

ILLINOIS STATE
UNIVERSITY



University Curriculum Committee

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March 18, 2015

TO: Susan Kalter, Chairperson, Academic Senate
FROM: Claire Lieberman, Chair, University Curriculum Committee
RE: Executive Summary – Proposal for the new Creative Writing Studies Sequence

The University Curriculum Committee has approved and is forwarding for Academic Senate review the attached proposal to add a new Creative Writing Studies Sequence to the Major in English.

The proposed Creative Writing Studies Sequence provides students the opportunity to develop their talents by beginning with intermediate courses in their genre of choice, and two advanced courses, one in the genre of their choice and one alternative genre to help them expand beyond their comfort zones. It also provides the opportunity to study their genre in scholarly terms; to study language/linguistics, the basis of their art form; to study literature from diverse standpoints; and to conclude with a course that encourages discussion of how literary artists utilize literary theory and aesthetics.

The Department of English has given a reasonable rationale for adding the new sequence:

- The proposed Creative Writing Studies Sequence provides students a more linear sense of advancement in their writing apprenticeships; includes a change for them to broaden their understanding of their genre of choice through both artistic and scholarly lenses; affords an opportunity to study language and linguistics, which enhances students' understanding of their fundamental tools; encourages reading in literature generally; and provides a discussion of literary theory as it contributes to students' appreciation of their individual aesthetic choices.
- The mission statement of the sequence includes acceptance of dissensus, something endemic in the field of English (ranging from unflattering critiques to cultural difference), and so a course is also required in the areas of literary diversity studies.
- Having a group of declared writing students will allow the department to help students develop tools for building an artistic community, skills necessary for any artist.
- A logical sequence of courses that expands students' aesthetic and cultural literacies will better prepare writers to continue to develop after graduation.
- Offering a creative writing sequence that will be noted on transcripts, etc., may have a positive impact on departmental enrollment numbers.

The University Curriculum Committee supports the proposal to add this new sequence.

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Attachments