

UC 10808 10S

TO: Lawrence Williams, Chair
Undergraduate Council

FROM: Richard Scamell
Degree Programs Committee: Programs

SUBJECT: UC 10491 09F and UC 10798 10S: Proposal to Create a World Cities Minor

DATE: April 14, 2010

APPROVED APR 21 2010

The Committee met on Wednesday, March 31 to consider a proposal from Professors Kathleen Brosnan, Hildegard Glass, Janet Kohlhase, Martin Melosi, and Michaelangelo Sabatino to create a World Cities Minor. Participating in the discussion were committee members Betty Barr, Miranda Bennett, Iain Morrison, and Richard Scamell. Jeanette Morales, Michelangelo Sabatino, and Lawrence Williams attended the meeting as guests.

The proposed World Cities minor is a cross-college, interdisciplinary minor directed toward students who live and study in a complex world city such as Houston, Texas. Courses in the minor encourage students to critically explore cities of the world from different geographical, chronological and disciplinary perspectives in an effort to help them develop analytical tools for understanding complex urban phenomena. The minor will be housed in and administered by the Gerald D. Hines College of Architecture. It is expected that ten to fifteen students will declare the minor for the first year with an increase in numbers in subsequent years. It is anticipated that students choosing World Cities as a minor will come primarily from the Colleges of Architecture, Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, and Education.

Students in the minor must complete fifteen hours of designed courses (nine hours of which must be advanced and six hours of which must be taken in residence) including:

- The foundation course: ARCH 3349: Urban Expectations
- Four additional courses selected from the following committee-approved list:
 - ARCH 3350: Architecture, Art, and Politics
 - ARCH 4373: Urban Environments
 - ARCH 4375: Capitalism, Architecture, and the City
 - ARCH 4397: Writing, Architecture and the City
 - ARCH 4397: Capitalism, Architecture and the City
 - CLAS 4305: Fifth-Century Athens: Readings in Intellectual Literacy and Political History
 - CHNS 3360: A Look at China
 - ECON 4377: Urban Economics
 - FREN 3362/GERM 3362: Paris and Berlin Since 1800
 - HIST 3319: Urban History of the United States
 - HIST 3327: Houston Since 1836
 - HIST 6389: American Urban History*
 - SOC 3370: Popular Music and Society
 - WCL 2352: World Cinema
 - WCL 3376: Visual Stories
 - WCL 3371: Cities in Film and Arts

In addition to the courses listed above, students may apply no more than one independent study course approved by the program director to the minor.

Course selection must reflect a broad geographic and disciplinary distribution with no more than two courses from any one discipline included in the minor. Students are required to achieve a cumulative grade point average of 2.5 or better in the minor in order to satisfy the requirements for the minor.

Recommendation

The Committee recommends approval of the revised version of UC 10491 09F (i.e., UC 10798 10S).

*Students are permitted to take HIST 6389: American Urban History for undergraduate credit.