To: Committee on Educational Programs
Fr: David Hess, Director, Program in Environmental and Sustainability Studies
Da: January 27, 2017

The Committee for the Program in Environmental and Sustainability Studies met on January 26, 2017, when it reviewed a proposal for a catalog change in the requirements for the minor in Environmental and Sustainability Studies. The change involves one sentence. This proposal was reviewed by Jonathan Bremer prior to submission.

Rationale:
As program director, I advise all minors, and I have noticed that it would be better for the students to have more flexibility in making course selections. First, students are finding it difficult to make two humanities courses (B list courses as described below) fit into their schedules because there are very few courses at the upper level. Second, some of the students have asked for this change to give them more flexibility to follow their thematic interests across B and C list courses. Third, study-abroad courses can often be classified as either B or C list courses (see definitions below), and it would be easier to put them into a third category on the degree audit rather than having to move them from one category to another. These changes will give the students more flexibility and save me and the registrar’s office time by reducing variances. The change has no implications for resources, and it maintains the same standards for the minor.

Vote:
We discussed the proposal at the meeting, and those present voted unanimously in favor of the proposal. Present at the meeting were Teresa Goddu (American Studies), David Hess (Sociology), Dan Morgan (EES), Betsey Robinson (History of Art), and Alistair Sponsel (History). The remaining members of the committee were not present at the meeting but cast a ballot in absentia: Brooke Ackerly (Political Science), Joe Bandy (Center for Teaching), Jim Clarke (Engineering), Beth Conklin (Anthropology), Jim Fraser (Peabody), Cecilia Tichy (English), and David Wood (Philosophy). These seven votes were also in favor of the proposal. The final tally was 12 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions.

Proposed change:
Existing sentence: Courses must be distributed as follows: one science and technology-intensive course (A); two humanities courses (B); two social-behavioral and policy-intensive courses (C); and a capstone course.
New copy: Courses must be distributed as follows: (A) one science- and technology-intensive course; (B) one humanities course; (C) one social-behavioral and policy-intensive course; two additional courses from B and/or C; and a capstone course.

Edited version of old copy (deleted with strikethrough) and new copy (underlined): Courses must be distributed as follows: (A) one science- and technology intensive course; (B) two one humanities courses; (C) two one social-behavioral and policy-intensive courses; two additional courses from B and/or C; and a capstone course.

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Sustainability Studies

Director David Hess

HUMAN beings and their societies necessarily interact with and alter the Earth’s natural environment. The environmental and sustainability studies minor allows the student to examine human interaction with the environment from the perspectives of the humanities and social sciences with some exposure to the environmental sciences and/or environmental engineering.

NOTE: New course numbers took effect in fall 2015. Former course numbers are included in course descriptions in this catalog and at this website: registrar.vanderbilt.edu/faculty/course-renumbering/course-lookup/.

Minor in Environmental and Sustainability Studies

Students who want to minor in environmental and sustainability studies must take a minimum of six courses (18 credit hours total) chosen from the courses listed below; additional relevant courses may be counted with approval of the director of the program. Courses must be distributed as follows: (A) one Natural Science- and Technology-intensive course (BA); (B) one two Humanities course; (C) one two Social-Behavioral Sciences and Policy-intensive courses (C); (D) two additional courses from B and/or C; and (E) a capstone course. No more than two courses may be at the 1000 level. In addition, no more than 3 credit hours may be counted simultaneously toward both the environmental and sustainability studies minor and any other major or minor. Topics courses may count toward the minor with approval of the director.

A) Natural Science- and Technology-Intensive Courses: BSCI 1103, BSCI 2238, BSCI 2238L, BSCI 3233, EES 1030, EES 1070, EES 1080, EES 1111*, EES 1510, EES 1510L, EES 2110, EES 2150, EES 3220, EES 3220W, EES 4650, EES 4680, EES 4750, EES 4760, EES 4820, ENVE 3610, ENVE 3611, ENVE 3612, ENVE
B) Humanities Courses: AMER 1111*, AMER 4000*, AMER 4100*, ANTH 3138, ENGL 2316/2316W*, ENGL 3720/3720W*, ENGL 3730, ENGL 3898/3898W*, HART 3240W, HART 2782, HIST 1470, HIST 1480, HIST 1520, PHIL 1111*, PHIL 3611, PHIL 3612, RLST 2472, RLST 3921, WGS 2268, WGS 2270

C) Social-Behavioral Sciences and Policy Intensive Courses: ANTH 1111*, ANTH 2109, ANTH 2227, ANTH 3138, ANTH 3261, ANTH 3629, ANTH 4154, ECON 2170, HOD 3212, HOD 3890*, PSCI 3253*, PSY 1111*, SOC 1020/1020W*, SOC 1111*, SOC 3311, SOC 3312, SOC 3313, SOC 3314, SOC 3315, SOC 3316, SOC 3317, SOC 3318, SOC 3321, WGS 1111*

D) Two additional courses from lists B and/or C above.

ED) Capstone: ENVS 4101 for minors only
*Special topic and First-Year Writing Seminar sections require the approval of the director of the environmental and sustainability studies minor to count in the minor.

Complete existing catalog copy:

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