SPECIAL REPORT

OF THE

ACADEMIC MATTERS COUNCIL

concerning

REVISION OF THE MINOR
IN MODERN EUROPEAN STUDIES
(#5221)

Presented at the
780th Regular Meeting of the Faculty Senate
October 18, 2018

COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

ACADEMIC MATTERS COUNCIL

Wesley Autio, Carol Barr, Brian Beck, William Brown, Allison Butler, D. Anthony Butterfield,
Marcy Clark, Elizabeth Connor, Sharon Domier, Wei Fan, Diane Flaherty, Laura Francis, Mark
Guerber, Jennifer Heuer, Maeve Howett, Chair, Patrick Kelly, Kathryn Lachman, Meredith
Lind, Linda Lowry, Roberta Marvin, Ernest May, David Morin, Eric Moschella, Ruthann
Paradise, Sarah Pfatteicher, Jennifer Randall, MJ Peterson, Kregg Strehorn, Patrick Sullivan,
Jack Wileden, Rebecca Woodland, and Kate Woodmansee

ACADEMIC MATTERS COUNCIL

The Academic Matters Council recommends approval of this proposal.

Briefly describe the Proposal

I am proposing several changes to the Modern European Studies Minor to make it more
consistent with current practice. These changes will make the minor more accessible to students
across campus who are not foreign language majors, remove language inconsistent with changes
in SBS requirements, and help ensure that students achieve the goal of interdisciplinarity.
Change # 1. Lower the existing language requirement to accept courses at the 200 level
Change # 2. Remove mention of the SBS Global Education Requirement
Change # 3. Require a minimum of two courses outside the student’s primary major
Change #4. Eliminate reference to Euro 396 as a means of fulfilling the requirement for a
research paper
Provide a brief overview of the process for developing this proposal.

The proposal has been shared with members of the executive steering committee of the minor. Support has been expressed and feedback has been incorporated. The submission has been delegated to the Director to take action to seek approval.

Describe the purpose and particular goals for this proposal.

Rationale

Change #1: Achieving a 200 level competency in a foreign language is a more reasonable expectation for students outside of HFA. This minor is interdisciplinary and the requirements should be achievable for students in any College.
Change #2. SBS has eliminated the Global Education Requirement
Change #3. The spirit of the minor is to be interdisciplinary. This requirement will prevent students from excessive overlap with their major, a problem that arises mostly with majors in European languages in LLC.
Change #4. Over the past 25 years, no student has used the Euro 396 independent study option. The course is no longer active, nor is it necessary to fulfilling the minor. Students can complete an independent study in any department.
Change #5. Allow acceptance of courses taken in any officially approved UMass study abroad program.

Further explanation of the rationale for the proposed changes is provided in the attached memorandum

Resources

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 are needed. Currently only 2-3 students per year choose to minor in Modern European Studies. We expect that the proposed change to the language requirement will make the minor more accessible. It is impossible to predict how many more may choose the minor, but we do not expect it will place undue stress on any existing courses given the wide number of classes that can qualify for this self designed minor.

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 the proposed revision does not affect the curriculum, please note so here. If you would like to attach any curricular worksheets or other materials describing the current or proposed curriculum, you may attach them below.
This minor is self designed. The curricula is interdisciplinary and drawn from both on campus and study abroad courses that related to modern Europe 1800- to the present. Students select their courses via advising appointment with the Director.

MOTION: That the Faculty Senate approve the Revision of the Minor in European Studies, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 19-009.