

The University of Kansas  
College of Liberal Arts & Sciences  
**COMMITTEE ON UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES & ADVISING**

**AGENDA**

DECEMBER 9, 2008, 11:00AM  
STRONG HALL – ROOM 210

- I. Approval of CUSA Minutes from November 25, 2008
- II. Chair's Report
- III. Dean's Office Report
- IV. CLA&S Student Academic Services Report
- V. Subcommittee Chair Reports
  - A. Advising & Awards
  - B. Curricular Changes/Degree Requirements
    - 1a. Curricular Changes for Approval:  
AAAS 568, ANTH 568, ATMO 310, GERM 344, GERM 348, HIST 390, HA 100,  
HA 300, REL 107, REL 109
    - 1b. Curricular Changes Motion to File:  
LA&S 450
    2. Degree Requirements for Approval:  
Change of Major Requirements for: BA Biology, BA Biochemistry, BS Biochemistry,  
BA Microbiology, BS Microbiology, BS Biology – Cellular, Organismal, Genetics,  
Ecology & Evolutionary Biology, and Neurology emphases.
  - C. Academic Standards
- VI. Old Business
  - A. Continued discussion of Admissions to Majors Requirements (See Attachment 1)
  - B. Continued discussion of Non-Major BGS Issues before Proposal goes to CAC
- VII. New Business
  - Online Courses

## COMMITTEE ON UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES AND ADVISING

Minutes of the Meeting for November 25, 2008

The committee met on Tuesday, November 25, 2008, at 11:00 a.m. in Room 210 Strong Hall. The following were present: Banwart, Blackmore, Burright, Crosby, Cudd, Dickey, Dozier, Earnhart, Kuczera, Madden, Manning, McNeley, Mielke, Mort, Roberts, Tucker

**MINUTES** A motion was made and seconded to approve the November 11, 2008 minutes of the Committee on Undergraduate Studies & Advising with no corrections. The motion was approved unanimously.

**CHAIR'S REPORT** Professor Madden deferred the Chair's report to discussion of Old Business.

**DEAN'S REPORT** Associate Dean Cudd deferred the Dean's report to discussion of Old Business.

**CLA&S STUDENT ACADEMIC SERVICES REPORT** Dr. Kim McNeley introduced Susan McGee, who will be assisting CUSA with minutes and agenda preparation.

### **SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS**

A. ADVISING & AWARDS – No report.

B. CURRICULAR CHANGES/DEGREE REQUIREMENTS:  
ANTH 544, ENGL 308, ENGL 526, TH&F 603, TH&F 609

Professor Madden questioned the rationale for increasing the course number of ENGL 526 to ENGL 674 since there was no substantive change in the course description, and Professor Mielke explained the English Department no longer allows graduate students to take 500-level courses for credit, but the course is designed for both undergraduate and graduate students, so only the course number needed to be changed. Regarding the prerequisite change in TH&F 603 from TH&F 309 to TH&F 508, it was noted there was no TH&F 309 listed in the catalog, and Professor Mort explained that TH&F 309 had been deleted. Upon those clarifications, approval of the curricular changes was moved, seconded, and unanimously approved..

#### DEGREE REQUIREMENTS FOR APPROVAL:

1. Change to BS Geography Major – Physical Geography emphasis
2. New emphasis for the BS Biology Major – Teaching Biology

Correction to New emphasis for the BS Geology Major

Professor Mort pointed out the only change in the Physical Geography emphasis was the addition of two previously approved courses (GEOG 332 and GEOG 335) to the options to fulfill that emphasis. He provided some background information concerning the new emphasis for the BS Biology Major – Teaching Biology, and the Correction to New emphasis for the BS Geology Major, that there has been considerable discussion over several months between the Biology, History and Geography departments with UKan Teach about whether HIST 136 or HIST 137 would be best suited to fulfill the Humanities requirement in that emphasis, resulting in agreement between all concerned that either course (or an equivalent approved by the department) will be fine to fulfill that option, and both will be offered in the future. A move to approve all Degree Requirements was made, seconded, and unanimously approved.

C. ACADEMIC STANDARDS – No Report.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Professor Madden suggested, and it was agreed, that the proposed modification of the BGS Track 2 be discussed prior to the Admissions to Majors Requirements. Dr. Kim McNeley introduced the proposed change, saying that after the vote on the BGS Track 2 requirements, and understanding the intent of the BGS Track 2, she had requested feedback from the College Student Academic Services staff from an advising standpoint of whether or not this Track 2 would make things easier or possibly more complicated for students who chose this option.

Feedback received concerned the number of courses students could take in one department (in some cases, more than majoring in that department would require), confusion about the principal and non-principal course requirements, concern about when exploration of the different areas would be encouraged to provide the breadth intended in a true General Studies degree, and the feasibility of being able to automate and track the requirements for a possibly large number of students. The proposed change attempts to simplify the requirements and encourage early exploration and breadth.

Discussion covered the following:

A concern was raised about not allowing technology, or the limits of technology, to dictate the decision, but it was acknowledged that the ability to track degree requirements in an automated system is a viable issue.

There was additional exploration of how many hours could be taken in various departments while fulfilling requirements as previously approved, and it was agreed that was a problem.

There was additional discussion about whether or not the proposed changes would simplify advising and help clarify the requirements for students and there was general agreement that these changes would do both.

The question was raised of whether or not a minimum number of hours should be required in each category (Humanities, Natural Sciences and Mathematics, and Social and Behavioral Sciences) since one course in each of those areas would be sacrificed if the previously approved Non-Principal Course Requirement was deleted. It was agreed that amending the proposed change to include language specifying a minimum of 2 cumulative credit hours in each of the 15 departments would address that concern.

Professor Madden asked if there was agreement to vote on the proposed revision to the BGS Track 2 as amended to include language requiring a minimum of 2 cumulative credit hours in each of 15 departments. There was a motion to approve, it was seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Professor Madden then opened for discussion the topic of transferring foreign language credits to fulfill that requirement in the Non-Major BGS, saying he, Associate Dean Cudd, and Dr. McNeley had discussed this issue in the interest of ensuring all points had been covered prior to sending the Non-Major BGS proposal forward to CAC. During their discussion, the question arose about high school foreign language and whether or not that could be allowed to fulfill the foreign language requirement without receiving KU credits for it. Dr. McNeley noted a concern particularly about a possible two-year delay in assessing proficiency, for example, for those students in a 2 + 2 program who may fulfill proficiency with high school foreign language in the community college, then transfer to KU and be required to undergo proficiency assessment two years after taking the foreign language courses. Associate Dean Cudd had questioned whether or not KU may be able to give a proficiency exam to those students as they enter the 2 + 2 program, then “bank” that proficiency at KU so the assessment is already complete when the student transfers to KU.

Dr. McNeley noted that KU would have to add as many as 1100 seats per term (as an example) to accommodate the need for foreign language courses if there were a requirement of one year of foreign language for the BGS, and KU would have to rely on the community colleges to be able to meet that demand for courses. Largely because of that, it would seem unlikely to be realistic at this time to do away with the current BGS Track 1. The question was raised whether or not KU might accept whatever a community college had accepted for proficiency, but it was noted that would set quite a precedent as KU does not allow any other institution to evaluate what KU will count as credit for our degrees.

All the currently-approved options to fulfill the foreign language requirement at KU were discussed and explored. Many scenarios and options were discussed, including online placement exams, and the question of whether or not KU may need to make the investment for three common (French, Spanish and German) placement exams to accommodate the need should this requirement be approved. The point was made that GPA admissions requirements would increase these numbers. Another point was made that before CUSA voted on this, all the Chairs for all the foreign languages offered at KU would have to be involved.

Professor Madden moved to carry this discussion over to the next CUSA meeting on December 9.

**The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.**

1. **Curricular Changes**  
a. **Curricular Changes for Approval**

**AFRICAN & AFRICAN-AMERICAN STUDIES**

CHANGE: NEW COURSE

AAAS 568 KONGO TRANS-ATLANTIC 3 S  
This seminar explores Kongo culture and history through a cross-section of the African-Atlantic World: Western Equatorial Africa and related New World societies in Jamaica, Brazil, Haiti, Cuba, and the Georgia and Carolina coasts, and New Orleans (thus in former British, Portuguese, French, Spanish, and U.S. colonial territories). The seminar will assess recent scholarship on patterns of slavery and resistance, cultural and linguistic change, creolization and hybridization. (Same as ANTH 568)

**ANTHROPOLOGY**

CHANGE: NEW COURSE

ANTH 568 KONGO TRANS-ATLANTIC 3 S  
This seminar explores Kongo culture and history through a cross-section of the African-Atlantic World: Western Equatorial Africa and related New World societies in Jamaica, Brazil, Haiti, Cuba, and the Georgia and Carolina Coasts, and New Orleans (thus in former British, Portuguese, French, Spanish, and U.S. colonial territories). The seminar will assess recent scholarship on patterns of slavery and resistance, cultural and linguistic change, creolization and hybridization. (Same as AAAS 568)

**GEOGRAPHY**

CHANGE: NEW COURSE

ATMO 310 AVIATION METEOROLOGY 3 N  
This course introduces students to meteorological events that affect aircraft operations. Aviation applications of meteorological observations including satellite and radar observations are discussed. Students learn about graphical displays of meteorological information. Numerical forecasting models and how their output is applied for aviation is also considered. Forecasting of weather events of particular interest to aviation such as ceiling, visibility, icing and turbulence is emphasized. Prerequisite: ATMO 105 or AE 245 or equivalent.

**GERMANIC LANGUAGES & LITERATURES**

CHANGE: COURSE DESCRIPTION TITLE

GERM 344 INTREMEDATE COMPOSITION I 3 H W  
(OLD) Extensive practice in writing and speaking German with review of selected grammar topics. Not open to native speakers of German. Prerequisite: GERM 216 or equivalent.

GERM 344 GERMAN HISTORY AND WRITING PRACTICE 3 H W  
(NEW) Extensive practice in writing creatively and speaking German with an emphasis on German history and extensive review of grammar and advanced writing structures. Not open to native speakers of German. Prerequisite: GERM 216 or equivalent.

CHANGE: COURSE DESCRIPTION TITLE

GERM 348 INTERMEDIATE COMPOSITION II 3 H W  
(OLD) Continuation of Germ GERM 344. Not open to native speakers of German. Prerequisite: GERM 216 or equivalent.

GERM 348 (NEW) GERMAN CULTURE AND WRITING PRACTICE 3 H W Extensive practice in writing creatively and speaking German with an emphasis on German culture and extensive review of grammar and advanced writing structures. Not open to native speakers of German. Prerequisite: GERM 216 or equivalent.

## HISTORY

### CHANGE: NEW COURSE

HIST 390 TOPICS IN: \_\_\_\_\_ 3.0 H  
A study of a specialized theme or topic in History. May be repeated for credit when topic varies.

## HISTORY OF ART

### CHANGE: TITLE DESCRIPTION

HA 100 (OLD) INTRODUCTION TO ART HISTORY 3.0 HT, H  
An introduction to art and architecture in Western culture. Basic principles and problems of the visual arts are analyzed, as are the major historical trends and periods. Style, content, and cultural backgrounds are discussed and illustrated by slides and original material in the Spencer Museum of Art. Not open to students with credit in HA 150, HA 151, HA 160, HA 161, or HA 300.  
Prerequisite:

HA 100 (NEW) INTRODUCTION TO WESTERN ART HISTORY 3.0 HT, H  
A chronological survey of Western art and architecture, including the ancient Near East, Europe from antiquity to the present, and North America from the colonial period to the present. The course emphasizes major historical and cultural developments, analyzes key art works and monuments, and introduces basic art historical principles and analytical methods. The course is offered at the 100 and 300 levels, with additional reading and writing assigned at the 300 level. Not open to students with credit in HA 103, HA 150, HA 151, HA 160, HA 161, or HA 300

### CHANGE: COURSE DESCRIPTION TITLE

HA 300 (OLD) INTRODUCTION TO ART HISTORY 3.0 HT, H  
An introduction to art and architecture in Western culture. Basic principles and problems of the visual arts are analyzed, as are the major historical trends and periods. Style, content, and cultural backgrounds are discussed and illustrated by slides and original material in the Spencer Museum of Art. Not open to students with credit in HA 100, HA 150, HA 151, HA 160, or HA 161.

HA 300 (NEW) INTRODUCTION TO WESTERN ART HISTORY 3.0 HT, H  
A chronological survey of Western art and architecture, including the ancient Near East, Europe from antiquity to the present, and North America from the colonial period to the present. The course emphasizes major historical and cultural developments, analyzes key art works and monuments, and introduces basic art historical principles and analytical methods. The course is offered at the 100 and 300 levels, with additional reading and writing assigned at the 300 level. Not open to students with credit in HA 100, HA 103, HA 150, HA 151, HA 160, or HA 161.

## RELIGIOUS STUDIES

### CHANGE: COURSE DESCRIPTION

REL 107 (OLD) LIVING RELIGIONS OF THE WEST 3 HR, H  
A basic introduction to the major religious traditions of the Near East, Europe, and the Americas, with an emphasis on their development through the modern period and their expressions in contemporary life. Not open to students who have taken REL 109 or REL 307. Additional readings and a paper are required for the 300 level course. The content overlaps sufficiently that students who have taken one of these courses (REL 107/ REL 307) may not take the other. LEC

REL 107 LIVING RELIGIONS OF THE WEST 3 HR, H  
(NEW) A basic introduction to the major religious traditions of the Near East, Europe, and the Americas, with emphasis on religions that affect the modern period. Not open to students who have taken REL 109 or REL 307. Additional readings and a paper are required for the 300 level course. The content overlaps sufficiently that students who have taken one of these courses (REL 107/ REL 307) may not take the other. LEC

CHANGE: COURSE DESCRIPTION

REL 109 LIVING RELIGIONS OF THE WEST, HONORS 3 HR, H  
(OLD) A basic introduction to the major religious traditions in the Near East, Europe, and the Americas, with an emphasis on their development through the modern period and their expressions in contemporary life. Open only to students in the University Honors Program or by permission of instructor. Not open to students who have taken REL107/REL 307. Additional readings and a paper are required for the 300 level course. The content overlaps sufficiently that students who have taken one of the courses (REL107/REL307) may not take the other.

REL 109 LIVING RELIGIONS OF THE WEST, HONORS 3 HR, H  
(NEW) A basic introduction to the major religious traditions in the Near East, Europe, and the Americas, with an emphasis upon religions that affect the modern period. Open only to students in the University Honors Program or by permission of instructor. Not open to students who have taken REL107/REL 307.

**b. Curricular Changes Motion to File**

CHANGE: NEW TOPIC

LA&S 450 TOPICS AT HINU: ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION IN INDIAN COUNTRY 3 S  
The nature and scope of tribal sovereignty and the interplay between tribal sovereignty, environmental protection and tribal culture. Criteria to consider when developing tribal environmental protection programs and key environmental issues facing tribes. Prerequisites: Acceptance into the American Indian Studies program or instructor's permission.

**2. Degree Requirements for Approval**

Change of Major Requirements for: BA Biology, BA Biochemistry, BS Biochemistry, BA Microbiology, BS Microbiology, BS Biology – Cellular, Organismal, Genetics, Ecology & Evolutionary Biology, and Neurology emphases.

**Proposal:**

The course BIOL 350, Principles of Genetics, is currently a required course for all of the degrees/majors listed above. This proposal would add the newly approved honors version of the course, BIOL 360, Principles of Genetics, Honors as an additional option for completing the requirement.

The requirement would now read: “BIOL 350 (or BIOL 360, Honors) Principles of Genetics”.

**Justification:**

This course will cover the same material as BIOL 350, which is a current Core Requirement for a BA Biology, BA Biochemistry, BS Biochemistry, BA Microbiology, BS Microbiology, BS Biology – Cellular, Organismal, Genetics, Ecology & Evolutionary Biology, and Neurology emphases. It will allow students in the Honors program to fill this requirement with the Honors version of the course.

## Admissions to the Majors

**Rationale.** Currently six departments have competitive or selective admissions to their majors.

- Fairness to Students – selective admissions allow the department to clearly communicate to students the skills necessary to succeed in the major, and the department’s minimum standards of achievement in the core classes in which these skills are taught.
  - It is better for students to learn that they are not cut out for a major early. This gives them more time to pursue a different major. Currently students learn this rather late and are then scrambling to complete another major to graduate in a timely fashion.
- Fairness to Departments – all departments/units should be allowed to impose admissions criteria if they believe these will help students to select a major in which they will succeed (minimally defined as obtaining  $\geq 2.0$  GPA in junior/senior level coursework).
  - There is a widely held perception that departments without admissions requirements are lesser majors.
  - Departments not allowed to impose an admission standard may change their major course requirements in a manner designed to decrease the wide appeal of the major.

### Draft Proposal:

- Allow all departments/units wishing to do so to impose non-competitive criteria for admission to their major.
- Criteria:
  - Department must identify 2-3 courses that teach the core skills required to succeed in the major. These courses must not have more than one prerequisite course.
    - If one of these courses is taught by another department, that course must be a prerequisite for one of the “core skills” courses.
  - Departments may require that students earn up to a 2.5 criterion GPA in these identified courses.
    - If a student repeats a course, all grades received are used in calculating their criterion GPA.
      - This encourages students to take all attempts seriously.
  - Students meeting departmental admissions requirements prior to attending KU (e.g., transfer coursework, proficiency exam score) may be admitted to the major by petition with department approval.
  - Departments may not base admissions decisions on overall GPA.
- Departments currently imposing admissions standards would, for the sake of fairness (see above), be required to meet these standards.
  - This would affect COMS (competitive admissions).
  - This would affect SPAN (they require 30 hrs of KU coursework and a 2.0 overall GPA).
- Selective admissions criteria imposed by any department/unit would need to be reviewed by CUSA.

## **Non-Major BGS Issues for Discussion before the Proposal goes to CAC**

- Estimate of the number of students that might pursue the non-major BGS.
  - Number of students pursuing a major who have a junior/senior major GPA < 2.0.
  - Knowing this number will allow us to estimate the impact on the foreign language departments and on Disabilities and Academic Services (students requesting assistance in passing foreign language coursework).
- Dean's office proposal for foreign language & culture courses.
- Transferring Foreign Language Credits
  - Community colleges are accepting high-school foreign language credits. If students come to KU after not studying foreign language for 2-3 years, they may score poorly on a proficiency exam.
  - Are we willing to accept...
    - 3 years of high-school foreign language as equivalent to 1 semester of KU foreign language requirement
    - 4 years of high-school foreign language as equivalent to 2 semesters of KU foreign language requirement
    - Students would receive no KU credits but would fulfill (or partially fulfill the foreign language requirement).
  - Harvard requires their new students to have completed 4 years of high-school foreign language before they are admitted. They then require no more foreign language training.
  - Is there any way to administer an online foreign language proficiency test (administered by high-school instructors) that would allow students planning to attend KU to meet the language requirements while they are still fluent with the language?