

FOR INFORMATION

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

MEMORANDUM

To: Senate

From: J.W.G. Ivany
Chair, SCAP

Subject: Humanities Minor Program -
Curriculum Revisions

Date: November 17, 1988

Acting under delegated authority SCUS approved curriculum revisions as set forth in S.88-69 to the Humanities Minor Program.

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY
Office of the Dean
Faculty of Arts

To: Ellen Gee
Chair
FACC

From: Paul Dutton
Coordinator
Humanities Program

Re: Curriculum Revisions

Date: September 21, 1988

The Humanities Minor Program Committee has decided to make the changes indicated below to its calendar entry.

RATIONALE:

These changes all serve to bring the calendar entry and the courses into agreement. HUM 380 was added some years ago and should be included in the lists of courses. HUM 201 and 202 were introduced to provide further foundation courses for the program.

HUMANITIES MINOR PROGRAM

FROM:

The Humanities minor program enables students to obtain a background in the Humanities through course work in various disciplines offered through regular departments. A more specific approach to humanistic inquiry at the upper division is available through the humanities core courses (HUM 302, 303, 304, 306, 308 and 400). Students will be advised about related courses in their major field or cognate fields in order to plan a coherent program around the specific Humanities courses. Students' attention is drawn to HUM 390-3 Directed Studies in Humanities. (See course description index for prerequisites.)

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LOWER DIVISION REQUIRMENTS AS PREREQUISITES

FROM:

Students must complete 18 semester hours of credit from among the Humanities related courses listed below. Courses from at least two different departments must be included. These prerequisite hours may include courses also taken to fulfill major prerequisites or Faculty of Arts group requirements. The topic headings indicate significant aspects of the Humanities. Students may choose from different areas or concentrate on a specific historical period. Because the study of the Humanities requires some familiarity with philosophical concepts and an awareness of the past, History 105 and 106, and Philosophy 150 and 151 are designated as introductory courses. Students minoring in the Humanities program are advised to include all four courses mentioned above in their program.

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UPPER DIVISION REQUIREMENTS

FROM:

16 semester hours of upper division credit, including two of Humanities 302, 303, 304, 306, 308, plus Humanities 400, plus two approved courses outside the department of the major concentration. Upper level requirements may not be fulfilled by any courses used to fulfill requirements of other major or honors programs.

The advisory system is essential to the program. Upon declaring his/her intent to minor in Humanities, the student will be assigned to an advisor from among the Steering Committee. The advisor will discuss the student's particular interests in order to assist in planning a program of studies and the culminating essay. The program of studies must be approved by the Humanities Steering Committee.

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LOWER DIVISION HUMANITIES RELATED COURSES

FROM:

Listed below is a sample of lower division courses within the University covering some aspect of the Humanities. These courses have been grouped together under topic headings that emphasize an interdisciplinary approach. Students may wish to select from different areas (for example, one course from Ancient Culture, one from the Nineteenth Century, etc.) or to concentrate on a historical period, for example; the art, history, and philosophy of the Ancient World; or the history, politics, and art of the Enlightenment.

However students may decide to select their lower division prerequisites, it is important for them to have some familiarity with philosophical concepts and to possess a broad awareness of the human past. For this reason, History 105 and 106, and Philosophy 150 and 151 are designated as introductory courses to the Humanities. The student is advised to include all four in his or her program; these courses provide the general background necessary for the comparative study of Western Civilization.

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However students may decide to select their lower division prerequisites, it is important for them to have some familiarity with philosophical concepts and to possess a broad awareness of the human past. For this reason, History 105 and 106, Philosophy 150 and 151, and Humanities 201 and 202 are designated as introductory courses to the Humanities. The student is advised to include all four in his or her program; these courses provide the general background necessary for the comparative study of Western Civilization.

HUMANITIES COURSE DESCRIPTION CHANGES

FROM: HUM 306 THE PHILOSOPHICAL QUESTION OF THE HUMANITIES

What is intellectual history? How does the art, literature, religion, and philosophy of the past represent the inner life of the period? Can we reconstruct that inner life, or do we only interpret the surface of the past in terms of our own desires and priorities? This seminar will investigate different ideas of history particularly relevant to the study of culture.

TO: HUM 306 THE PHILOSOPHICAL QUESTION OF THE HUMANITIES

How does the study of the humanities, with its emphasis on expression, belief, and tradition, present the central concepts of Western Civilization in a way which cannot be understood simply as history or sociology? If different cultures, or different historical periods within a culture produce different interpretations of human value and different images of humanity, how are they to be reconciled and related to one another? These questions will be discussed through the integrated study of history, literature, arts and philosophy.

FROM: HUM 308 THE HUMANITIES AND CRITICAL THINKING

The concept of the Humanities has been historically associated with 'the best that has been thought and said' throughout various epochs. In spite of the association between the humanities and the highest ideals of culture many critical thinkers have defined their thought in opposition to the most cherished beliefs of culture. This course will focus on the thought of selected major figures whose works imply radical departures from traditional thinking. The combinations of figures may vary from semester to semester. An example of a typical course would be: Marx, Darwin, Freud and Dostovesky.

TO: HUM 308 THE HUMANITIES AND CRITICAL THINKING

The humanities have traditionally been associated with "the best that has been thought and said" throughout the history of civilization. But from its beginnings Western Civilization has also been characterized by the restless criticism of its own ideals. This course will compare and contrast diverse critical traditions within Western culture, the attempts of great artists and thinkers to break with tradition, and the subsequent creation of new ideas and forms of experience and expression.

RATIONALES:

To more closely fit the current content.