December 7, 2016

MEMORANDUM

TO: Bonnie Thornton Dill
   Dean, College of Arts and Humanities

FROM: Elizabeth Beise
       Associate Provost for Academic Planning and Programs

SUBJECT: Proposal to Modify the Master of Arts in English Language and Literature (PCC Log. No. 16015)

The proposal to modify the Master of Arts in English Language and Literature has been administratively approved. A copy of the proposal is attached.

The change is effective Spring 2017. Please ensure that the change is fully described in the Graduate Catalog and in all relevant descriptive materials.

MDC/
Enclosure

cc: Andrew Harris, Chair, Senate PCC Committee
    Barbara Gill, Office of Enrollment Management
    Reka Montfort, University Senate
    Chip Denman, Division of Information Technology
    Pam Phillips, Institutional Research, Planning and Assessment
    Anne Turkos, University Archives
    Linda Yokoi, Office of the Registrar
    Alex Chen, Graduate School
    Alene Moyer, College of Arts and Humanities
    Amanda Bailey, English
Program: ENGL MA Concentration in literature

Department/Unit: English

College/School: ARHU

Proposal Contact Person (with email): Ralph Bauer bauerr@umd.edu

Type of Action (check one):
- [x] Curriculum change (includes modifying minors, concentrations/specializations and creating informal specializations)
- [ ] Curriculum change is for an LEP Program
- [ ] Rename a program or formal Area of Concentration
- [ ] Establish/Discontinue a formal Area of Concentration
- [ ] Other:

New Professional Studies program will be administered by Office of Extended Studies

[Italics indicate that the proposal must be presented to the full University Senate for consideration.]

Approval Signatures - Please print name, sign, and date. For proposals requiring multiple unit approvals, please use additional cover sheet(s).

1. Department Committee Chair
   Ralph Bauer 9/12/2016

2. Department Chair
   Amanda Bailey 9/19/2016

3. College/School PCC Chair
   Mehl A. Penrose 9/19/2016

4. Dean
   Alene Moyer 9/19/2016

5. Dean of the Graduate School (if required) 6/30/11

6. Chair, Senate PCC
   Andrew Harris 1/4/11

7. University Senate Chair (if required)
   Elizabeth Sebic 12/1/2016

8. Senior Vice President and Provost

Instructions:
When approved by the dean of the college or school, please send the proposal and signed form to the Office of the Associate Provost for Academic Planning and Programs, 1119 Main Administration Building, Campus-5031, and email the proposal document as an MSWord attachment to pcc-submissions@umd.edu.

Summary of Proposed Action (use additional sheet if necessary):

Unit Code(s) (to be entered by the Office of Academic Planning and Programs):
Proposal to change distribution requirement for the MA in English with a concentration in literature.

(A) Rationale:

(1) In recent years, the study of literary history has increasingly taken a transnational and global turn; yet our old MA distribution requirement emphasized national boundaries between British and American literature, regardless of the facts that both are predominantly written in English and that much of the literature written in English today is written not only in the United Kingdom or the United States but also in the postcolonial world, including Australia, South Asia, and Africa. Rather than emphasize distinct national literary traditions, the new distribution requirement emphasizes historical depth of all literature written in English, which, our Graduate Studies Committee determined, was our primary goal for having a distribution requirement for the MA program with a concentration in literature.

(2) In addition, the conflation of seventeenth- and eighteenth-century literature in our current distribution requirement no longer corresponds with the way in which the profession (i.e. the Modern Language Association of America) periodizes literary history written in English. There, “Early Modern” literature includes literature written between ca. 1500 and ca. 1650, while the adjacent field is designated “Restoration and Eighteenth-Century” literature. As this period may also include Romantic literature (trespassing into the nineteenth century), this period is now often called “The Long Eighteenth Century.” Generally speaking, periods in literary history do not always neatly correspond with centuries. Therefore, we propose to adopt the now current designation of the fields “The long Eighteenth” and “The Long Nineteenth” century.

(3) On a more practical level, the old distribution requirement—in particular the requirement in “Medieval or Sixteenth Century” literature—has often proved difficult to administer, as we do not often offer courses in Medieval literature, and the courses with sixteenth-century content are, more often than not, taught as “Early Modern” (or Renaissance) courses, including some sixteenth-century but primarily seventeenth-century content. As a result, we’ve often had to make special exceptions in allowing students to satisfy this requirement by taking an Independent Studies course (ENGL.699) specifically in Medieval or sixteenth-century literature, even though it is our policy to require that these distribution requirements are satisfied by regular 600- or 700-level courses. Possibly, the old distribution requirement stems from a time when our department was better endowed with faculty specializing in Medieval literature or when courses in Medieval literature were offered more frequently than they have been in recent years. However the case may be, the new distribution requirement (“Medieval and Early Modern”) better corresponds with how our department’s area group in this field (“Medieval and Renaissance”) identifies itself and with the proposals for Graduate courses that the department typically receives from faculty in this area. This is also reflected in the creation, a few years ago, of a Graduate School Field Committee in Medieval and Early Modern Studies (MEM-UM), which includes Medievalists and Early Modernists specializing in both sixteenth- and seventeenth-century literature.

(B) Advising: this change will not have any effect on current advising practices. Incoming students will be advised according to the new distribution requirement; current students who began the program under the old distribution requirement will have a choice of completing the MA
program under the old or the new distribution requirement.

(C) Resources: As explained under (A), the new distribution requirement better corresponds with our faculty resources than does the old distribution requirement. With a full-time faculty of thirteen in the area group in Medieval and Renaissance literature we have a traditional strength in this field. While we offer at least one course in this field every semester (sometimes even two, one on the 600-level and one on the 700-level), rarely do we offer a course that is confined to either Medieval or sixteenth-century literature. Nor will the requirement in "The Long Eighteenth Century" present a challenge with regard to resources, as we currently offer at least one course in the Long Eighteenth Century every year (including courses in British Restoration, Enlightenment, and Romantic literature, as well as Eighteenth-Century American literature). Finally, the abandonment of national designations will provide more flexibility in the use of faculty resources. In short, this change will not require any additional resources. On the contrary, it will make better use of the resources that we have.

(D) Side-by-Side comparison of current and proposed distribution requirement (changes in bold):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current</th>
<th>Proposed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. English 601, Literary Research and Critical Contexts, or English 602, Critical Theory and Literary Criticism (3 credits)</td>
<td>1. English 601, Literary Research and Critical Context, or English 602, Critical Theory and Literary Criticism (3 credits)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. One course in Critical Theory, Genre, or Rhetoric (3 credits)</td>
<td>2. One course in Critical Theory, Genre, or Rhetoric (3 credits)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. One course in each of the following (12 credits):</td>
<td>3. One course in each of the following areas in the history of literature written in English (12 credits):</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a) Medieval or Sixteenth-Century British literatures</td>
<td>a) Medieval and/or Early Modern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b) 17th- or 18th-century British and Colonial literatures</td>
<td>b) the long eighteenth century</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c) 19th- or 20th-century British, Commonwealth, and Post-Colonial literatures</td>
<td>c) the long nineteenth century</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d) American literatures to 1865 or American literatures from 1865 to the present</td>
<td>d) modern and contemporary</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>