

# **MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY**

August 22, 2014

## **MEMORANDUM**

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

**FROM:** Dr. John Gaboury, Associate Provost for Academic Services

**RE:** Request to Phase Out and Discontinue the Minor in American  
Studies

For Transmittal to the University Committee on Undergraduate  
Education (UCUE)

The request referenced above is being sent to the University Committee on Undergraduate Education (UCUE) in accordance with the *Bylaws for Academic Governance*, 4.4.

### UCUE Response Requested:

Please ask the UCUE to consider the request referenced above and provide consultative commentary. Please mail the related materials referenced under the heading Attachments at the end of this memorandum to UCUE members.

After receiving UCUE's consultative response, the Provost will make a determination to discontinue or not to discontinue this program. If the Provost determines that the program will be discontinued, the request will be forwarded to the University Committee on Curriculum for deletion of curriculum and degree requirements.

If you have any questions, please call Joy Speas, University Curriculum Administrator at 5-8420.

Thank you.

### Attachments:

1. Request to Discontinue an Academic Program form dated April 15, 2014: Minor in American Studies and attachments.
2. Student Enrollments by Program; Student Awards by Programs (for the request referenced above).

s:\share\ucueamerstudiesmnnun



## **University Curriculum and Catalog**

Hannah Admin. Building  
426 Auditorium Road  
Room 151  
East Lansing, MI 48824

517-355-8420  
Fax: 517-353-1935

## **COLLEGE OF ARTS AND LETTERS**

1. Request to delete the curriculum and degree requirements for the **Minor in American Studies** in the Department of Writing, Rhetoric and American Cultures. The University Committee on Undergraduate Education (UCUE) will provide consultative commentary to the Provost after considering this request. The Provost will make a determination after considering the consultative commentary from the University Committee on Undergraduate Education.

No new students are to be admitted to the program effective Fall 2008. No students are to be readmitted to the program effective Fall 2008. Effective Fall 2014, coding for the program will be discontinued and the program will no longer be available in the Department of Writing, Rhetoric and American Cultures. Students who have not met the requirements for the Minor in American Studies through the Department of Writing, Rhetoric and American Cultures prior to Fall 2014 will have to change their major.

<b>View a Program</b>		<b>Main Menu</b>
Joy Speas, RO	Friday, 4/18/2014	
<b>Program Name: American Studies</b> <b>Degree: MNUN Sequence Number: 3</b>	Program Request ID: 2687	
<b>Effective Dates: Fall 2014 Status: Interim Initial Action: Deleted</b>		
<b>Requested Date: 4/15/2014 12:53:53 PM</b>		
<b>1. Department/School/College:</b>		
04054 .... Department of Writing, Rhetoric and American Cultures		
<b>2. Name of Program:</b>		
American Studies		
<b>3. Name of Degree:</b>		
MNUN		
<b>4. Type of Program:</b>		
<b>5. Effective Start Semester:</b>		
Fall 2014		
<b>Effective End date:</b>		
Fall 2014		
<b>Will the proposed change(s) have a negative impact on students? If so, which ones?:</b>		
No, there are currently 9 students identified as having an interest in the American Studies major, and no (0) students have declared an interest in the American Studies minor.		
<b>Describe impact and explain what accommodations will be made:</b>		
Prospective minor students may find courses of interest in these areas: 0648 – English 7605 – History 5646 – Art History and Visual Culture 0900 – Religious Studies		
<b>Reason(s) for change(s):</b>		
<p>The AMS program has been studied for 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. Evaluating the program &amp; need for discontinuation: 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 &amp;</p>		

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.

**DEPARTMENT LEVEL APPROVAL STATUS**

Approved: Department of Writing, Rhetoric and American Cultures  
4/15/2014 4:31:01 PM by Jeff Grabill for Jeff Grabill, Chairperson

**COLLEGE LEVEL APPROVAL STATUS**

Approved: College of Arts and Letters  
4/15/2014 4:47:58 PM by Jovon Potter for Gary Hoppenstand, Associate Dean

© 2014 Office of the Registrar, Michigan State University Board of Trustees. East Lansing, MI 48824

MSU is an affirmative-action, equal-opportunity employer.

~~MINOR IN AMERICAN STUDIES~~

The Minor in American Studies, which is administered by the Department of Writing, Rhetoric and American Cultures, will provide a minimum foundation in the field's approaches and methods and their interdisciplinary application in the student's choice of subfields.

The minor is available as an elective to students who are enrolled in bachelor's degree programs at Michigan State University other than the Bachelor of Arts Degree in American Studies. With the approval of the department and college that administers the student's degree program, the courses that are used to satisfy the minor may also be used to satisfy the requirements for the bachelor's degree. At least 12 unique credits counted towards the requirements for a student's minor must not be used to fulfill the requirements for that student's major.

Students who plan to complete the requirements for the minor should consult an undergraduate advisor in American Studies.

**Requirements for the Minor in American Studies**

	CREDITS
Complete a minimum of 15 credits from the following:	
1. One of the following courses (3 or 4 credits):	
AMS 200 Introduction to American Studies .....	4
AMS 210 American Popular Culture .....	4
AMS 361 Analyzing American Media Culture .....	3
AMS 365 Transcultural Perspectives .....	3
2. Complete 12 credits of approved course work chosen from the following disciplines: American studies, English, history, history of art, religious studies, or writing, rhetoric and American cultures. The list of approved courses is available from the student's academic advisor for the minor.	

**Minors - Undergraduate Student Enrollments and Awards By Program**

Program - Description	Span		FY04	FY05	FY06	FY07	FY08	FY09	FY10	FY11	FY12	FY13	Total
<b>Arts and Letters - Continued</b>													
<i>Spanish and Portuguese</i>													
5704-Portuguese	FS09-US12	Enrollments	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	14	20	11	49
		Awards	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	3	0	7
		%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	29%	15%	0%	14%
5682-Spanish	FS08-US12	Enrollments	0	0	0	0	0	131	311	440	546	260	1,688
		Awards	0	0	0	0	0	5	44	50	107	15	221
		%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	4%	14%	11%	20%	6%	13%
<i>Theatre</i>													
5713-Dance	FS10-	Enrollments	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	25	51	48	124
		Awards	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	4	1	7
		%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	8%	8%	2%	6%
5664-Theatre	FS07-	Enrollments	0	0	0	0	18	36	52	80	84	82	352
		Awards	0	0	0	0	1	1	10	7	12	9	40
		%	0%	0%	0%	0%	6%	3%	19%	9%	14%	11%	11%
<i>Women's Studies</i>													
5703-Women's and Gender Studies	FS09-	Enrollments	0	0	0	0	0	0	55	93	114	120	382
		Awards	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	22	45	27	107
		%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	24%	24%	39%	23%	28%

*Writing, Rhetoric, American Cultures*

5683-American Studies

FS08-FS09 Enrollments

*per Marcia 6-2-14 end FS14*

Fiscal Year (FY) counts are distinct student counts within the Summer, Fall, and Spring terms.  
 e.g. FY07=distinct student count within Summer 06, Fall 06, and Spring 07.  
 If a student changed majors within the FY, he/she is counted under both majors.