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STANDARD GRADUATE MINOR APPROVAL FORM

Title of the proposed minor: Graduate Minor in Balkan Studies

Sponsoring unit(s): Russian, East European, and Eurasian Center (REEEC)

Date: 3 February 2006

Description of the program of study:

The Graduate Minor in Balkan Studies is designed to accompany work in a regular discipline. It is intended for students with the baccalaureate degree who are enrolled in disciplinary M.A. or Ph.D. programs at the University of Illinois who wish at the same time to develop systematic, interdisciplinary knowledge of the Balkans. The minor's purpose is to document a student's interdisciplinary engagement with the area as well as enough language study to be able to work in the region.

Requirements:

1. Language requirement: A minimum of two years college-level study of a language of the area or equivalent, including but not limited to Albanian, Bulgarian, modern Greek, Hungarian, Macedonian, Romani, Romanian, Serbian or Croatian, Slovene, Turkish, and Yiddish. For professional work in the region or scholarly research on area topics at least three years of relevant language study are recommended.
2. Area course work requirements: At least 16 graduate hours concerning the Balkans, including LIS 530, Slavic Bibliography (4 hours): 12 hours must be outside of the student's enrolling department; 8 hours must be at the 500-course level. With approval from the director of graduate studies, partial credit may be given for a course that partly covers the region.
3. A research paper primarily on the Balkans. Normally, this paper would be written in a research seminar in a disciplinary department. A master's thesis or doctoral dissertation can be submitted in lieu of the research paper, if it deals primarily with the region. Students are encouraged to present their work in a public forum at the University, such as the REEEC Noontime Scholars lecture series.

Prerequisites for the minor:

There are no prerequisites for the graduate minor. At this time the Center does not foresee a need to limit enrollment in the minor nor should there be a substantial impact on enrollment in required courses, based on the number of students who pursued the former Russian and East European Studies Graduate Certificate program. Because this is an interdisciplinary minor, electives satisfying the course requirements are taught across campus by faculty who have a formal relationship with the Center.

Expected enrollment in the minor:

Enrollment will most likely not exceed ten students at any given time.

Admission to the minor:

Any student admitted to a Graduate College M.A. or Ph.D. program may apply for the Balkan Studies minor. A student may also apply for and complete the Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies minor concurrently; however, LIS 530 is the only course that is allowed to count toward the course requirements for both minors.

Admission to the Balkan Studies minor and progress toward its completion will be monitored by the assistant to the director.

Minor adviser:

The Center director serves as the director of graduate studies and adviser for the M.A. program. This individual as well as the assistant to the director will serve as advisers for students in the Balkan Studies minor.

Certification of successful completion:

As with the current M.A. degree and undergraduate major and minor, the assistant to the director will be responsible for certifying that the requirements for the graduate minor in Balkan Studies have been met.

Budgetary and staff implications:

- Additional staff and dollars needed:
None. The University of Illinois has become the premier interdisciplinary Balkan studies program in the country. Although it exists as faculty in diverse departments, the Russian, East European, and Eurasian Center provides these faculty with a formal body through which to offer an interdisciplinary minor.
- Internal reallocations:
The primary effect will be an increase in students for the director to advise.
- Effect on course enrollment in other departments and discussions with representatives of those departments:
The number of students should increase over time, but this should not be a burden for the Center or have noticeable impact on course enrollments. The minor may result in enhanced recruitment for disciplinary departments of graduate students with an interest in the Balkans; however, those departments' recruiting policies would ensure that numbers are not excessive. The proposed minor was discussed and approved at the REEEC Faculty Assembly, which includes faculty from across campus, at the end of the 2003–2004 academic year. Further modifications were discussed and approved by the REEEC Executive Committee, which includes members from the Departments of Political Science, History, Library and Information Science, Law, Music, and Slavic Languages and Literature.
- Impact on library, computer use, laboratory use, equipment, etc.:
There should be no noticeable impact on University resources. Although the Slavic and East European Library could see an increase in use, the Slavic Reference Service librarian and library assistants are funded by grant funds provided by the Center.

Statement for the catalog: Provide a brief statement for the program catalog.

Graduate Minor in Balkan Studies: The Balkan Studies graduate minor is designed for M.A. or Ph.D. students in other disciplines who desire to complement their degree program with interdisciplinary study of the Balkans. Students interested in pursuing the minor must have a minimum of two years of college-level study of a language of the region (e.g., Albanian, Bulgarian, modern Greek, Hungarian, Macedonian, Romani, Romanian, Serbian or Croatian, Slovene, Turkish, Yiddish). Requirements for the minor include LIS 530 (Slavic Bibliography) and 16 graduate hours of coursework (8 hours at the 500-level) that relates to the Balkans, 12 hours of which must be taken outside the student's enrolling department. Students must also submit a research paper primarily on the Balkans. A program of study can be tailored to the needs and interests of the individual student in consultation with Center staff; for admission to the program contact the Center.

Email: reec@uiuc.edu

<http://www.reec.uiuc.edu/academics/graduate.html>

Proposed effective date: Fall 2006

CLEARANCES:

Head/chair of the sponsoring department or unit Donna A. Buchana

Date 3/24/2005

Dean of the college of the sponsoring department or unit Ann Dwyer

Date 5/24/05

Dean of the Graduate College _____

Date _____

Chair, Senate Educational Policy Committee _____

Date _____