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Approved by CLASS

Undergraduate Studies Committee

APPROVED FEB 22 2012

Dr. Sarah Fishman

Date

12/6/11

Memo

To: Dr. Sarah Fishman, Associate Dean, College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences

From: Dr. Maria C. Gonzalez, Director of Upper Division, Department of English

Date: 30 November 2011

RECEIVED JAN 02 2012

Re: Approval of Senior Experience addition to the English Major Concentrations

The Department of English faculty in the spring of 2011 approved the addition of a Senior Experience requirement to the English major concentrations in Creative Writing and Literature. The department is forwarding this approval to the appropriate college and university bodies for approval and implementation.

Rational: The English Major exposes students to a wide range of subject matter and skill-sets. The Senior Experience will provide an opportunity for the student to reflect on his or her training as an English Major; to build on it through mentored independent research and writing; to use it to reflect on his or her academic experience and to envision how it will carry into a future of life-long learning; and to position their work within a larger community.

Proposal: A three hour Senior Experience requirement of all English literature majors or a final writing project of all creative writing majors will be added to the current curriculum. No additional hours are required since the changes will mean a reduction in elective hours (12 hours to 9 hours) for the Literature concentration and a prerequisite of courses already required will be added to the creative writing projects courses in the Creative Writing concentration.

Current catalog language for the English major (with approved additional language and changes for the Senior Experience in red) follows:

Concentration in Literature

Students majoring in English with a concentration in literature must complete all university and college requirements for the Bachelor of Arts degree. Before enrolling in advanced courses in English, students must complete the six hour university Core requirement in Communication (ENGL 1303 and 1304 or equivalents) and MATH 1310 or equivalent. Additional nonadvanced courses in English may not be applied toward the major. In addition to the university and college requirements for the Bachelor of Arts degree, majors seeking a concentration in literature must complete thirty-three advanced semester hours in English (3000- and 4000-level courses), to include:

1. **ENGL 3301**: it is strongly suggested that majors take this course within the first nine hours of advanced English.
2. Fifteen hours in British and American literature, to include:
 - a. Nine hours in British literature of which six must be before 1798 (**ENGL 3302** through **3313**, **3317**, and **3327**) and three hours in any British literature (3000- or 4000-level).
 - b. Six hours in American literature of which three must be before 1900 (**ENGL 3349**, ~~**ENGL 3350**~~ or ~~**3352**~~) and three hours in any American literature (3000- or 4000-level)
3. Three hours selected from among the following courses: **ENGL 3323**, **3324**, **3349**, **3360** through **3367**, **3370**, **3371**, **4340**, **4341**, **4364**, **4366**, **4370**, **4372**, **4373**, or **4378**.
4. Three hours Senior Experience (to be taken within the final three semesters at the senior rank). The following allow for the meeting of this requirement:
3 hour research-intensive seminar; ENGL 4319: English in the Secondary Schools; ENGL 4390: Professional Internship; ENGL 4399: Senior Honors Thesis; 3 hour advanced community engagement or service learning course; or 3 hour study abroad course. *→ approved*
5. Nine hours of electives in English (3000- or 4000-level), no more than six of which can be in creative writing courses. [~~originally 12 hours reduced to 9 elective hours~~]

Concentration in Creative Writing

Students majoring in English with a concentration in creative writing must complete all university and college requirements for the Bachelor of Arts degree. Before enrolling in advanced courses in English, students must complete the six hour university Core requirement in Communication (**ENGL 1303** and **1304** or equivalents) and **MATH 1310** or equivalent. Additional non-advanced courses in English may not be applied toward the major. After completing ENGL 3329 and enrolling in ENGL 3330 or ENGL 3331, students seeking a Bachelor of Arts degree in English with a Concentration in Creative Writing apply for admission to the Concentration. Application to the Concentration in Creative Writing requires the submission of a portfolio. Blind review of portfolios occurs once each semester. Students who are not admitted into the Concentration may reapply the following semester. 4000-level creative writing courses are open only to students who have been admitted to the Concentration in Creative Writing. In addition to the university and college requirements for the Bachelor of Arts degree, majors seeking a concentration in creative writing will take thirty-nine advanced hours in English (3000- and 4000-level courses), to include:

1. Nine hours in British literature, to include:
 - a. Six hours in British literature before 1798 (**ENGL 3302** through **3313**, **3317**, and **3327**).
 - b. Three hours any British literature (3000- or 4000-level).
2. Six hours in American literature, to include:
 - a. Three hours in American literature before 1900 (**ENGL 3349**, ~~**ENGL 3350**~~ or **3352**).
 - b. Three hours any American literature (3000- or 4000-level).
3. Six hours electives in English (3000- or 4000-level courses, excluding creative writing courses).
4. Three hours in literature since 1950.

5. Fifteen hours in Creative Writing courses, to include:
 - a. Six hours in 3000-level creative writing: ENGL 3329 and either ENGL 3330 or 3331.
 - b. Three hours in **ENGL 4355** or **4356**.
 - c. Three hours ENGL 4350, 4351, 4352 (or any other 4000-level creative writing courses or repeats of a 4000-level course with approval of the instructor).
 - d. Three hours **ENGL 4353** or **4354**. (Senior Experience course to be completed within the final three semesters at the senior rank. Prerequisites for these courses will be the forms courses, ENGL 4355 or ~~ENGL 4354~~.)

In order to graduate with a major in English with a Concentration in Creative Writing, the student must have a minimum overall average of **B** (3.00) in creative writing courses.

Superior students in the Creative Writing Concentration may be permitted to write a senior honors thesis. Students who affiliate with the Honors College and complete a senior honors thesis receive the honors designation with Honors College and complete a senior honors thesis receive the honors designation with *Honors in English* in addition to their Honors College designation (*University Honors, Collegiate Honors, or Membership in the Honors College*). In order to pursue a senior honors thesis in creative writing, the student must have a minimum GPA of 3.60 in all creative writing courses in addition to the thesis requirements set by the Honors College. He or she must submit a preliminary manuscript of 10 pages of poetry or 20 pages of prose to a creative writing faculty member for review. If the manuscript is accepted, that faculty member will serve as the student's thesis advisor, and the student will register for **ENGL 3399** and **4399**. Both courses must be completed in order for credit to be earned. The student must complete, with a grade of **B+** or better, the creative writing thesis, a manuscript of approximately 40 pages of poetry or 80 pages of prose. The thesis committee ultimately determines appropriate and sufficient length and quality.