

APPROVED BY SENATE

11/14/2016



## Proposal to the Senate Educational Policy Committee

**PROPOSAL TITLE:** Revise the BALAS in Interdisciplinary Studies- Discontinue American Civilization and Renaissance Studies Concentrations, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

**SPONSOR and COLLEGE CONTACT:** Karen Carney, Associate Dean, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, [kmcarney@illinois.edu](mailto:kmcarney@illinois.edu), 217-333-1350.

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION:** The LAS Interdisciplinary Studies major encompasses several distinct programs that enable undergraduate students to pursue a plan of study that crosses disciplinary boundaries. Originally established as the LAS Humanities major, it was revised and renamed in 2003 as the LAS Interdisciplinary Studies major to include social sciences and other fields as well as humanities disciplines. -Unlike traditional disciplinary majors, this program enables students to pursue a major with a historical or area focus that combines courses from a number of disciplines including literature, language, history and culture. It has also been used as an incubator for emerging programs of study (such as Gender and Women's Studies, which began as a concentration in this major in 2003, before becoming a separate, standalone major in 2008). Currently, the major includes four undergraduate concentrations:

- American Civilization
- Jewish Studies
- Medieval Studies
- Renaissance Studies

Of these, only Jewish Studies (established in 2013) and Medieval Studies (revised in 2014) remain current and viable concentrations; the other two concentrations have not been updated for some time. With this revision, we propose to discontinue the concentrations in American Civilization and Renaissance Studies.

**JUSTIFICATION:** Each concentration of the major in Interdisciplinary Studies is meant to be supervised by faculty members whose scholarship and educational interests have involved them in interdisciplinary teaching and research. The Medieval Studies concentration is overseen by faculty in the Program in Medieval Studies, and Jewish Studies is overseen by faculty in the Program in Jewish Culture and Society. Neither the concentration in American Civilization nor the one in Renaissance Studies has the same level of faculty oversight as these other concentrations.

As of Fall 2015, one student was enrolled in the concentration in Renaissance Studies, and no students were enrolled in the American Civilization concentration. We will work with any current or returning students enrolled in either of these concentrations to enable

them to complete their degrees, but will not admit any new students to either [of the concentrations in](#) American Civilization or Renaissance Studies.

**BUDGETARY AND STAFF IMPLICATIONS:**

1) Resources

- a. How does the unit intend to financially support this proposal?  
No financial support is required to eliminate these two concentrations.
- b. How will the unit create capacity or surplus to appropriately resource this program? If applicable, what functions or programs will the unit no longer support to create capacity?  
No additional resources are required.
- c. Will the unit need to seek campus or other external resources? If so, please provide a summary of the sources and an indication of the approved support.  
No campus or external resources are required.
- d. Please provide a letter of acknowledgment from the college that outlines the financial arrangements for the proposed program.  
Not applicable.

2) Resource Implications

- a. Please address the impact on faculty resources including the changes in numbers of faculty, class size, teaching loads, student-faculty ratios, etc.  
We anticipate no changes in class size, faculty numbers, or teaching loads as a result of this change.
- b. Please address the impact on course enrollment in other units and provide an explanation of discussions with representatives of those units.  
The American Civilization concentration draws on courses in English, in History, and in the College of Fine and Applied Arts; we have obtained letters from each of these units that indicate that the elimination of this concentration is likely to have little to no impact on course enrollments. The Renaissance Studies concentration requires only two Humanities courses, along with coursework chosen in consultation with an adviser, so should have even less impact if it is eliminated.
- c. Please address the impact on the University Library.  
  
Not applicable.
- d. Please address the impact on technology and space (e.g. computer use, laboratory use, equipment, etc.)  
  
Not applicable.

**DESIRED EFFECTIVE DATE:** Upon approval.

## STATEMENT FOR ACADEMIC CATALOG:

# For the Degree of Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts and Sciences

## Major in Sciences and Letters Curriculum

E-mail: [ips@illinois.edu](mailto:ips@illinois.edu)

Minimum required major and supporting course work equates to 45-51 hours.

General education: Students must complete the [Campus General Education](#) requirements.  
Minimum hours required for graduation: 120 hours

Departmental distinction. To be eligible for graduation with distinction, a student must have a college grade point average of 3.5, a major concentration grade point average of 3.5, completion of [HUM 498](#) with a grade of A, and completion of a semester paper in [HUM 498](#) that is judged to be deserving of "distinction" by a committee of at least two faculty members.

High distinction. To be eligible for graduation with high distinction, a student must have a college grade point average of 3.5, a major concentration grade point average of 3.7, and must have completed [HUM 492](#) (instead of [HUM 498](#)) with a grade of A and a thesis in [HUM 492](#) that is judged to be deserving of "high distinction" by a committee of at least two faculty members.

## Requirements for the Major

Elect one of the concentrations offered within the major and file a concentration declaration with the LAS Student Academic Affairs Office no later than the end of the first semester of the junior year. Students who do not begin work on concentration requirements by the junior year will be at a disadvantage.

Select specific courses counted toward completion of a concentration with the advice and approval of the concentration advisor, subject to specific concentration requirements. Students are strongly encouraged also to enroll in 6-7 hours of Western civilization ([HIST 140](#) or [HIST 141](#) and [HIST 142](#) or [HIST 143](#), or [CWL 241](#) and [CWL 242](#)).

For the elected concentration, complete the stated minimum number of hours in courses applicable toward the major and in accord with the distribution requirements listed below; at least 25 hours must be at the 200,300 or 400 level.

All campus General Education and foreign language requirements must be satisfied.

- [American Civilization Concentration](#)
- [Jewish Studies Concentration](#)
- [Medieval Civilization Concentration](#)
- [Renaissance Studies Concentration](#)

## American Civilization Concentration

~~This concentration offers a comprehensive introduction to the study of American civilization primarily through the study of art, history, literature, philosophy, and the social sciences.~~

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~~Two introductory courses chosen with the approval of the concentration advisor; the introductory courses should provide a broad overview of the development of American culture; for example, HUM 141 and HUM 142.~~

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Nine hours selected from the following:		9
<a href="#">ENGL 250</a>	The American Novel to 1914	
<a href="#">ENGL 251</a>	The American Novel Since 1914	
<a href="#">ENGL 255</a>	Survey of American Lit I	
<a href="#">ENGL 259</a>	Afro-American Literature I	
<a href="#">ENGL 260</a>	Afro-American Literature II	
<a href="#">ENGL 449</a>	American Lit 1820-1865	
<a href="#">ENGL 450</a>	American Lit 1865-1914	
<a href="#">ENGL 451</a>	American Lit 1914-1945	
<a href="#">ENGL 462</a>	Topics in Modern Fiction	
Nine hours selected from the following:		9
<a href="#">HIST 270</a>	United States History to 1815	
<a href="#">HIST 271</a>	Nineteenth-Century America	
<a href="#">HIST 272</a>	Twentieth-Century America	
<a href="#">HIST 370</a>	Colonial America	
<a href="#">HIST 371</a>	The American Revolution	
<a href="#">HIST 373</a>	Origins of the Civil War	
<a href="#">HIST 374</a>	Civil War and Reconstruction	
<a href="#">HIST 472</a>	Immigrant America	
<a href="#">HIST 377</a>	United States since 1932	
<a href="#">HIST 376</a>	Soc History Indus Am from 1918	
<a href="#">HIST 479</a>	19thC US Intel & Cultr Hist	
<a href="#">HIST 481</a>	20th-Century US Culture Wars	
Six hours selected from the following:		6
<a href="#">ARCH 415</a>	Neoclass & Nineteen-Cent Arch	
<a href="#">ARCH 416</a>	Modern American Architecture	
<a href="#">ARTH 446</a>	Art Since 1940	
<a href="#">ARTH 350</a>	American Art 1750-1900	
<a href="#">ARTH 351</a>	Early American Modernism	
Select in consultation with the concentration advisor from courses offered in the departments of anthropology, economics, geography, political science, and sociology.		12
<a href="#">HUM 397</a>	Special Topics Junior (An advanced-level course with an American focus may be substituted with the approval of the advisor.)	3
<a href="#">HUM 498</a>	Special Topics Senior	3
Substitutions for any of the above specific courses may be permitted with the approval of the concentration advisor only in exceptional cases.		

~~Twelve hours of 300 and 400 level courses in the major must be taken on this campus.~~

~~All foreign language requirements must be satisfied.~~

~~A Major Plan of Study Form must be completed and submitted to the LAS Student Academic Affairs Office before the end of the fifth semester (60-75 hours). Please see your advisor.~~

## **Renaissance Studies Concentration**

~~This concentration incorporates course work in the Renaissance and related periods and places an emphasis on independent study and the completion of research papers in the junior and senior years.~~

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~~NOTE: Students must acquire a reading knowledge of a foreign language relevant to their interests in Renaissance study, selected in consultation with the concentration advisor. These hours will not count towards the minimum of 45 hours required for this concentration.~~ variable

<del>Renaissance related course work in a single discipline at the 200 to 400 level from among the following: art, history, literature, or music.</del>	<del>15</del>
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<del>Renaissance related course work in the following areas with at least one course in each: art, history, music, philosophy, and literature. At least one of these courses must be in classical literature or culture.</del>	<del>24</del>
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<del><u>HUM 397</u> Special Topics Junior (An advanced level course with a Renaissance focus may be substituted with the approval of the advisor.)</del>	<del>3</del>
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<del><u>HUM 498</u> Special Topics Senior (which will lead to the completion of a significant research paper)</del>	<del>3</del>
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~~Substitution for specific courses listed above will be approved by the concentration advisor only in exceptional cases.~~

~~Twelve hours of 300 and 400 level courses in the major must be taken on this campus.~~

~~All foreign language requirements must be satisfied.~~

~~A Major Plan of Study Form must be completed and submitted to the LAS Student Academic Affairs Office before the end of the fifth semester (60-75 hours). Please see your advisor.~~

## **Jewish Studies Concentration**

The [Program in Jewish Culture & Society](#) sponsors this concentration.

This concentration provides the student with knowledge of the Hebrew language, the opportunity to begin a study of Yiddish, and a broad appreciation of Jewish religion, culture, and history.

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<del><u>JS 199</u></del>	<del>Undergraduate Open Seminar (An Independent Study experience to be arranged with a Jewish Studies affiliated faculty member)</del>	<del>3</del>
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Hebrew and/or Yiddish language courses, including:	26-29
<a href="#">HEBR 201</a> Elementary Modern Hebrew I	
<a href="#">HEBR 202</a> Elementary Modern Hebrew II	
<a href="#">HEBR 403</a> Intermediate Modern Hebrew I	
<a href="#">HEBR 404</a> Intermediate Modern Hebrew II	
<a href="#">HEBR 405</a> Advanced Modern Hebrew I or <a href="#">YDSH 101</a> Beginning Yiddish I	
<a href="#">RLST 205</a> Intensive Biblical Hebrew or <a href="#">HEBR 406</a> Advanced Modern Hebrew II or <a href="#">YDSH 102</a> Beginning Yiddish II	
One course at the 100 or 200 level from each of the following clusters in the Jewish Studies Minor: Religion, Culture, and History. List maintained by the Advisor in the Program in Jewish Culture and Society Office.	9
Three courses at the 300 level or above from any of the four clusters in the Jewish Studies Minor: Religion, Culture, History, and Language. List maintained by the Advisor in the Program in Jewish Culture and Society Office.	9

All substitutions must be approved by the [Advisor in the Program in Jewish Culture and Society Office](#).

Substitution for specific courses listed above will be approved by the concentration advisor only in exceptional cases.

Twelve hours of 300- and 400-level courses in the major must be taken on this campus.

All foreign language requirements must be satisfied.

A Major Plan of Study Form must be completed and submitted to the LAS Student Academic Affairs Office before the end of the fifth semester (60-75 hours). Please see your advisor.

## Medieval Civilization Concentration

The [Program in Medieval Studies](#) sponsors this concentration.

This concentration introduces students to medieval (ca. 500- ca. 1500 CE) cultures across the world, providing them with an understanding of periods and movements, institutions, material culture, ideas, beliefs, and values of the diverse cultures that comprise the medieval globe. The coursework spans both geographic regions and disciplines to introduce students to the breadth of medieval cultures as well as to the diversity of methods and perspectives for their study.

The concentration includes a minimum of 45 hours, divided into (I) an introductory course in global medieval literatures and cultures; (II) geographical distribution coursework as specified below; (III) advanced medieval coursework selected by the student in consultation with a Medieval Studies faculty advisor; and (IV) a capstone experience involving an intensive writing and research project. Because Medieval Studies is an interdisciplinary

field of study, students are urged to consult with a Medieval Studies faculty advisor to ensure that they take a diverse range of courses providing some exposure to the fields of History and Anthropology; Literature; the Arts; and Philosophy or Religion. Although study of medieval languages is not a requirement, students who intend to pursue graduate study in Medieval Studies should complete at least two courses in an appropriate language; up to twelve hours of appropriate language study can be applied to the Additional Medieval Studies Coursework.

<b>Introduction to Medieval Studies <sup>1</sup></b>		
<a href="#">ENGL 202/MDVL 201</a>	Medieval Lit and Culture	3
<b>Geographical Distribution Coursework <sup>2</sup></b>		
Select two of the following (Medieval Europe):		6
<a href="#">ARTH 111/MDVL 222</a>	Ancient to Medieval Art	
<a href="#">ARTH/MDVL 222</a>	Medieval Art	
<a href="#">ARTH/MDVL 231</a>	Northern Renaissance Art	
<a href="#">ITAL/MDVL 240</a>	Italy Middle Ages & Renaiss	
<a href="#">HIST/MDVL 245</a>	Women & Gender Pre-Mod Europe	
<a href="#">HIST/MDVL 247</a>	Medieval Europe	
<a href="#">SCAN/MDVL 251</a>	Viking Mythology	
<a href="#">SCAN/MDVL 252</a>	Viking Sagas in Translation	
<a href="#">HIST/MDVL 255</a>	British Isles to 1688	
<a href="#">ARCH/MDVL 412</a>	Medieval Architecture	
Select two of the following (Classical and medieval East Asia):		6
<a href="#">HIST 220</a>	Traditional China	
<a href="#">HIST 226</a>	Premodern Japanese History	
<a href="#">EALC 240</a>	Chinese Civilization	
<a href="#">EALC 275</a>	Masterpieces of East Asian Lit	
<a href="#">RLST 287</a>	Introduction to Buddhism	
Select two of the following (Medieval Central Asia, South Asia, or the Middle East):		6
<a href="#">HIST 130</a>	History of South Asia	
<a href="#">HIST 135</a>	History of Islamic Middle East	
<a href="#">LA 218</a>	S Asian Cultural Landscapes	
<a href="#">LA 222</a>	Islamic Gardens & Architecture	
<a href="#">RLST 213</a> or <a href="#">RLST 214</a>	Intro to Islam - ACP Introduction to Islam	
<a href="#">RLST 223</a>	The Qur'an (Koran)	
<a href="#">RLST 260</a>	Mystics and Saints in Islam	
<a href="#">RLST 283</a>	Jewish Sacred Literature	
<a href="#">CWL 208</a>	Cultures & Lits of South Asia	

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**Additional Medieval Studies Coursework**

Medieval-related coursework from participating departments selected in consultation with the concentration advisor. At least 12 hours must be at the 300- or 400-level. A list of courses in Medieval Studies is maintained on the Medieval Studies Program website. Up to 12 hours of appropriate language study can be applied to meet this requirement with approval of a Medieval Studies faculty advisor.<sup>3</sup> 21

**Capstone Experience**

A capstone experience (normally in the student's senior year) involving intensive interdisciplinary research and writing on a medieval topic. Any 400-level MDVL course (or medieval-related course not cross-listed with MDVL, with the approval of a Medieval Studies faculty advisor) can be designated as a capstone experience with approval of the instructor. For the course to qualify as a capstone experience, the student must undertake a substantial research project that supplements the standard course requirements, in the form either of an additional project or of a longer and more research-intensive version of an existing course project. The project must involve both primary and secondary research using advanced disciplinary methodologies and resources.<sup>4</sup> 3

**Total Hours** 45

<sup>1</sup> A student may substitute the "Medieval World" section of [HIST 100](#), by petition to a Medieval Studies faculty advisor. Only the section of [HIST 100](#) devoted to the Middle Ages may be substituted.

<sup>2</sup> A student may substitute up to 6 hours in geographical distribution coursework with courses on the medieval civilizations of the Americas: [ANTH 277](#), [ANTH 278](#), or both. However, at least one course must still be taken from each of the three regional areas.

<sup>3</sup> [List of courses to fulfill Additional Medieval Studies Coursework.](#)

<sup>4</sup> A student may also petition to satisfy the capstone experience by enrolling in [MDVL 500](#), Seminar in Medieval Studies. Enrollment requires approval of the instructor and Director of the Program in Medieval Studies.

Substitution for specific courses listed above will be approved by the concentration advisor only in exceptional cases.

Twelve hours of 300- and 400-level courses in the major must be taken on this campus.

All foreign language requirements must be satisfied.

A Major Plan of Study Form must be completed and submitted to the LAS Student Academic Affairs Office before the end of the fifth semester (60-75 hours). Please see your advisor.



**CLEARANCES:**

Signatures:

*Karen M Carney*

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College Representative:

10-3-16

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date:

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

EP.17.23

Office of the Provost and Vice Chancellor  
for Academic Affairs

Swanlund Administration Building  
601 East John Street  
Champaign, IL 61820



October 4, 2016

Bettina Francis, Chair  
Senate Committee on Educational Policy  
Office of the Senate  
228 English Building, MC-461

Dear Professor Francis:

Enclosed is a copy of a proposal from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences to revise the BALAS in Interdisciplinary Studies (discontinuing American Civilization and Renaissance Studies Concentrations).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading 'Kathryn A. Martensen'.

Kathryn A. Martensen  
Assistant Provost

Enclosures

c: K. Carney  
A. Elli

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences  
Office of the Dean

2090 Lincoln Hall  
702 S. Wright Street, MC-448  
Urbana, IL 61801



October 3, 2016

Kathryn Martensen  
Associate Provost  
Office of the Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs  
207 Swanlund Administration Building  
MC-304

Dear Kathy:

The Committee on Courses and Curricula on behalf of the Faculty of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences has voted to approve the following proposal:

**Revise the BALAS in Interdisciplinary Studies- Discontinue American Civilization and Renaissance Studies Concentrations**

Please address all correspondence concerning this proposal to me. This proposal is now ready for review by the Senate Educational Policy Committee for proposed implementation in Fall 2017.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen M. Carney". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Karen M. Carney  
Associate Dean

enclosure