Proposal to Change a Course

NOTE: All gray text boxes must be completed (even if you just put N/A into them), otherwise the committee must consider the form incomplete.

1. Department: Communication

2. Course Number and Title: COMM 214: Media in the Digital Age

3. Semester and year when the course change(s) will go into effect: Fall 2010

4. Change(s) Desired (Note: if more than 2 items listed under “Typical changes handled by this form” in Guidelines for Planning to Change a Course, then a New Course form must be completed):

   New Title: Media in the Digital Age

   Delete the ENGL 101 and 102 prerequisite courses.

   New Catalog Description: Theories of mature and emerging communication media, with emphasis on their development, functions, ethical implications, and legal status. Personal media and mass media are considered.

5. Justification for Change(s):

   This course change proposal is required because the Department of Communication wishes to change the name, course description, and general-education status of COMM 214, a course taught in COMM since the mid-1980s. Multiple sections of COMM 214 are offered in every semester. These modifications are required to update the catalog entry for this disciplinary course.

   COMM 214 is a required course for students in the media studies concentration of the communication major. COMM 214 can be taken by any COMM major or minor to fulfill major elective requirements. As an introductory course in theories of media, this course is an essential gateway to many upper-division courses in communication and is a suitable elective for any communication student. In its present form, the course already attracts non-major students who are interested in this subject matter. The new course title and description reflect changes we have already made to our instructional practice and aligns the catalog description with contemporary pedagogy and course content.

   The current COMM 214 lists ENGL 101 and 102 as prerequisite courses. These courses no longer exist. The ENGL 101 and 102 prerequisites responded to the pedagogy used in COMM 214 when the original course description was approved in the mid-1980s. The departmental faculty see no need to retain a prerequisite for this introductory course.

This form was approved by FCC on 2/17/2009 and replaces all others.
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6. Is this course to be added to the Degree Requirements of a Major, Minor, Concentration or List of Approved Electives?
   a) ☐ yes  ☒ no

   b) If yes, complete the Change Degree Requirements form(s) and list the name(s) of the major, minor, concentration and/or list of approved electives here:
      n/a

7. Is the course part of any other degree or program? Please consult the most up to date undergraduate catalog and search for uses of the course to see who should be contacted. If yes, what department/program? Please contact the department chair/program director and request a note or email that they are aware of the proposed change and include that note with the proposal.

No, this course is not part of any other degree or program.

The revised COMM 214 title will replace the current COMM 214 title in all places where the course already is listed as fulfilling major or minor requirements in communication. We understand that no separate major- or minor-change proposals are required in this case.
Proposal for a New Course

14. Signature of Department Chair or Program Director:

Date: 9/23/99

15. Signature of Dean of School:

Date: 9/25/99

16. Signature of Provost:

Date: 

17. Signature of Business Affairs Official

Date: 

18. Signature of Curriculum Committee Chair

Date: 1/9/99

19. Signature of Faculty Senate Secretary:

Date Approved by Senate: 

Completed form should be sent by the Faculty Senate Secretary to the Registrar. After implementation, information concerning the passed course and program changes will be provided by the Registrar to all faculty and staff on campus.
MEMORANDUM

TO: Dr. Cynthia Lowenthal, Dean  
School of Humanities and Social Sciences

FROM: Dr. Brian R. McGee, Chair

DATE: September 23, 2009

SUBJECT: Course Change and Deletion Proposals

Attached are proposals to delete an undergraduate course (COMM 330: Advanced Oral Interpretation) and to change a course (COMM 214: Mass Media). Because the changes to COMM 214 are substantive, a new course proposal is required.

The deletion of COMM 330 from our major description, minor description, and course inventory is a response to a strategic decision made several years ago. While many communication programs support instruction in this area, we have decided we will not offer advanced courses in oral interpretation. We need to focus our resources in other areas.

The changes proposed here to COMM 214 will make the course description consistent with the contemporary media environment. In addition, these changes will eliminate references to the now-defunct ENGL 101 and 102 as course prerequisites. Finally, these changes would include the long-delayed inclusion of COMM 214 among courses meeting general-education requirements in the social sciences.

These proposals address short-term needs and are separate from the comprehensive curricular reforms on which our department continues to work.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns about these proposals. Thanks as always for your support of our department.