SPECIAL REPORT

of the

ACADEMIC MATTERS COUNCIL

concerning a

REVISION OF THE
REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MINOR IN HEBREW

Presented at the
745th Regular Meeting of the Faculty Senate
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Background
The Department of Judaic and Near Eastern Studies is proposing to revise the requirements for the minor in Hebrew. The minor currently requires 6 courses (18 credits) at the 200-level or above in Hebrew language, literature or linguistics. The proposal is to change this to 6 courses (18 credits) at the 200-level or above in Hebrew language, literature, linguistics or culture, with no more than two culture studies courses used to fulfill the requirement. A set of Judaic Studies courses that focus on culture will be added to the course list for the minor. The proposal notes that the change reflects recognition of the role of culture in language, and that other language minors on campus also allow some culture studies courses in their requirements.

AMC Recommendation
At its meeting on January 21, 2015, the Academic Matters Council voted unanimously to recommend Faculty Senate approval of the proposed changes to the requirements for the minor in Hebrew. It was submitted as proposal #1255 in the Course and Curriculum Management System.

MOVED: That the Faculty Senate approve the Revision of the Requirements for the Minor in Hebrew, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 15-027.
Please describe the revisions you are proposing.

The current requirements for a minor in Hebrew are:
Any six courses (18 credits) in Hebrew language, literature or linguistics beyond Hebrew 120
(Elementary Modern Hebrew II) or Hebrew 126 (Intensive Elementary Hebrew I)

Requesting that they be changed to:
Any six courses (18 credits) in Hebrew language, linguistics, literature or culture at the 200-level and beyond. No more than two culture courses can fulfill this requirement.

Provide a brief overview of the process for developing this proposal.

1. Consultation with the other Hebrew instructor (Ofir Zussman)
2. Comparison to other language Minors offered at the university.

Describe the purpose and particular goals for this proposal.

With the increased recognition of the role of culture in language, we need to expand the scope of courses required for the Hebrew Minor to include courses whose focus is on Israeli culture.

If this proposal requires no additional resources, say so and briefly explain why. If this proposal requires additional resources, explain how they will be paid for. Indicate how many new enrollments are expected as a result of these revisions and how the courses will accommodate them.

No additional resources required – all additional courses proposed are already part of the departmental curriculum.

Describe both the current and proposed curricula for this minor, indicating any changes. If the revisions include courses that have not yet received permanent status, please note their status as experimentals or in the Faculty Senate workflow. If you would like to attach any curricular worksheets or other materials describing the current or proposed curriculum, you may attach them below.

Departmental courses that can currently be used to fulfill the requirements for the Hebrew Minor are regular language courses taught exclusively in Hebrew:

- Hebrew 230 Intermediate Modern Hebrew I
- Hebrew 230 Intermediate Modern Hebrew II
- Hebrew 301 Advanced Modern Hebrew I
- Hebrew 302 Advanced Modern Hebrew II
- Hebrew 344 Hebrew through the Media I
- Hebrew 345 Hebrew through the Media II
- Hebrew 351 Readings in Modern Hebrew I
- Hebrew 352 Readings in Modern Hebrew II
- Hebrew 361 Modern Hebrew Literature I
- Hebrew 362 Modern Hebrew Literature II
Two upper-level courses in Biblical Hebrew:

Hebrew 231 Readings in Hebrew Bible
Hebrew 312 Classical Hebrew Texts

Two linguistics courses:

Hebrew 411 Hebrew Linguistics
Mideast 392A Semitic Linguistics

Under the revised requirement, two of the following Judaic Studies culture courses, Israel-related and others, will be allowed as well:

Judaic 344 Film and Society in Israel (AT, G) (4 credits)
Judaic 350 Jewish Law & Society [texts may be read in Hebrew]
Judaic 360 Biblical Tales and Legends
Judaic 366 Modern Israel: History, Society, and Culture
Judaic 374 Culture & Immigration in Israel
Judaic 390I Popular Culture in Israel and Palestine
Judaic 392F Secularization in Modern Israel

Amherst College:
History 294 History of Israel
Religion 263 Ancient Israel [uses Biblical texts]

Since the Judaic Studies segment of the department is covered by a larger number of faculty, we expect that more Israel-related culture courses will be added in the future.