

### Proposed Catalog Wording

*Satisfactory completion of nine additional semester hours, in any three different fields of study offered by departments, schools and programs within the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences. For a complete list of CLASS courses, refer to the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences section of the Undergraduate Catalog.*

*The following restrictions apply:*

- a. credit must be in a field of study outside of the student's major*
- b. credit must be in addition to that used to satisfy any core curriculum requirement*
- c. credit must be in addition to that used to satisfy the B.A. degree's foreign language requirement*
- d. one credit hour KIN and PEB physical activity courses cannot be used toward this requirement*
- e. Physical Education Basic Instruction (PEB) special problems/independent studies courses cannot be used toward this requirement.*

### Recommendation

The Committee's only reservation of UC 11104 10F focused on the statement that "If approved, it is recommended that the proposed revision (i.e., catalog wording) apply to all CLASS students rather than only those students on catalog in which the update is approved." After considerable discussion, the Committee unanimously agreed to support the proposed catalog wording for three reasons:

1. Students are provided a greater number of options (51 subject areas versus 46 subject areas) for completing the nine semester credit hours.
2. The new restrictions d and e only apply to subject areas that are now allowed to meet the CLASS nine hour block requirement that had not been part of the requirement in the past as they were not subject areas in CLASS.
3. **Current** Military Leadership, Naval Science, Air Force Leadership, Kinesiology, and Nutrition students would be allowed to petition courses taken previously and now included as part of restrictions **d and e** to count toward satisfying the CLASS nine semester credit hours block requirement.