JANUARY 10, 2008

TO: COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

FROM: MONICA J. CASPER, DIRECTOR, WGS

RE: SENIOR THESIS ELIMINATION

The Women's and Gender Studies Program has experienced a declining number of majors in recent years. We suspect that one reason we fail to attract new majors is the senior thesis requirement. Students often tell us they would have majored if we did not have the requirement.

The majority of programs and departments in A&S do not require a thesis for every major. We propose eliminating the WGS senior thesis requirement, but retaining the optional Honor's thesis for our best students. The core faculty and the WGS Steering Committee are fully behind this proposal, voting 100% in favor of eliminating the thesis requirement for every major.

Currently, WGS 291: Senior Research Seminar is offered in the fall for seniors writing theses. We propose also to reorganize WGS 291 as the Senior Seminar, which will serve as a capstone course for the major. (Please see attached copy of materials for the proposed changes to WGS 291.)

If approved, the changes will be reflected in the A&S course catalog and in WGS materials including the website and brochure.

We believe that these changes will make the WGS major more appealing to students, thereby potentially increasing the number of majors, and will also better focus our mentoring energies on the Honors thesis only.

Thank you.
REQUEST FOR COURSE CHANGES, ADDITIONS, OR DELETIONS
ARTS & SCIENCE CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject Area:</th>
<th>WGS</th>
<th>Course Number:</th>
<th>291</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Course Title:</td>
<td>Senior Research Seminar</td>
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<td>Instructor:</td>
<td>Casper, Monica J.</td>
<td>Department:</td>
<td>WGS</td>
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<td>Signature of Chair:</td>
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First Semester Course will be offered

| 08 Fall |

Submitted for:  
A&S [x]  
Graduate School [ ] (Check one or both)

Course Addition [ ]  
Course Description Change [x]  
Course Deletion [ ]

For a *change or deletion*, provide the most recent catalog description of the course:


For a *change or an addition*, provide the proposed catalog description, including prerequisites, credit hours, term(s) offered, and instructor(s). State the type of change, further, if this is for a course change. The requirements for course titles and descriptions are available at http://www.vanderbilt.edu/cas/overview/faculty.

Senior Seminar: Advanced reading, research, and/or practice in Women's and Gender Studies. Normally open only to senior majors. FALL. [3] Casper.

Give reasons for the proposed change or addition.

WGS will no longer have a required thesis. The change in 291 reflects this, making the seminar more of a capstone.
1) What is the expected enrollment in the course? 3-8 (varies)

1 a) What enrollment limits will be placed on the course? If this request is for an addition to the curriculum, explain how the department or program plans to staff the course.

Normally open only to senior majors.

1 b) Is another course to be deleted? No - but thesis will be eliminated.

2. In which AXLE distribution category should the proposed course be placed?

- HCA Humanities and the Creative Arts
- INT International Cultures
- US History and Culture of the United States
- MNS Math and Natural Sciences
- SBS Social and Behavioral Sciences
- P Perspectives

3. Is the course similar to any other course offered at Vanderbilt? If so, specify similarities and differences.

No

4. Is this course so similar to a current or former course that it should be available for "No Credit" or "Repeat Credit" to students who have previously completed one of these courses? ("Repeat Credit" is appropriate only if the courses are virtually identical. "No Credit" is appropriate if there is substantial overlap. See pp. 147-148 of the 2005-2006 Undergraduate Catalog.)

No

5. If the course is proposed for graduate and undergraduate credit, specify the additional assignments required of graduate students.


6. □ Mark box if department wishes to make the course unavailable for P/F enrollments. Describe group Activities, class discussions, or other activities which enable the course to qualify for this exemption under faculty legislation.


Please attach a syllabus for the proposed course to this form.

Reset Form □ More copies of this form are available at http://www.vanderbilt.edu/cas/faculty/info. Feb/07