

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

November 18, 2009

MEMORANDUM

TO: Dr. Douglas Estry, Associate Provost for Undergraduate Education
and Dean of Undergraduate Studies

FROM: Dr. Linda O. Stanford, Associate Provost for Academic Services

RE: Request for a Moratorium on Admission to the Minor in American Studies
For Transmittal to the University Committee on Academic Policy (UCAP)

The request referenced above is being sent to you for action by the University Committee on Academic Policy (UCAP).

UCAP Response Requested:

Please ask the UCAP to consider the request referenced above at its meeting on December 3, 2009. Please mail the related materials referenced under the heading Attachments at the end of this memorandum to the members of the UCAP.

The request is to impose the moratorium effective Spring 2010 through Summer 2014.

The UCAP alone will consider this request and its recommendation will be sent to the Provost for final approval.

If you have any questions about this memorandum or the attached materials, please call me at 5-8420.

Thank you for your help.

Attachments:

1. Request for a Moratorium form dated November 17, 2009; Minor in American Studies and attachments.



UNIVERSITY
CURRICULUM
and CATALOG

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View a Program		Main Menu
Joy Speas, RO	Wednesday, 11/18/2009	
Program Name: American Studies Degree: MNUN Sequence Number: 2	Program Request ID: 1617	
Effective Dates: Spring 2010 - Summer 2014 Status: Interim Initial Action: Moratorium		
Requested Date: 11/17/2009 3:02:29 PM		
<p>1. Department/School/College: 04054 Department of Writing, Rhetoric and American Cultures</p> <p>2. Name of Program: American Studies</p> <p>3. Name of Degree: MNUN</p> <p>4. Type of Program:</p> <p>5. Effective Start Semester: Spring 2010</p> <p>Reason for Moratorium Request:</p> <p>(a) Background information:</p> <p>The AMS program is being studied for possible disbandment. Interest in the American Studies major has declined in recent years, despite two major revisions to the curriculum (one in 2008, the other in 2009) that were intended to build student interest and that substantially increased the number of specialized American Studies courses. Since Fall 2006, ten (10) students have completed the bachelor's degree in American Studies. In a climate of extreme economic challenges, it is not possible to justify continuing to offer the variety of specialized courses necessary for a major so few have chosen. Nor are there students enrolled in the minor to justify continuation of the program. The American Studies minor is relatively new, having been approved in 2008. It gave students opportunity to select 12 of 15 required credits from generous list of courses from other areas, including English, History, Art History and Visual Culture, and Religious Studies. As a result, many of the courses in the minor will continue to be available to MSU undergraduates, who will be able in consultation with advisors to create groupings of courses with American Studies content.</p> <p>Currently 9 students have identified an interest in the American Studies major, and no (0) students have declared an interest in the American Studies minor. Five (5) are seniors; 2 are juniors, 1 is a sophomore, and 1 is a first-year student. All seniors will have completed their AMS courses at the end of spring semester 2010, and all juniors who have been making adequate progress toward degree and who wish to finish with an American Studies major, will be allowed to do so. The freshman and sophomore students will be counseled, as will the juniors, regarding similar majors such as Interdisciplinary Humanities, in which they will be able to use all of the American Studies courses they have taken to date, and make American Studies one of their three program areas, if they so choose. No students should lose any time to degree because of the closure.</p>		

(b) Relationship to similar programs at MSU or other institutions: AMS was previously conceived as an interdisciplinary major (Language from 1985-86 catalog: "Students concentrate in American literature, American history, and one of the following: Canadian studies, cultural studies, political science, racial and ethnic studies, sociology, or urban and metropolitan studies."). The minor approved in 2008 continued this interdisciplinary emphasis. As noted above in 5.a., many of the courses that fulfilled the requirements of the minor remain available, and students will be able to develop a similar program of study through cognates or groupings of elective courses. There are American Studies minors at five Big 10 universities (Ohio State, Northwestern, Indiana, Iowa, Minnesota; UM offers ethnic studies minors under its "American Culture" major).

(c) Expected enrollment/year over past 5 years: Low numbers of major enrollments and awards, and low ratio of enrollment: award (the following represents ratio of enrollment: award): number of FY majors = 7: 0 (FY05), 14:0 (FY06), 17:2 (FY07), 17:5 (FY08), 17:3 (FY09). No enrollment of minors since its inception in 2008.

(d) Plan for evaluating the program & need for moratorium: The program is being studied for possible disbandment. Meetings have been conducted with the following individuals/groups: 10/21 American Studies faculty Hoppenstand, Larabee, Stowe; 11/4 Core Chairs & Directors; 11/4 English Department Policy Committee; 11/5 College advisory Council; 11/9 & 11/11 Meeting with AMS students, Director of Undergraduate Student Affairs Fryer, Assoc Dean Swenson, Dean Wurst; 11/10 Meeting with WRAC faculty & Dean Wurst; 11/10 & 11/11 Open College Faculty Meeting; 11/12 College Curriculum Committee. In addition, commentary has been submitted from alumni, faculty members from other institutions, and from the general public. All of this data is in the process of being compiled and analyzed.

(e) Other reasons for moratorium/disbandment consideration: (i) duplication (Americanist faculty in English Department); (ii) ability to retain content and deliver to more students through alternative venue (e.g., IAH, "AL" electives, English); (iii) students will retain the option of completing a cognate with American studies focus (see catalog language above)

Effective End Term:

Summer 2014

Students who will be affected by the proposed change(s):

(a) 0 students enrolled in minor (course content will be available as electives) (b) Students from a wide variety of majors who take AMS courses as electives

Suggested alternative major and major code for new admits:

Prospective minor students may find courses of interest in these areas: 0648 – English 7605 – History 5646 – Art History and Visual Culture 0900 – Religious Studies

DEPARTMENT LEVEL APPROVAL STATUS

Approved: Department of Writing, Rhetoric and American Cultures
11/17/2009 3:03:20 PM by Kathleen Geissler for Kathleen Geissler, Chairperson

COLLEGE LEVEL APPROVAL STATUS

Approved: College of Arts and Letters
11/17/2009 6:43:12 PM by Janet Swenson for Janet Swenson, Associate Dean

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Student Enrollments By Program

Lvl	Program - Description	Span	FY00	FY01	FY02	FY03	FY04	FY05	FY06	FY07	FY08	FY09	Total
Arts and Letters - Continued													
<i>Theatre - Continued</i>													
SPCU - Specialization Undergraduate													
UN	0626-Dance		7	6	3	5	52	43	60	88	84	74	422
Total - Theatre			270	257	240	224	237	204	220	272	290	286	2,500
Women's Studies													
ADDU - Additional Major Undergraduate													
UN	5672-Women's and Gender Studies	FS08-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	5
UN	0983-Women's Studies	FS92-US08	11	11	10	7	5	3	1	0	0	0	48
BA - Bachelor of Arts													
UN	5671-Women's and Gender Studies	FS08-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
UN	5673-Women's and Gender Studies - Second Degree	FS08-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3
UN	0981-Women's Studies	FS92-US08	17	15	14	14	10	6	2	2	2	1	83
UN	0982-Women's Studies - Second Degree	FS92-US08	7	4	8	9	11	4	2	0	0	0	45
SPCU - Specialization Undergraduate													
UN	5638-Women, Gender & Social Justice	FS04-	0	0	0	0	0	29	86	104	112	83	414
Total - Women's Studies			35	30	32	30	26	42	91	106	114	94	600
Writing, Rhetoric, American Cultures													
ADDU - Additional Major Undergraduate													
UN	5640-American Studies	FS04-	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	2
UN	5636-Professional Writing	FS04-	0	0	0	0	0	4	6	7	3	13	33
BA - Bachelor of Arts													
UN	5639-American Studies	FS04-	0	0	0	0	0	4	12	17	16	17	66
UN	5641-American Studies - Second Degree	FS04-	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	1	0	4
UN	5635-Professional Writing	FS04-	0	0	0	0	0	49	66	80	100	111	406
UN	5637-Professional Writing - Second Degree	FS04-	0	0	0	0	0	4	4	3	3	3	17
MNUN - Minor Undergraduate													
UN	5683-American Studies	FS08-	0	0	0	0	0	64	90	107	123	144	528
Total - Writing, Rhetoric, American Cultures			0	0	0	0	0	64	90	107	123	144	528

