

TO: Ben Lowe, Chair, Graduate Programs Committee

FROM: Wenying Xu, Chair, Dept. of English



SUBJECT: Proposed Revisions to English MA Concentrations

DATE: September 3, 2010

The Department of English wishes to revise its English MA concentrations to reflect, more accurately, its current graduate program course offerings. As the department has grown substantially since these original concentrations were conceptualized, our curriculum has grown, and shifted some in emphasis, accordingly. I've attached the "current" catalog copy and our "proposed" catalog copy for committee review. The most substantive revisions, however, are the following:

- 1) Institute distinct "British" and "American" concentrations to replace the current, single "British and American" concentration
- 2) Institute new "Rhetoric and Composition" concentration
- 3) Revise current "Multicultural Literatures and Literacies" concentration to "Multicultural and World Literature (as "literacies" fits under the proposed "Rhet/Comp" concentration, and as an increasing number of newer faculty members teach courses on world literatures in English
- 4) Reduce number of required concentration courses—for most concentrations—from 4 to 3 to encourage broader knowledge base in English

Thank you.

Current Catalog Copy on English Graduate “Concentrations”

Areas of Concentration

In addition to this general program in literary study, students select from the following areas of concentration: Creative Writing; Multicultural Literatures and Literacies; Science Fiction and Fantasy; or British and American Literatures:

Concentration in Creative Writing

Minimum of 30 credits: The program requires 24 credits of graduate course work and 6 credits of thesis.

The student selects, under advisement, four courses in creative writing, three courses from the areas of literature, theory, and rhetoric, and ENG 6009, Principles and Problems of Literary Study. Creative writing courses include the following, and can be repeated for credit: CRW 5025, Creative Writing Workshop; CRW 6024, Creative Writing: Genre and Form; CRW 6130, Fiction Writing Workshop; CRW 6331, Poetry Writing Workshop.

Concentration in Multicultural Literatures and Literacies

The student will pursue, under advisement, a program in the concentration of multicultural literatures, literacy studies, and/or rhetoric and composition. Specific areas of study might address multiethnic literatures in the U.S. and U.K., postcolonial literature, critical theory/cultural studies, gender and sexuality, composition theory and pedagogy. This program of study will consist of 12 credits in the areas of concentration.

Required Courses	
Principles and Problems of Literary Study (ENG 6009)	3
Literary Criticism 1 or 2 (ENG 5018 or 5019)	3
History of the English Language (LIN 6107)	3
Area of Concentration	12
British or American Literature	3
Thesis	6
Total	30

Concentration in Science Fiction and Fantasy The student will pursue courses in the concentration under the advisement of faculty in that field, taking three courses, and writing the master's thesis in the specialization. In addition to the three required courses identified under the heading General Degree Requirements and courses in the concentration, the other two courses will be selected under advisement from offerings in British, American, and/or Multicultural Literatures.

Concentration in British and American Literatures

In addition to the three required courses identified under the heading General Degree Requirements, the student will plan, under advisement, a program in British or American literature including at least four courses in the specialization and culminating in a thesis within the chosen concentration, with at least one early course (before 1800 British; before 1900 American). The work might be pursued in both British and American literature, especially if the thesis will be on a topic that resists the distinction.

Proposed Catalog Copy on English Graduate "Concentrations"

Areas of Concentration:

Students select from the following areas of concentration: British Literature; American Literature; Creative Writing; Multicultural and World Literatures; Science Fiction and Fantasy; Rhetoric and Composition. Critical Theory/Cultural Studies and Gender and Sexuality Studies represent frequent areas of inquiry in all concentrations.

Concentration in British Literature.

In addition to the three required courses identified under the heading General Degree Requirements, the student will plan, under advisement, a program in British literature including at least three courses in the area of specialization with at least one early course (before 1800), and two courses outside the area of specialization (excluding ENC 6700). The concentration will culminate in a thesis within the area of specialization.

Concentration in American Literature.

In addition to the three required courses identified under the heading General Degree Requirements, the student will plan, under advisement, a program in American literature including at least three courses in the area of specialization with at least one early course (before 1900), and two courses outside the area of specialization (excluding ENC 6700). The concentration will culminate in a thesis within the area of specialization.

Concentration in Creative Writing

The student selects, under advisement, four courses in creative writing, ENG 6009: Principles and Problems of Literary Study, and three other courses from the areas of literature, theory, and rhetoric. Creative writing courses include the following, and can be repeated for credit: CRW 5025, Creative Writing Workshop; CRW 6024, Creative Writing: Genre and Form; CRW 6130, Fiction Writing Workshop; CRW 6331, Poetry Writing Workshop. The concentration will culminate in a creative writing thesis.

Concentration in Multicultural and World Literatures

In addition to the three required courses identified under the heading General Degree Requirements, the student will plan, under advisement, a program in the concentration of multicultural and/or world literatures, including at least three courses in the area of specialization and two courses outside the area of specialization (excluding ENC 6700). Specific areas of study might address multiethnic literatures in the U.S. and U.K. as well as literatures in English from outside of the U.S. and U.K., including postcolonial literature. The concentration will culminate in a thesis within the area of specialization.

Concentration in Science Fiction and Fantasy

In addition to the three required courses identified under the heading General Degree Requirements, the student will plan, under advisement, a program in Science Fiction and Fantasy, including at least three courses in the area of specialization, and two courses outside the area of specialization (excluding ENC 6700). The concentration will culminate in a thesis within the area of specialization.

Concentration in Rhetoric and Composition

In addition to the three required courses identified under the heading General Degree Requirements, the student will plan, under advisement, a program in Rhetoric and Composition including at least three courses in the area of specialization (for which ENC 6700 counts) and two courses outside the area of specialization. The concentration will culminate in a thesis within the area of specialization.