

FACULTY AGENDA ITEM

Date: 3/16/2020

Submitted by: Kara Kendall-Morwick x 1914

SUBJECT: *Change to B.A. in English Literature*

Description:

EN 105 will be a required course for all English majors and will be added to the Core Requirements for all students in the Literature and Film Emphasis. Students on the Literature Track will take 5 literature survey courses, 1 literary genre course, and 3 upper-level literature and film courses (2 of which must be literature courses) to complete the degree. Students on the Film track will take 5 literary survey courses, Introduction to Film Studies, and 3 upper-level film courses to complete the degree.

Note: Given the current structure of the curriculum, film students will take EN 390: Aspects of Film and EN 399: Special Topics to fulfill their upper-level film elective requirement. These courses are variable topic courses that students may repeat based on the topics. The department will offer at least 3 upper-division film courses each semester.

Rationale:

There are two reasons why the English Department is proposing to make changes to the BA in English with a literature emphasis:

- 1) The introduction of a new required course for all English majors (EN 105: Introduction to English Studies)
- 2) The addition of a Film Criticism track to the Literature Emphasis of the English major in response to student interest in film studies

- 1) EN 105: Introduction to English Studies is a course designed to introduce majors and non-majors to the work being done within the fields of Literature, Creative Writing, English Education, and Composition and Rhetoric. The course will serve as a "gateway" course for upper-level courses in the English department, and majors will have to take the class during their first year after declaring a major in English. For this reason, our current plan is to offer at least one section of the course every semester. EN 105 has two main goals: help students explore and engage with the concepts, approaches, and vocabulary critical to succeeding in the major, and introduce students to the career possibilities available to them with an English major through meeting and interacting with both current English faculty and Washburn English alumni working in a variety of fields and careers.
- 2) The English Department has approved a change to redesign the Literature Emphasis to be the Literature and Film Emphasis, providing a track for students who are interested in the field of Film Criticism and Theory. The creation of this new track will allow for several Film Criticism courses already offered in the department to count towards the major, something that has been difficult for our students to do in past years. In the process, the English Department will also be able to develop a clearer Film Criticism curriculum for students interested in the field through the creation of a new course, EN 240: Introduction to Film Studies, and an increased offering of film courses in the future based on the needs of the major.

Financial Implications:

None

Proposed Effective Date: *Fall 2020*

Request for Action: *Approval by Academic Affairs, Faculty Senate, General Faculty, and WUBOR.*

Approved by: *AAC on date 3/23/2020*

FAC on date

Faculty Senate on date

Attachments Yes No