

## **Academic Affairs Committee—November 19, 2019**

Present: Steve Saunders, Loren McClenachan, Dale Kocevski, Katie Donahue, Caitrin Eaton, Barbara Moore, Sam Scott, Lukas Alexander, Thomas LaJoie, Genesis Cazales, Russ Johnson, Jim Sloat, Lindsey Nelson

I. Minutes from the previous meeting (November 12) were approved.

II. Four course proposals were approved.

- A. Art 213 (Early Medieval Art) add A
- B. Art 233 (Mannerism and Baroque Art in Southern Europe) add A
- C. Art 238 (Surrealism) add A
- D. Sociology 298 (Sociology of Globalization) S, I

The first three proposals (A, B, C) were revisions to existing courses, requesting to add the Arts Area designation. Proposal D is for a new course. All were approved as submitted.

III. Proposed revisions to the major and minor in American Studies

The American Studies Program has proposed a new set of major requirements, together with the addition of a minor. The new requirements reflect the fact that American Studies as a field has become less focused on disciplinary content areas and now places more emphasis on conceptual and methodological approaches that address power, identity, and knowledge. Under the new requirements, majors would have to complete at least six AM-designated courses, including the 100-level intro course, a new 200-level methods course, a 300-level theory course, and a 400-level capstone/senior seminar.

The committee was supportive of the spirit behind the proposed new major requirements and of the addition of a minor in American Studies. Before giving the proposal its final approval and sending it on for consideration by the full faculty, the committee formulated a few questions and suggestions that will be sent back to the American Studies Program, to inform its submission of a revised version of the proposal.

A required portfolio should have a concrete description of what elements it must contain, milestones for their completion, and a procedure for determining if they have been adequately completed. Since the new major will rely heavily on the new 200 level methods course, it would be helpful to have a New Course Proposal for that course submitted together with the major revision proposal. It would also be helpful to see a clear plan for who will be able to teach that course over each of the next few years. Since the proposal would require that each major take at least one elective course from each of three "areas", there will need to be a

clear system for how courses will be designated as counting for one (or more) of the areas. Similarly, there will need to be a clear system for designating what course will count as having a "focus on social justice"?