Dear Vickie and Richard,

I'm attaching the syllabi for the three required courses in our WGSS graduate minor that have been changed from 3 to 4 credits (see both 3- and 4-credit versions here): WGSS 514, WGSS 516, and WGSS 585. These syllabi were also submitted through the CAT II system, as I believe all 3 course changes have been approved.

Dr. Qwo-Li Driskill notes that the change to 4 credits for WGSS 514 is justified, given the heavy reading and writing load in the course. For WGSS 516, Dr. Janet Lee writes the following justification:

The learning objectives for the 3-credit and the 4-credit courses are the same. Meeting an extra hour allows for these learning objectives to be more fully met by providing opportunities for in-depth study of course material and enrichment in terms of knowledge produced. In particular, the extra one-hour meeting allows for students to participate as “the expert” for an extended class session, rather than just facilitating one reading as in the previous 3-credit version. In addition, alongside an increase in required reading and study (see schedule), the expansion to 4 credits provides the opportunities for students to provide suggested readings for week 10. During this last week of class students provide articles for their classmates to read, which help elaborate on key themes of the class or fill a perceived gap in our knowledge base. Finally, the expectation for weekly writing is more robust in the 4-credit class. These changes provide an opportunity for students to better meet the learning objectives as originally set up in the class.

And for WGSS 585, the learning objectives remain the same, but the extra hour of meeting each week will allow for more in-depth discussion of readings materials and assignments. Also, I’ve added three assignments: a critical essay, a review of organizations (an assignment I believe will help students connect theories from the readings to grassroots organizing in transnational contexts, and a brief "contemporary issues" discussion--an opportunity for students to apply what they are learning in class to the world around them, focusing on current events and issues.

We are still somewhat confused about what your concerns are. These three course changes have already been approved, and in addition our graduate major (MA) changes have been approved. Is there something specific to our graduate minor that the committee is concerned about? While I cannot make it on the 29th or the 5th of June, Dr. Susan Shaw is willing to come meet with you on June 5. I’ve copied her here. Any information or clarification you can provide would be appreciated.

Best,
Patti

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