

STANDARD GRADUATE MINOR APPROVAL FORM

Title of the proposed minor: Queer Studies

Sponsoring unit(s): Department of Gender and Women's Studies

Date: November 4, 2011

Provide a brief description of the program of study. In particular, please explain how the proposed graduate minor requires some depth in the subject, but not as extensive as the requirements of the major.

Gender and Women's Studies (GWS) is an interdisciplinary academic department that coordinates a wide range of research, teaching and public service activities emphasizing intersectional approaches to the study of gender, race, class, ethnicity, and sexuality in national and transnational contexts.

This proposal seeks approval of a new graduate minor in Gender and Women's Studies called Queer Studies.

Justification

As an internationally renowned university, Illinois is now at a juncture to lead graduate training by supporting the first Queer Studies graduate minor in the country. As a growing department, Gender and Women's Studies intends to expand its training and support of graduate students, and the Queer Studies graduate minor is a stepping-stone to the goal of offering an interdisciplinary PhD. This proposed minor, along with the current Graduate Minor in Gender and Women's Studies, places Illinois not only among its peer institutions, but also as a leader in the field.

The Queer Studies graduate minor offers students a versatile interdisciplinary framework to complement and strengthen research in their chosen field of study and gain expertise in the field of queer studies. The new Queer Studies graduate minor will not only reflect current scholarship in the field, but will also meet students' needs for credentials in a growing interdisciplinary field of research that has wide implications for research in the humanities, social sciences, arts, education, and law.

Queer Studies has a genealogy related to but not dependent upon the field of Women's Studies. Similar to the relationship between the Department of English, the Center for Writing Studies, and the Program in Comparative and World Literature, Gender and Women's Studies and Queer Studies are distinct yet complementary. They are not subsets of the other, yet there is overlap. Faculty currently publish work in journals and book series devoted to Queer Studies, as well as attend a multitude of scholarly conferences centered upon this field.

According to Siobhan Somerville's entry in *Keywords for American Cultural Studies* (2007) "the use of the word 'queer' in academic and political contexts beginning in the late 1980s represented an attempt to reclaim this stigmatizing word." Queer became useful as "a term that calls into question the stability of any categories of identity based on sexual orientation." Furthermore, "to

‘queer’ becomes a way to denaturalize categories such as ‘lesbian’ and ‘gay’ (not to mention ‘straight’ and ‘heterosexual’).” Thus, “queer” signifies an intellectual, theoretical, and pedagogical approach for graduate education, beyond that of LGBT/Q (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer) studies, which is more focused upon identity formation. Thus, the commitment to Queer Studies at the graduate level represents nuanced intellectual, political and academic arguments that are tremendously useful to many students in fields such as Anthropology, English, Communication or Comparative and World Literature, for example (See Appendix B for letters of support).

Establishing a Queer Studies Graduate Minor would put GWS and the University of Illinois at the forefront of graduate education in this field. Peer institutions in the Ivy League, University of California system, and Big Ten offer graduate training in gender studies as well as sexuality studies (See Appendix C). The University of Michigan offers a certificate, the equivalent of a minor here, in Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer (LGBTQ) Studies.

A Queer Studies graduate minor will institutionalize the work already being done on campus, and serve as a tool for recruiting more faculty and graduate students with interests in the field. The University of Illinois is at a fortuitous juncture where acclaimed faculty across departments and disciplines contribute nationally and internationally to this dynamic field. Here at UIUC, three recent winners of the Conrad Humanities Professorial Scholar Award have been queer studies scholars: Martin Manalansan, Ricky Rodriguez, and Siobhan Somerville. Meanwhile, Jodi Byrd was just awarded the Helen Corley Petit Professorship during her promotion from the assistant to associate rank. In terms of publishing, Martin Manalansan's *Global Divas* is a best seller at Duke University Press. Other scholars on campus include Jose Capino in English, Dara Goldman in Spanish, Italian and Portuguese, Matti Bunzl, Virginia Dominguez and Jane Desmond in Anthropology, Jennifer Monson in Dance, and Chantal Nadeau, Cris Mayo, Stephanie Foote, Fiona Ngo, and Mimi Nguyen in GWS. Queer Studies has broad interdisciplinary range across our campus and across GWS core faculty and affiliates that includes a particularly strong focus on “queer-of-color critique,” an emergent interdisciplinary enterprise that links queer theory and race and ethnic studies. One would expect to find this caliber of scholarship on the coasts or in a metropolitan area, but the confluence is happening here on the Illinois prairie instead. The university is poised at an opportune moment to take advantage of the phenomenal work being produced by these individuals, and become a leader in the field.

In addition, the Graduate College has supported a community of scholars in queer studies by funding the 2011-2012 Focal Point Grant “Race, Region and Sexual Diasporas” to investigate and produce new scholarship on “region” and “regionalism” in the field of queer studies. Consisting of four faculty members and ten Ph.D. students, the Focal Point group established a biweekly reading group, a visiting speaker series, and coordinated two conferences: “Queering the Middle: Sexual Diasporas, Race and a Queer Midwest” (Fall 2010) and “(Dis)Locating Queer: Race, Region, and Sexual Diasporas” (Spring 2011).

Requirements:

The Queer Studies Minor requires 3 courses, for a total of 12 hours:

- 1) GWS 580 Queer Theories & Methods (4 hours)
- 2) GWS 581 Topics in Queer Studies (4 hours)
- 3) One additional 400 or 500-level course in queer studies (4 hours). The GWS Advisor will maintain a list of approved courses (see Appendix A). GWS 581 may be repeated for credit under different topics as this additional course. A practicum or independent study in Gender and Women's Studies may also serve as the additional course.

In addition to the minor requirements, students must also complete the requirements of their major degree. The major department determines which and how many minor hours may also be applied to the major degree.

For the doctoral minor only: The Gender and Women's Studies Department wants to support students in their doctoral research. It is recommended that, whenever possible, doctoral students pursuing a graduate minor in Queer Studies receive guidance on their dissertation topic, resources, and methodology from a Gender and Women's Studies faculty member (or faculty affiliate) with expertise in queer studies.

Prerequisites for the minor: Describe the prerequisites (if any) for the proposed minor. How will enrollment in courses required for the minor be managed? If the department intends to limit enrollment in the minor, explain how this will be done.

There are no prerequisites, other than graduate standing. Students have been enrolling in the graduate minor in Gender and Women's Studies since 1994, and there has never been a need to limit enrollment. We do not plan to limit enrollment for the minor at this time.

Expected enrollment in the minor: What is the total number of students expected in the minor once it achieves its full enrollment?

Based on current enrollments in GWS 580 Queer Theory, which has been offered regularly over the past several years, we anticipate that 6-10 graduate students per year will enroll in the graduate minor in Queer Studies. We estimate a total of 30-40 students working on the graduate minor in Queer Studies during any given year.

Admission to the minor: Describe the admission process, including the procedure for obtaining approval from the student's adviser and graduate program director. What is the position of the person within the department who will monitor the admission process for the minor?

The department requires a formal application, including a personal statement about how the student's graduate work and/or research interests intersect with queer studies. Students must also have the signed approval of the graduate director of their program. The Gender and Women's Studies advisor accepts applications and confirms acceptance into the graduate minor program.

Minor adviser: What is the position of the person within the department who will be assigned responsibility for advising students enrolled in the minor?

The Gender and Women's Studies advisor advises graduate students enrolled in the minor regarding requirements and available courses. For substantive advising, students will work with one or more Gender and Women's Studies faculty members or faculty affiliates with expertise in the students' areas of interest.

Certification of successful completion: What system has been set up within the sponsoring unit for certifying successful completion of the minor?

The Gender and Women's Studies advisor monitors student progress and confirms when students have completed the required coursework for the graduate minor. Students completing the graduate minor must submit a petition to the Graduate College prior to graduation requesting the addition of the Graduate Minor in Queer Studies to their academic record.

Budgetary and staff implications: What, if any

- Additional staff and dollars are needed?
- Internal reallocations are necessary (e.g., change in class size, teaching loads, student-faculty ratio, and so forth)?
- Effect will there be on course enrollment in other departments and what discussions have taken place with representatives of those departments?
- Impact will there be on library, computer use, laboratory use, equipment, and so forth?

*** Additional staff and dollars:**

No additional staff or funding will be required.

*** Internal reallocations:**

The GWS program will create a new standing course, GWS 581 Topics in Queer Studies that will be offered each year.

*** Effect on course enrollment in other departments**

There may be a slight increase in enrollments in queer studies-related courses in other departments (2-3 students per year), but we do not expect significant changes.

*** Impact on library, etc.:**

We do not anticipate any significant impact on library, computer, laboratory, or other resources. See the attached letter from the University Library.

Proposed Effective Date: Fall 2013

Statement for the catalog:

Gender and Women's Studies

www.gws.illinois.edu

Department Chair: Chantal Nadeau

Program Office: 911 South Sixth Street, Champaign, (217) 333-2990

Graduate Minor: Queer Studies

The graduate minor in Queer Studies offers students the opportunity to gain expertise in queer theory and methodology as part of their graduate degree work. The graduate minor in queer studies offers students a versatile interdisciplinary framework to complement and strengthen their research and pedagogy in their chosen field of study. Please see our website for more information, www.gws.illinois.edu/.

Admission

Applicants must be in good academic standing in a graduate or professional program at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. The Department requires a formal application, including a personal statement about how the student's graduate work and/or research interests intersect with queer studies. Students must also have the signed approval of the graduate director of their program.

| Hours | Requirements |
|-------|---|
| 4 | GWS 580 Queer Theories & Methods |
| 4 | GWS 581 Topics in Queer Studies |
| 4 | One additional 400 or 500 level course selected from a list of approved courses maintained in the department office by the GWS Advisor. An independent study in GWS may, with the approval of the GWS Advisor, also serve as the additional course. |
| 12 | Total hours |

In addition to the minor requirements, students must also complete the requirements of their major degree. Please contact your department for more information. For the Graduate Minor in Queer Studies to appear on the academic transcript, the student must successfully petition the Graduate College to add the Graduate Minor in Queer Studies to their academic records.

It is recommended that doctoral students receive guidance on their dissertation topic, resources, and methodology from a Gender and Women's Studies faculty (or faculty affiliate) advisor in addition to their departmental dissertation adviser.

Appendix A: Examples of Additional Coursework for the Queer Studies Minor

The GWS Advisor will maintain a list of approved courses.

GWS 459 Postcolonial/Queer

GWS 465 Race, Sex, and Deviance

GWS 467 Locating Queer Cultures

GWS 470 Trans Bodies & Politics

GWS 478 Sex, Power and Politics

GWS 485 The Politics of Fashion

HIST/GWS 501 Prob in Comp Women's Hist (Fall 2012: History of Sexuality)

ANTH/GWS 508 Feminism, Gender and Sexuality

EPS/GWS 540 Intersectional Pedagogies

EPS/GWS 545 Sexualities in Education (pending approval)

AAS/ GWS 561 Race and Cultural Critique

ENGL 563 Themes & Movements (Spring 2012: Queer of Color Critique)

GWS 575 Transnational Feminisms (pending review)

GWS 580 Topics in GWS

GWS 581 Topic in Queer Studies (repeatable)

Appendix B: Letters of Support

- 1) Andrew Orta, Department of Anthropology
- 2) David Tewksbury, Department of Communication
- 3) Curtis Perry, Department of English
- 4) Wail S. Hassan, Program in Comparative and World Literature
- 5) Angharad N. Valdivia, Institute of Communications Research
- 6) Dana Rabin, Director of Graduate Studies, History
- 7) Chancellor's Committee on LGBT Concerns
- 8) Peter Campbell, Graduate Student, Department of Communication
- 9) Jean Lee, Graduate Student, Department of English
- 10) Mel Stanfill, Graduate Student, Institute for Communications Research

Appendix C: Peer Institutions and Programs

UIUC is one of seven CIC institutions (i.e., “Big Ten”) offering a graduate minor in a field related to feminist, gender and/or sexuality studies. (We currently offer a grad minor in Gender and Women’s Studies.) The other institutions include:

- Indiana U (grad minor in Gender Studies)
- University of Minnesota (grad minor in Feminist and Critical Sexuality)
- U of Nebraska-Lincoln (grad minor in Women’s and Gender Studies)
- Ohio State (grad minor in Women’s, Gender and Sexuality Studies)
- Penn State (grad minor in Women’s Studies)
- Purdue (grad minor in Women’s Studies)
- U of Wisconsin-Madison (grad minor in Gender & Women’s Studies)

By offering a graduate minor in Queer Studies, we would be the first of the CIC institutions to do so.

Among institutions that offer a graduate minors or certificates explicitly related to sexuality studies, it is worth noting that most combine gender and sexuality studies. These include:

- University of Chicago (graduate certificate in Gender and Sexuality Studies)
- University of Iowa (graduate certificate in Gender, Women, and Sexuality Studies)
- University of Minnesota (graduate minor in Feminist and Critical Sexuality)
- Northwestern University (graduate certificate in Gender & Sexuality Studies)
- Ohio State (graduate minor in Women’s, Gender and Sexuality Studies)

Only one other CIC institution distinguishes between Women’s Studies and LGBTQ studies in graduate degree offerings:

- University of Michigan
 - Graduate Certificate in Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer (LGBTQ) Studies
 - Graduate Certificate in Women’s Studies

The Ivies include:


- Harvard (grad minor in Women and Gender Studies)
- Yale (grad minor in Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies)
- Cornell (grad minor in Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Studies, grad minor in Feminist, Gender, and Sexuality Studies)
- U Penn (grad minor in Gender, Sexuality, & Women’s Studies)
- Princeton (grad minor in Gender and Sexuality Studies)
- Columbia (grad minor in Feminist Scholarship)

The UCs include:

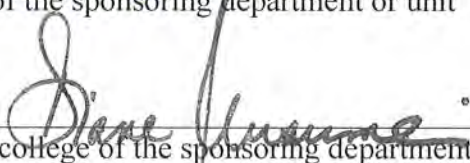
- Irvine (grad minor in Feminist Studies, interdisciplinary PhD in Culture and Theory)
- Santa Barbara (MA/PhD in Feminist, Gender, or Women’s Studies, “gender and sexualities” as one of three concentrations)

Berkeley (grad minor in Women, Gender, and Sexuality)
Santa Cruz (grad minor in Feminist Studies)
Los Angeles (grad minor and PhD in Women's Studies)
Davis (grad minor in Feminist Theory and Research)

CLEARANCES:



Head/chair of the sponsoring department or unit 04/10/12
Date



Dean of the college of the sponsoring department or unit 7/11/12
Date



Assoc. Dean of the Graduate College 11/19/12
Date

Chair, Senate Educational Policy Committee Date

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Department of Anthropology
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
304 Dave Spahr Hall, MC-118
602 South Mathews Avenue
Urbana, IL 61821



March 1, 2012

Professor Chantal Nadeau, Chair
Department of Gender and Women's Studies
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
911 S. Sixth Street (MC-494)
Champaign, IL 61820

Dear Professor Nadeau,

I am writing to express the support of the Department of Anthropology for the Graduate Minor in Queer Studies being proposed by the Department of Gender and Women's Studies. With six of our faculty formally affiliated with the Department of Gender and Women's Studies, and a significant concentration of our graduate students engaged in research addressing themes of sexuality and gender, we have little doubt that this proposed Minor will play an important role in the training of our graduate students in the interdisciplinary field of Queer Studies.

Our graduate curriculum includes a seminar rubric addressing "Feminism, Gender and Sexuality" (ANTH 508), which, along with other course offerings dealing with topics ranging from performance studies, to anthropologies to the body, to histories of social theory intersects with the discipline of Queer Studies. However, even for students taking these classes and/or working directly with faculty such as Professors Manalansan or Bunzl, whose work contributes directly to the field, we often recommend coursework beyond our department to enable students to develop a more complete grounding in the specific interdisciplinary history, methods and current directions of the discipline of Queer Studies. The minor you are proposing will provide precisely the framework our students need. In addition to the two GWS courses you require, the elective option for the third course should help generate a robust set of relevant graduate courses in units from across our campus. Anthropology looks forward to participating by recommending your Minor to our students and proposing some of our graduate courses as candidates for your "approved courses" list.

I hope that this endorsement of your proposal helps to strengthen this very promising initiative for our campus. If I can provide any additional information regarding our support for this Graduate Minor, please let me know.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Orta', written over a white background.

Andrew Orta
Associate Professor and Head

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT URBANA - CHAMPAIGN

Department of Communication
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
1207 West Oregon Street
Urbana, IL 61801



February 28, 2012

Chantal Nadeau, Chair
Department of Gender and Women's Studies
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
911 S. Sixth Street
Champaign, IL 61820

Dear Chantal,

Thank you for taking the time recently to discuss your proposal for a Queer Studies graduate minor. Sexuality studies is a growing area of research in rhetoric, communication, and related fields. Within mass communication research, for example, researchers are developing and applying a new set of theories for understanding the relationship between sexuality, popular culture, and social systems. Queer theory and its intellectual counterparts play an increasingly important role in research that explores how human sexuality is understood, socially bound, and communicated.

In sum, the Department of Communication supports the creation of a Graduate Minor in Queer Studies. Again, thank you for talking with me about this. If we may be of any assistance, please let me know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Tewksbury', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

David Tewksbury
Department Head
Associate Professor
Department of Communication



DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH
Curtis Perry, Head

608 South Wright Street
Urbana, Illinois 61801
phone: 217-333-2390
fax: 217-333-4321
email: cperry@illinois.edu

February 29, 2012

To whom it may concern,

I am writing, in my capacity as Head of English, to express support for the Graduate Minor in Queer Studies being proposed by GWS. There are several faculty members in English who have done important work in this field, and I would anticipate that we would, at any given time, have several PhD students whose work might benefit from the opportunity to pursue the proposed minor.

Queer studies, as a field of scholarly inquiry, has been going strong for at least a quarter century (I remember what a revelation some early pieces in my own field were when I was an advanced PhD student). Just as feminist scholarship routinely looks beyond biological gender to the literally countless ways that gender operates within ideology and expressive culture, so queer theory engages with the whole gamut of ways in which discourses concerning normative sexuality and desire operate within culture. And since ideas associated with gender and sexuality basically permeate all areas of culture and discourse, it should not be surprising that queer studies by now has established scholarly connections with literally every possible sub-field in English. I would venture to guess that the same might be said of any scholarly area with a cultural-studies aspect.

In my own field (early modern English literature) it has been a nothing short of a revelation during my own professional lifetime to discover the associations between discourses of normative and deviant sexuality and discourses about other varieties of socio-political order. Though my own research is primarily concerned with political thought I have myself written substantially about the political content of plays, poems and pamphlets thematizing threats to sexual normativity in the Elizabethan/Jacobean period. This semester, in a sophomore-level survey of early British literature I taught my students how to make literary/political sense out of what looks like gay-baiting in a 12th-century poem by Marie de France; I would simply not have been able to do that without the last quarter-century of work in queer studies and the history of sexuality. If you extrapolate from my own personal testimony, you will see that the kinds of critical approaches developed within queer studies are by now integral to cultural studies as a pan-humanistic scholarly endeavor. And I believe that every single job search I have ever been involved with in any field in English has had top candidates who approached the primary scholarly field (early modern literature, say, or African American literature, or Writing Studies) through lenses provided by queer studies. By extension, a graduate minor can be a valuable asset to those among our own PhD students who wish to do the same kinds of work.

In the previous paragraphs I have tried to explain the intellectual/scholarly basis for my support of this proposal. There is a practical/administrative basis as well, however: I believe that a graduate minor in queer studies will help encourage some English graduate students to look beyond the department for faculty to help them with their work. One of the important challenges facing English and other allied humanities units in the coming years will be to increase collaborative graduate education and so share capacity and maximize the benefit of faculty expertise across the college. As I have indicated, English has some faculty who work in queer studies, but the existence of this minor will help reinforce the point that there are also faculty members in other departments who have something to offer our students working on related projects.

I hope that this letter proves helpful. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Perry', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Curtis Perry
Professor and Dept. Head

From: "Nadeau, Chantal" <nadch@illinois.edu>
Subject: Fwd: Graduate Minor in Queer Studies
Date: February 28, 2012 6:56:53 PM CST
To: "Vostral, Sharra L" <vostral@illinois.edu>

FYI

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Hassan, Wail Seddiq" <whassan@illinois.edu>
Date: February 28, 2012 6:50:31 PM CST
To: "Nadeau, Chantal" <nadch@illinois.edu>
Cc: "Mathy, Jean-Philippe R" <jmathy@illinois.edu>, "Kahn, Jacquelyn Sue" <jskahn@illinois.edu>
Subject: Graduate Minor in Queer Studies

February 28, 2012

Chantal Nadeau
Chair
Department of Gender and Women's Studies

Dear Chantal:

The Program in Comparative and World Literature strongly supports your initiative to create a graduate minor in Queer Studies. Since the early 1970's, queer theory has benefitted from the contribution of by prominent scholars such as Michel Foucault, Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick, Judith Butler, Judith Halberstam, Lauren Berlant, and Michael Warner, among others, which have made this dynamic field a part of the landscape of contemporary literary and cultural theory. By some accounts, over forty colleges and universities, including Harvard (which now also has an endowed chair in the area), Yale, the University of Chicago, NYU, Berkeley, and UCLA now offer graduate and undergraduate degree programs in Queer Studies. Your proposed graduate minor in this area would, therefore, be of great value to our graduate students, some of whom already works in it, and a new strength that would help us recruit brilliant students to our Program. Thank you for your efforts in this regard.

Sincerely,

Wail S. Hassan
Associate Professor and Acting Director
Program in Comparative and World Literature
Affiliate in: Centers for African, Global, Latin American and Caribbean, South Asian and Middle Eastern, and Translation Studies;
Dept. of English; Unit for Criticism and Interpretive Theory

Recent books:

<http://www.oup.com/us/catalog/general/subject/LiteratureEnglish/WorldLiterature/?view=usa&ci=9780199792061>
<http://www.amazon.com/Approaches-Teaching-Naguib-Mahfouz-Literature/dp/1603291091>

Mailing Address:
Comparative & World Literature
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
707 S. Mathews Ave.
Urbana, IL 61801
USA

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Institute of Communications Research

College of Media
228 Gregory Hall, MC-463
810 S. Wright St.
Urbana, IL 61801



March 5, 2012
Chantal Nadeau
Head, GWS

Dear Chantal:

I am writing as the Interim Director of the Institute of Communications Research [ICR] to express my strongest possible support for the GWS proposed graduate minor in Queer Studies. This area of studies is of increasing importance to our broad ranging field. We have on faculty Professor Cole who has been teaching a course on Queer Studies on and off for the past fifteen years. Accordingly we also have a number of ongoing and incoming doctoral students who specialize or minor in Queer Studies. Many of our doctoral students are currently enrolled in the Queer Studies course taught by Professor Richard Rodriguez. As well many of our doctoral seminars—for example, Feminist Media Studies [MDIA 560] and Proseminar II [MDIA 572] include Queer Studies as a part of the course. In the former Queer Studies composes 25% of the course matter and in the latter Queer Studies is incorporated as one of the many intersectional areas in the study of communications and media.

From the perspective of ICR, Queer Studies is an important part of our field and that of many other disciplines and interdisciplines. As we send our former students into the job market, having this minor officially included in their transcripts would be an asset as they compete for academic positions. We would be delighted to contribute to this minor both in students as well as in faculty.

Very truly yours,

Angharad N. Valdivia
Head, Media and Cinema Studies
Interim Director, Institute of Communications Research

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Department of History

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
309 Gregory Hall, MC-466
810 South Wright Street
Urbana, IL 61801



March 8, 2012

Professor Chantal Nadeau
Chair, Gender and Women's Studies
University of Illinois

Dear Professor Nadeau,

I write to express the support of the Department of History for your proposal to create a graduate minor in Queer Studies. Faculty on the department's Graduate Studies Committee have discussed the proposal and are enthusiastic at the prospect of being able to direct our students to this important campus initiative. Given the faculty interest and expertise in History around questions of sexuality, the body and related domains of inquiry, we are especially pleased to be able to support your proposal for a minor in Queer Studies, which will draw History graduate students into interdisciplinary study of content and method in this emergent and dynamic field. We foresee that our students who take a field in Comparative Gender or those with an interest in histories of sexuality, race and transnational history will pursue a minor in Queer Studies and welcome the opportunity to participate in both GWS 580, "Queer Theories and Methods" and GWS 581 "Topics in Queer Studies." These are arguably indispensable to any graduate student seeking expertise in cultural, social, political and even global history. We are eager to participate in this initiative by including relevant courses offered by History in the minor and by welcoming into these courses minors from across campus. A sample of the courses that we currently offer that are relevant to the proposed Queer Studies minor includes:

History 459 Postcolonial/Queer
History 502 Problems in Comparative History (depending on topic)
History 591 History and Social Theory

Please note that in AY 2012-2013 we will offer both History of Sexuality and History of Masculinity under the History 502 rubric.

We wish you success in securing approval for the minor. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you need any further information.

Sincerely,



Dana Rabin
Associate Professor
Director of Graduate Studies



ILLINOIS
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Chancellor's Committee on LGBT Concerns
Leslie K. Morrow, Co-Chair
Siobhan Somerville, Co-Chair

March 15, 2012

Chantal Nadeau, Chair
Gender and Women's Studies Department
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
911 S. Sixth Street, MC-494
Champaign, IL 61820

Dear Professor Nadeau,

On behalf of the Chancellor's Committee on LGBT Concerns, we are pleased to write in support of the proposed graduate minor in Queer Studies submitted by the Gender and Women's Studies Department.

Comprised of faculty, staff, and students from across the UIUC campus, our committee has been asked by the Chancellor to "provide advice and leadership on LGBT issues both for the LGBT Resource Center and the Urbana campus community." While our committee is not directly involved in creating curricula, we have been asked to "address the needs of faculty, staff and students of diverse sexual orientations and gender identities to help ensure a campus environment that allows full participation by all members of the campus community in our education, research and public engagement missions."

Given our commitment to these issues, we see the development of a graduate minor in Queer Studies as a very positive step forward for the campus as a whole. By adding the Queer Studies graduate minor, GWS is expanding its graduate curriculum to provide training in a cutting-edge field of interdisciplinary research that is applicable to multiple fields on our campus. The new graduate minor would also bring visibility to the fact that the UIUC faculty includes a number nationally recognized scholars in the interdisciplinary field of queer studies, working across fields such as Anthropology, Asian American Studies, Education, English, Latina/Latino Studies, and Media and Cinema Studies. The GWS Department successfully added an undergraduate minor in LGBT/Q studies several years ago, to which students have responded very favorably. Anecdotally, we have heard from some students for whom the LGBT/Q minor tipped the scales in favor of their decision to attend UIUC. The new graduate minor would align the GWS graduate curriculum with the areas already represented in the undergraduate minor and potentially draw new graduate

students to UIUC.

We enthusiastically support the GWS proposal for a Queer Studies graduate minor, which will benefit the campus by expanding the curriculum and creating new opportunities for students and faculty. We encourage you to approve this new degree program as an important step forward in the research and teaching mission of the University.

Sincerely,



Leslie K. Morrow
Director, LGBT Resource Office
Co-Chair, Chancellor's Committee on LGBT Concerns



Siobhan B. Somerville
Associate Professor, English / Gender & Women's Studies
Conrad Humanities Scholar
Co-Chair, Chancellor's Committee on LGBT Concerns

Peter Odell Campbell
Ph.D. Candidate and Teaching Assistant
Departments of Communication &
Gender and Women's Studies
1207 W. Oregon Street
Urbana, IL 61801
pcampbe3@illinois.edu

Chantal Nadeau
Professor and Chair
Department of Gender and Women's Studies
911 S. 6th Street
Champaign, IL 61820

March 14, 2012

Professor Nadeau,

I write in support of the Gender and Women's Studies (GWS) Curriculum Committee Proposal to add a Queer Studies Minor to the existing graduate minor certification programs in Gender and Women's Studies.

When I began my career as a Masters and Ph.D. student in the Department of Communication at Illinois, Gender and Women's Studies was one of the first locations I looked to for resources outside of my department, that could complement and support my work in my "home" field of study.

I study the role that judicial arguments about due process and equal protection have in producing and limiting possibilities for queer lives and politics in the United States. Much of my work in Gender and Women's Studies, however, is primarily interested in issues of queer and queer of color identity and politics in the law. While my minor certification will read "Gender and Women's Studies," I am one of many graduate students—present and future—for whom an opportunity to earn a minor certification in "Queer Studies" would be more appropriate, and particularly useful in terms of future professional opportunities.

A minor in "Queer Studies" within GWS will also do great work to recognize the vibrant queer scholarly community on campus. I have never experienced a community of this kind before, either in my undergraduate studies at a liberal arts college, or in MA and Ph.D. work outside of GWS at Illinois. Queer scholarly community on campus is deeply interconnected with the life and work of the Department of Gender and Women's Studies, and is consistently recognized by students and faculty outside our discipline as a uniquely attractive feature of academic life at Illinois.

When graduate students from around the country attended the GWS Queer Studies Reading Group Graduate Student Symposium that served as the capstone for the Focal

Point Project on Race, Region, and Sexual Diasporas, each of them expressed admiration for the level of enthusiastic, serious, and interdisciplinary queer scholarship at Illinois. I cannot emphasize enough that this work right now occurs within and because of the program in Gender and Women's Studies. Adding a "Queer Studies" minor will only give a name to the significant work and energy already being put into queer studies within—and because of—GWS.

I do not exaggerate when I say that GWS is one of the best reasons I can think of for graduate students engaged in critical humanistic inquiry to come to Illinois, and the "Queer Studies" minor proposal will do great work to strengthen this appeal.

Sincerely,

Peter Odell Campbell

Jean Lee
Ph.D. Student
Department of English
608 S. Wright Street
Urbana, IL 61801

March 13, 2012

Dear Director Nadeau,

I am writing to strongly support the institution of a "Queer Studies" minor within the Gender and Women's Studies Department.

Firstly, I would like to thank the department for creating a space in which queer studies can be taught and learned. However, from both personal and professional experience, I believe it is important to see the field of queer studies be recognized as distinct from Gender and Women's Studies, yet also maintain that the former be nested within the latter due to their historical and academic relationships. It would be a great boon to have a separate minor that acknowledges that queer studies, while having its provenance in gay and lesbian studies, and feminism movements, is differently crucially because its focus lies not on sexual identity or affirmation of identity, per say, but on the "queering" of institutional norms and monolithic ideas. For that reason, its critical engagement surpasses identity politics, and provides radical ways of unsettling the status quo. To be reduced to focusing only on gender, or women's studies effaces these differences and political potentials.

Also a PhD student in the English Department, what affects me personally also bespeaks my professional development, and vice versa. I cannot stress enough how empowering and essential my studies in queer theory with Dr. Somerville and Dr. Nadeau have been to how I engaged with the complexity of identity, race, gender, sexuality and nationalism in postcolonial Caribbean literature. For instance, instead of stopping at critiquing literature to see how gender or sexuality are represented, I am able to reconsider how racial categories, national narratives, political economies and indigenous presences often queer the normative mythos of the region, and how this speaks to the precarious, rich and fluid positionality of postcoloniality. In particular, dialoguing racial formations with queer theory has pushed me to expand my critique from sexual subjects, to larger networks of power that speak back to transnational economies and histories. This has been the largest personal and professional gift I have discovered from queer theory.

In conclusion, I am eager to see queer studies be recognized as a field within Gender and Women's History; housing it any other space would be highly problematic. Also, by offering a minor in queer studies, it will be a crucial step towards institutionalizing this field of study in general, as well as asserting this University's support for its work.

Sincerely,

Jean Lee
Department of English

Mel Stanfill
Ph.D. Candidate
College of Media
Institute of Communications Research
119 Gregory Hall
810 S. Wright Street
Urbana, IL 61801

Chantal Nadeau
Professor and Chair
Department of Gender and Women's Studies
911 S. 6th Street
Champaign, IL 61820

Dear Professor Nadeau,

As a graduate student in Media and Gender and Women's Studies, I strongly support the addition of a Queer Studies minor in GWS. Though Queer Studies builds on feminism, gender studies, and women's studies, it is a distinct analytic approach and research tradition with its own strengths. The University of Illinois has the opportunity to set itself apart by recognizing that. Much of the important work being done in GWS at the U of I right now (by faculty and grad students) has a strong sexuality component, which the current naming elides. Creating a distinct Queer Studies minor would allow that to be foregrounded while maintaining the current attention given to issues of women and gender in the GWS graduate minor.

Sincerely,

Mel Stanfill

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT URBANA - CHAMPAIGN

EP.13.19

Office of the Provost and Vice Chancellor
for Academic Affairs

Swanlund Administration Building
601 East John Street
Champaign, IL 61820



December 3, 2012

Gay Miller, Chair
Senate Committee on Educational Policy
Office of the Senate
228 English Building, MC-461

Dear Professor Miller:

Enclosed is a copy of a proposal from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences to establish a new graduate minor in Queer Studies.

This proposal has been approved by the Graduate College Executive Committee and the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences Courses and Curriculum Committee. It now requires Senate review.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kristi A. Kuntz".

Kristi A. Kuntz
Assistant Provost

KAK/njh

Enclosures

c: K. Carney
A. Golato
M. Lowry
C. Nadeau

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Graduate College

204 Coble Hall
801 South Wright Street
Champaign, IL 61820-6210



Executive Committee

November 19, 2012

2012-2013 Members

Debasish Dutta, *Chair*

Kristi Kuntz
Office of the Provost
207 Swanlund MC-304

Members

Barry Ackerson

David Ceperley

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Kent Choquette

Jennifer Cole

Brooke Elliott

Susan Garnscy

David Hays

Christine Jenkins

Ashleigh Jones

Tina Mattila

Ramona Oswald

Yoon Pak

Joseph Rosenblatt

Alex Winter-Nelson

Assata Zerai

Dear Kristi,

Enclosed is the proposal entitled "Establish a New Graduate Minor in Gender & Women's Studies called Queer Studies." The Graduate College Executive Committee has approved this proposal. I send it to you now for further review.

Sincerely,

Andrea Golato
Associate Dean, Graduate College

c: K. Carney
M. Lowry
C. Nadeau