

**School of Humanities and Social Sciences**  
**Curriculum Committee**  
**Summary of Activities, Spring 2015**  
**Prepared by Ashley Borders (chair)**

As chair of the HSS curriculum committee, it is my pleasure to report the committee's decisions for this past semester. This report, as well as the charge of the committee, can be found on the HSS website: <https://hss.tcnj.edu/curriculum/>. Please note that Michael Marino will chair this committee in 2015-2016.

**Committee members:** Ashley Borders (Psychology faculty, Committee Curriculum Chair), Mindi McMann (English faculty), Regina Morin, (WLC faculty), Holly Didi-Ogren (WLC faculty), Michael Marino (History faculty), Dan Bowen (Political Science faculty), Emily Reyes (Political Science student), Christopher Minitelli (History student), Cecilia Colbeth (WGS and Philosophy, Religion and Classical Studies), Rosa Zagari-Marinzoli (Assistant Dean of HSS, *ex officio* member).

**New courses approved:**

1. **PSY355-Power Oppression and Privilege.** Psychology of Power, Oppression, and Privilege is designed to be a specialized course for the Social Specialization within the Psychology major. This course provides an in-depth coverage of psychology topics, including stereotyping, prejudice and privilege, discrimination and advantage, intergroup relations, attributions, social influence, personal self-esteem and collective self-esteem. In addition, this course provides further opportunities for students to develop their writing, speaking, and presentation skills.
2. **PHL/REL/CLS 330 - Mind-Body Connections: Eastern and Western.** One of the major issues that both Western and Eastern philosophy tackle is the relationship of the mind to the body, and the inner perception of the world to the reality of what is or might be outside it. Which of these entities does or should take precedence in human life and the governing of human affairs? In both philosophies, the body is often devalued as a base and unreliable aspect of humanity, to be surpassed and dominated by the mind or spirit. In this course we will trace the history of this attitude at the same time as conducting our own experiment on the subject through the practices of yoga and meditation. In this way we will discover more deeply our own experience of the connection of our minds to our bodies and the ways in which it participates in and/or diverges from traditional philosophical attitudes.
3. **LIT/CMP 337 - Postcolonial and Anglophone Literature.** This course studies Anglophone literature in the wake of decolonization. With a focus on works produced in or about former European colonies, as well as an emphasis on postcolonial theory, this course equips students to think critically about the intersections between western and non-western traditions, imperialism, and globalization. Students will study fiction, poetry, drama, non-fiction, and/or film from at least two different postcolonial sites such as Nigeria, the Caribbean, Australia, India, etc.

4. **CRI 307 - Geospatial Analysis of Crime.** Where and when do events cluster? Where do special populations reside? What is the relationship between events and the places in which they occur? These questions and more are addressed in a new course. The goal of this course is to introduce students to the theoretical and practical aspects of geospatial analysis using the industry-wide standard software package, ArcGIS. Within a lab instructional setting, this course will equip students with the best-practice techniques to address the myriad of geospatial problems encountered by researchers and practitioners, demonstrate how these tools can be used to guide decision-making, and review the ethical and practical limitations of geospatial data. While the course will focus specifically on the analysis of crime data and problems, the tools can be applied in any of the social sciences.
5. **SOC 314 – Food, Culture, and Society.** Food is among the most essential elements of our daily life yet can also be one of the most revealing constituents of social processes and social structure. In this course, students will examine the multi-faceted role of food through readings, films, discussions, and shared experiences. This course will scrutinize the many dimensions and contexts of the production, distribution, and consumption of food. Topics will include food's role in personal, cultural and social identity; the political economy and ecology of the production and distribution of food; the relationship of the consumption of food to geography, culture, history, and stratification; the role of food-related mass media and consumerism in body image, health and wellness; and the ethics of eating.

**New majors/minors/programs approved:**

6. **Major in African American Studies (AAS).** In both its mission and aspirations, TCNJ commits itself to fostering a “diverse community of learners” of those who “seek to sustain and advance the communities in which they live.” The proposed program in AAS supports these ideals by providing students with the analytic tools, knowledge and experiences vital to understanding, illuminating and responding constructively to the myriad consequences of historical and contemporary manifestations of race, slavery and colonialism in Africa and its diaspora. AAS takes the stories and experiences of people of African descent as a lens for examining intersections among local, national, global, cultural, political, and historical conditions. Majors in AAS will follow a developmental arc that (1) demonstrates a foundational knowledge in African American history, the formation of racial and ethnic differences, and sources of inequalities in the United States; (2) synthesizes their understanding of race, inequality and power in local and global contexts, and expands their knowledge of the experiences of people in the African diaspora; and (3) applies their knowledge in a final research project. Students will acquire and demonstrate competence in a range of research methods employed in the humanities and social sciences.
7. **Major in Journalism and Professional Writing (JPW).** Currently, students studying Journalism and Professional Writing (JPW) are coded as participating in the English BA-03 academic plan within the English department (as opposed to English BA-01, English Liberal Arts, and English BA-02, English Secondary Education); since transformation in 2003, courses in Journalism and Professional Writing have also had their own JPW prefix.

These students receive a degree in English. We, the faculty in JPW, believe our students will be better served by earning a degree in JPW. Therefore, with the support and approval of our colleagues in the English Department, we propose to establish a new Bachelor of Arts degree program in JPW with the existing English BA-03 curriculum. The Bachelor of Arts degree in JPW is intended for undergraduate students who wish to pursue careers in news media, magazines, digital media and publishing. The skills taught in this major also are well suited for students interested in careers in business and not-for-profit entities, especially when they involve communications and social media. The program relies primarily on a variety of existing resources at TCNJ and its media partners.

8. **Spanish track in the 7-year medical program.** The Spanish section of the WLC Department decided to request the addition of a Spanish track to the 7 year medical program housed in the Department of Biology. There are currently nine approved majors for this program (Biology, Chemistry, English, Philosophy, Physics, Economics, Biomedical Engineering, Mathematics and History). In order to facilitate our students' timely completion of this program, we propose reduce the number of courses that we require for our other Spanish major tracks (BA and Spanish-Secondary Ed). Instead of taking 12 courses, with 5 at the Intermediate level, Medical students will need to complete 11, with 4 at the Intermediate level and 6 at the Advanced level, plus the capstone. These students will also be required to take SPA 219-Medical Spanish as a 300-level Topics course -with additional, higher-level projects and assignments.

**Revised majors/minors/programs approved:**

9. **Revised minor in Italian Studies** – The Department of World Languages and Cultures is proposing to modify the existing minor in Italian to follow the model of the Russian Studies Minor, with the goal of attracting more students to the minor and taking advantage of already-existing courses. The revised minor in Italian Studies will include additional courses in Italian literature, film, art, history, and society (some of which may be taught in English).
10. **Revised minor in German Studies** – The Department of World Languages and Cultures is proposing to modify the existing minor in German to follow the model of the Russian Studies Minor, with the goal of attracting more students to the minor and taking advantage of already-existing courses. The revised minor in German Studies will include additional courses in German literature, film, art, history, and society (some of which may be taught in English).
11. **Revised minor in English Liberal Arts.** The current minor in English Liberal Arts, which has existed in its current format since transformation, does not serve its target population as effectively as it could. Nor are its current requirements a good match for the description of the minor. The English Department Curriculum Committee and the English Department believe that “offer[ing] students an opportunity to explore literature written in English” requires neither a capstone (LIT 499) nor a specific foundation course (LIT 201), the goals of which meet the very different goals of the English Liberal Arts Major. The new undergraduate bulletin copy would read: English Liberal Arts Minor:

The English minor is designed to offer students an opportunity to explore literature written in English (including translations from other languages). Students may complement literature courses with creative writing and/or English language courses. Required courses: Any one of: LIT 200/Introduction to Poetry, LIT 201/Approaches to Literature\*, or LIT 202/Cultures and Canons. Four elective courses in LIT, LNG, or CWR – 200-level or above. Total 5 course units. \*The prerequisite of LIT 200 is waived for minors who wish to enroll in LIT 201.

12. **Revised major in International Studies.** The International Studies Core Committee would like to propose several minor changes to the International Studies major. The main changes involve minor revision of the six specializations within the major, as well as the addition of three new specializations (African Studies, Chinese Studies, and Global Health, Development, and Environment). We would also like to revise the wording of the major's language requirement, and also clarify that students may only count 1 100-level course toward the major.

**Courses/proposals not approved:**

13. **JPW327/IMM 3XX - Social Media Strategies.** In this class, students will acquire a theoretical and practical grasp of the business, design, ethical and legal considerations involved in creating a social media-based information service. Students will create personal blogs, apps or social media initiatives around areas of personal and professional interest, and measure their impact.  
*Committee not ready to approve. Returned to instructor/department for revisions.*