



The College of
WILLIAM & MARY

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To: International Studies Curriculum and Academic Policy Committee (ISCAPC)
From: Laurie Koloski, Assistant Professor of History and Chair, European Studies CFAC
Re: Annual report for the European Studies CFAC
Date: April 17, 2005

Dear Members of the ISCAPC Committee:

This will serve as the annual report of the European Studies Concentration Faculty Advisory Committee (CFAC), which I chair. All faculty who teach ES-related courses are welcome to join the CFAC. Among the most active CFAC members are Tuska Benes (history), Bruce Campbell (MLL), Fred Corney (history), Bill Hutton (classics), Rob Leventhal (MLL), Giulia Pacini (MLL), Paula Pickering (government), and Sibel Zandi-Sayek (art history).

The European Studies major is a relatively small one. I don't have the exact figures, but the information I've received from the Reves Center for International Studies suggests we have about 10 graduating ES majors.

Our first task this year was to **revive the European Studies CFAC**, which had been inactive for years. A group of interested faculty began meeting this past January, and in just a few months, we have evaluated and made substantial changes to the major. We are also beginning work on an interdisciplinary core course for current and potential ES majors. Our long-term goals include drawing more students to the major, creating a capstone course at the senior level, establishing closer links between ES majors and our overseas studies programs, supporting ES-related guest speakers and extra-curricular activities, and securing new appointments in ES-related fields.

Our most difficult and time-consuming task has been **evaluating and updating the existing ES major**, which no longer reflected actual courses on offer or teaching strengths/weaknesses at the College. Changes to the major have included streamlining the core courses in history/art history and government, eliminating economics courses as a requirement (virtually no ES-relevant economics courses are offered), altering the language/literature/culture requirements (easing the requirements for the second language and requiring that students fill the required credits for the first language with literature and culture rather than advanced language courses), and cutting the required independent study, which we do not have the staff to cover. We have also completely overhauled the major's course lists. As you know, we submitted our proposal for changes to the ES major to the ISCAPC, which approved the changes on March 14. EPC then approved the changes on March 31, so the new major will go into effect this fall.

Beyond evaluating and updating the ES major, we have been working to **improve faculty advising to ES majors**. Only active members of the CFAC will be involved in advising students, to ensure that students receive accurate information about the major (which, with courses from at least ten

contributing departments and nine language sections, is quite complex). In addition, under the new major, students who wish to declare an ES major must identify a topical, geographic, or chronological focus in consultation with their advisor. We're also working on an advising handbook, which will be distributed to all advisors.

This May, six CFAC members will take part in a **two-week May seminar to create an interdisciplinary core course** for the major. The course will function as a touchstone course, bringing together current and potential ES majors, introducing them to central issues and approaches, and providing a concentration cohort. Aimed primarily at sophomores, it will be taught at the 200 level. Introducing students to the different methodologies associated with cultural studies, historical interpretation, literary analysis, and the social sciences is one of our key goals, and thus the course will be team taught by three faculty members and will feature guest lectures on a variety of topics. It will balance historical perspectives with an awareness of contemporary concerns and applications, and will include a research component. We anticipate 45-60 students per semester, with students attending one or two group lectures per week and an additional one or two small-group discussion sections with individual instructors. We expect to have the core course in place by the fall of 2006 and hope to offer it every semester thereafter. It will be a required part of the major.

I'll be happy to forward a description of the revised ES major, our May seminar proposal for the core course, or any other additional information you might wish to see. I look forward to discussing the ES CFAC and major at the ISCAPC meeting on April 25.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie Koloski