

October 3, 2007

To: St. Olaf Faculty
From: Curriculum Committee
Re: New Course Proposals

At the October 11 Faculty Meeting the Curriculum Committee will move that the faculty approve the following fifteen courses:

Term in Asia, Religion 270: The Ethics of Travel: Pilgrims and Tourists

Catalog description:

Students examine two forms of travel: traditional Buddhist pilgrimages and modern forms of tourism. The course explores Buddhist and Christian forms of pilgrimage, comparing their motivations, practices, and consequences in relation to each tradition's ethical ideals. Tourism raises ethical issues including economic justice, environmental impact, sustainability, and the quality of interactions between tourists and local cultures. Offered as the Field Supervisor's course for the 2008-09 Term in Asia.

Rationale:

The course integrates a number of disciplinary perspectives on travel including anthropological interpretations of travel, literary studies, historical analyses of particular pilgrimage sites and normative ethical analysis. Students will study Buddhist pilgrimage practices central to the Asian cultures where they will be living, as well as the moral questions raised by modern tourism, including study programs such as Term in Asia. The course will integrate the study of ethics with various other disciplines that study travel, and encourage reflection on the experiential aspects of Term in Asia. This course will allow students to fulfill the EIN requirement by examining ethical issues related to travel while on Term in Asia.

John Barbour, will teach this course once, during fall-interim of 2008-09, as the Field Supervisor's course for Term in Asia. A BTS-T is recommended but not required as a prerequisite. Barbour usually teaches one EIN course a year, and this will be it.

Term in the Middle East, Biology 252: Water and the Middle East

Catalog description:

For such a simple molecule, water is vitally important to our everyday life. Beginning with an examination of water from a scientific perspective - remarkable chemical properties, essential physiological regulation, sustainable ecological cycles – the course delves into the historical, political, economic, societal, and religious implications of water in the Middle East. Offered as the Field Supervisor course for the 2008 Term in the Middle East Program.

Rationale:

Dave VanWylen will teach the course once as the Field Supervisor course for the 2008 Term in the Middle East Program. It brings together his scientific background with the Middle Eastern location of the course. There are no prerequisites. The course satisfies Integrated Scientific Topics (IST) General Education credit, adding distinctiveness to the Term in the Middle East Program. It could be modified in the future for an on-campus offering.

Asian Studies 237: Modern Chinese Literature and Society

Catalog Description:

This core course of Asian Studies introduces students to modern Chinese literature and society, a non-Western tradition. It examines canonical and popular works of Chinese writings including fiction, drama, autobiography, correspondences, and poetry written in classical and modern styles from the late nineteenth century to the early twentieth first-century. Films also serve as supplementary material when appropriate. Students read texts in translation and approach them in the context of modern Chinese society. They also study the literature according to China's interaction with the West and the country's struggle to define itself as a modern nation. This course is offered annually.

Rationale:

This course serves Asian Studies majors and concentrators on China studies as well as the general student body. It will have no impact on other courses and will not involve elimination of other courses. There is no prerequisite for it.

Asian Studies 300: Topics in Asian Studies

Catalog Description:

This course offers in-depth study of a topic. The specific topic depends on the instructor. The course may be repeated if topics are different. Offered periodically.

Rationale:

The proposed course on topics in Asian Studies allows this small department to offer courses on a variety of topics at the upper level of the curriculum. For majors, this course supplements the broader, more general courses at the 200 level by offering them the opportunity to study a topic in depth. This course also serves those students outside Asian Studies with an interest in the particular topic. There are no staffing implications because there are enough faculty members in the department who could possibly teach this course.

Economics 200: Topics in Economic Analysis

Catalog Description:

In this course, students apply the models, insights, and analytical techniques of economics to a specific topic or economic problem. Topics vary from year to year. This

course may be repeated if topics are different. Offered annually. Prerequisites: One of Economics 110-121 or permission of instructor.

Rationale:

This course serves primarily economics majors; it also serves those students outside Economics with an interest in the particular topic and students seeking certification to teach in the social sciences.

This course expands the existing broad field of courses in Economics to include a focused examination of another area of economic inquiry which reflects the skills and interests of faculty in this department. It gives the opportunity to term faculty to teach in an area in which they have expertise and motivation. Therefore, it allows the department to free up tenured faculty to teach sections of the introductory principles course. There are no staffing implications.

Education 342: Teaching of Dance K-12

Catalog Description:

This course provides basic professional knowledge and skills needed for successful entry into the field of dance education. Through readings, class discussions, and active participation in teaching situations (including microteaching), students become familiar with the theory and the practice of teaching dance K-12. Students learn about issues faced by the profession and how to manage a dance production program. Required field experience component. Prerequisite: Education 330 or permission by instructor. Spring Semester only.

Rationale:

This is a reinstated course last taught in 1998. Its major difference with the previously taught course is that its scope is the K-12 teaching license, and it must address elementary and secondary school curricula. This course serves those students who are dance and theater majors seeking licensure. There are no staffing implications because the department plan has FTE for Dance/Theater, which will be redistributed to Dance and to Theater.

Education 349: Teaching of Latin K-12

Catalog Description:

This course introduces students to teaching Latin in grades K-12. Theories, methods, issues and trends are examined. Other topics include curriculum development and textbook, computer and audio visual resources. Offered upon demand. Arranged with Classics and Education chairs and the Latin instructor. Prerequisite: Education 330 or permission of instructor. Spring Semester only.

Rationale:

Education 349 has been offered as a grade 5-12 teaching methods course for 0.5 credit at St. Olaf for many years. The Minnesota Board of Teaching Standards has changed the scope of Latin licensure to K-12. A corresponding expansion of the content of the course to cover elementary language teaching strategies is required. The addition content doubles the amount of in and out of class time necessary to achieve intended learning outcomes of the course. The course is essential in the development of prospective Latin teachers. It provides students with pedagogy and strategies focused on teaching in the field of Latin. It complements similar special methods courses in each of the college's other licensure areas. The course also fulfills several required Board of Licensure standards for K-12 licensure.

Education 367: Teaching of Theater K-12

Catalog Description:

This course provides basic professional knowledge and skills needed for successful entry into the field of theater education. Through readings, class discussions, and active participation in teaching situations (including microteaching), students become familiar with the theory and the practice of teaching dance K-12. Students learn about issues faced by the profession and how to manage a theater production program. Required field experience component. Prerequisite: Education 330 or permission by instructor. Spring Semester only.

Rationale:

This is a reinstated course. Its major difference with the previously taught course is that its scope is the K-12 teaching license, and it must address elementary and secondary school curricula. This course serves those students who are dance and theater majors seeking licensure. There are no staffing implications because the department plan has FTE for Dance/Theater, which will be redistributed to Dance and to Theater.

English 249: Canadian Literature

Catalog Description:

Students examine selected English prose, poetry and/or drama by Canada's three founding peoples (English, French, First Nations). This course emphasizes connections between place and identity in Canadian writing and the relationship of that writing to British and American counterparts. It also helps students to achieve an informed appreciation of the aesthetic and formal properties of Canadian literature, as well as an understanding of the place of that literature within the broader context of human life and culture. Students read authors like Margaret Atwood, Alice Munro, Michael Ondaatje, Leonard Cohen, Thomas King, and Jacques Poulin. Offered every 2-3 years. Prerequisite: First Year Writing or equivalent.

Rationale:

English 249, with ALS-L GE credit, is suitable for majors and non-majors. For English majors it provides an elective that supports the Literatures in English philosophy of our major, allowing students to study a rich body of literature from a nation under-

represented in current course offerings. For General Education students, the course offers an introduction to Canadian literature and to the culture and history of a nation that, though often assumed to be nearly identical to the United States, maintains critical differences from, and often voices strong critiques of, its powerful neighbor. There are no staffing implications.

History 296: Medical Vocation in Historical Perspective

Catalog Description:

This course surveys the history of the medical profession in Europe and the U.S. from 1700 to the present, with attention to the legacies from earlier periods. “Vocation,” understood as a lived experience shaped by the values and expectations of practitioner, profession, and society, manifested in various ways, provide the unifying theme. Students examine scientific, cultural, institutional, ethical, and personal factors influencing the development of physicians and their practice in specific historical contexts. Offered alternate years.

Rationale:

As one of several History Department courses developed under the auspices of the Lilly grant program, “Lives of Worth and Service,” this course offers GE credit for HWC and demonstrates the continuing relevance of History (as a discipline, a department, and a curriculum) to the core mission of the College. The History curriculum thus supports the study of medical science in context that is emerging as one of St. Olaf’s distinctive strengths in the liberal arts and highlights one of the distinctive and influential hallmarks of Western cultural heritage: the development of scientific medicine. More specifically, this course supports the intermediate-level history curriculum in European and US history, general education students, and students in interdisciplinary programs. This is the second history course to be applied to the Biomedical Studies concentration. There will be no impact on staffing as this course will rotate with other level II courses

Media Studies 360: Topics in Media

Catalog Description:

This course provides a capstone to the concentration. Taught as a seminar, it investigates critical and specialized issues in media from multiple and often competing perspectives. Topics change regularly and address a wide range of media-related concerns. Sample topics include media culture, race and media, media use and child development, and the social and political utility of video documentaries. Prerequisite: Media Studies 160 or permission by instructor. Offered Spring Semester.

Rationale:

The Media Studies program currently includes two courses: Media 160: Mass Media, and Media 260: Media and Contemporary Culture. The addition of this Level-III course yields an enriched Media Studies program. It also provides additional opportunities for interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary teaching and learning on media related subjects, since faculty from a variety of departments and programs may periodically offer this

course in their areas of interest and expertise. It will be taught in rotation with the other Media Studies offerings and does not require additional FTE.

Norwegian 224: Topics in Contemporary Nordic Literature: A Window on Society

Catalog Description:

Recently there has been an explosion in Nordic literature translated into English, providing unprecedented access to contemporary literary texts produced in Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland and Iceland. In this course students read and analyze contemporary Nordic literary texts and examine those societies through a literary perspective. Sample topics: “Murder Nordic Style: Contemporary Crime Fiction,” and “Gender and Nordic Society.” Prerequisite: First Year Writing. Offered annually or periodically.

Rationale:

In the past, Norwegian 233, Nordic Literature: Medieval to Modern, dealt with classical authors as Ibsen, Strindberg, Holberg, as well as sagas, folklore, and the like. This new proposed course offers topics in English translation and deals with a variety of genres and themes, depending on the interest and the expertise of the instructor. It is open to majors and non-majors alike for either major/concentrator or ALS-L GE credit. In addition, it may include a FLAC section to give students the opportunity to do reading in a Nordic language. There are no staffing implications.

Philosophy 260: Kant’s Moral Theory in Literature and Film

Catalog description:

Students study the moral theory of Immanuel Kant by reading his texts and understanding the expression of their ideas in literature and film. They also clarify Kant's moral theory through comparison of his theory to other moral theories, especially utilitarianism and virtue theory. The overall purpose of the course is to help students to understand and apply moral theories generally, and Kant's theory in particular, to particular moral situations.

Rationale:

This is a new EIN course offering in the Philosophy Department. It is distinctive in that it relates moral theory, and especially the moral theory of Immanuel Kant, to literature and film. Further, although we will compare Kant's theory with other moral theories (such as utilitarianism and virtue theory), Kant's moral theory will be made the central concern of the course. But because the course focuses on how Kant's ideas can be exemplified in and applied to concrete experiences found in literature and film, it is a course that will be accessible to and is intended for the non-major general education student. There are no philosophy prerequisites.

The course will be taught once a year, usually during Interim, but occasionally during the semester. The number of EIN offerings in the Philosophy Department will remain constant as this replaces one section of Ethics and the Good Life.

Political Science 284: Ethics of Citizenship in Times of War and Terrorism

Catalog Description:

This course examines Just War theory and Jihad to enquire about the connections between religions and political violence. It considers the strategic logic of terrorism and the ethical 'costs' of responses to it. The course also studies conflicts between 'moderates' and 'extremists' within Islam in order to reveal the ethical and political spectrums within it. Offered annually. Required prior experience of political analysis or the study of religion.

Rationale:

This course, with EIN GE credit, enhances the capacities of both Political Science majors and General Education students to engage in the Ethical consideration of the civic costs and benefits of maintaining security under threats of war and terrorism. It will serve Political Science majors and GE students seeking EIN credit. There is no impact on staffing.

Political Science 382: The Geopolitics of Eurasian Energy

Catalog Description:

Students examine the geopolitics and political economy of Russia as an energy producing and consuming 'Petrostate.' Beginning with the domestic political economy of the Russian energy industries, students proceed to Russia's relations with Central Asia from which it imports gas and with Europe to which it exports oil and gas. The course also considers Russia's relationships with the U.S.A., India and China. There is also special attention on Russian/Norwegian energy relations in the Barents Sea. Offered annually. Prerequisite: Political Science 220: Political Science Research Methods or Political Science 282: Russian and Eurasian Politics.

Rationale:

The proposed course introduces the politics of energy into the Political Science and Russian Area Studies curricula by focusing on Russia. It connects domestic political economy to the international relations of energy. It enhances faculty attention to supervision of the undergraduate research expected at this level. The course serves majors in Political Science and Environmental Studies and concentrators in Nordic Studies. There are no staffing implications.