Review of Food, Culture and Social Justice Proposals

What we are asked to consider

There are two proposals to establish (1) a graduate **minor** and (2) a **graduate certificate** in Food Culture, and Social Justice. Comments specific to each follow general comments about both the proposals.

General comments

1. Significant concerns are raised in the liaison communications, not all of which are addressed, especially for the certificate program.

2. Liaison comments are co-mingled between minor and certificate. Concerns are different for each one and hence review of each of the above proposals (one a Cat II and the other is a Cat I) is made difficult.

Food, Culture, and Social Justice Graduate Minor

Definition of a graduate minor

(http://oregonstate.edu/ap/curriculum/policies.html#38)

“A graduate minor is an academic area that clearly supports the major. It consists of a group of related courses totaling at least 15 credits in a specific topical area. On a master’s or doctoral program, a minor may be:

- an academic area available only as a minor,
- a different major,
- the same major with a different area of concentration,
- an approved major at another institution in the Oregon University System, or
- an integrated minor. An integrated minor consists of a series of cognate courses from two or more areas. These courses must be outside the major area of concentration, with most of the courses being outside the major department. The graduate faculty member representing the integrated minor must be from outside the major department.

Although the courses in a graduate minor may be from more than one academic department, one academic unit/program must be responsible for directing the minor. Necessary facilities and faculty expertise to support the minor must be available. For a graduate minor to appear on a student’s official academic record and transcript, the minor must be listed on the student's approved degree program.”

Process: Needs a cat II

Graduate Minor Comments and Observations

- A minor in Food, Culture and Social Justice is proposed. There is no major in this field, and according to the curriculum guidelines this is fine.
- However, minors should be in “clear support of the major” (see guidelines) and it’s not clear which majors would be interested in taking this minor. Liaison emails suggest that the Nutrition and Exercise Sciences Department students might choose this minor, but the faculty in this Department had several issues with the proposal. Students in Applied Anthropology (originators of this proposal) may also wish to take this minor. In this context, it is important to list the
prerequisites for the proposed courses—these are hard to find in the catalog and from the information provided (see table below).

- At least 15 credits in a specific topical area are required for a minor for Masters’ students and 18 credits for PhD students. Table 1 below lists the courses proposed. Concerns include:
  - Only 5 courses + 1 project blanket course are provided in the minor (not much choice of courses). Another course (XX 599 Introduction to Food Systems: Global, Regional and Local) seems to have been proposed from reading the liaison emails, but is not listed in the minor.
  - Only one of these courses is a stand-alone graduate level course (Research methods in food culture and social justice). When the xx599 course is counted the number of stand-alone courses is two, which is still quite low.
  - Was addition of Social Justice an afterthought? The original proposal title reads “Food and Culture.”

Food, Culture and Social Justice Graduate Certificate

Definition of a graduate certificate

The Graduate Certificate Program at Oregon State University is a structured progression of graduate-level courses that constitute a coherent body of study with a defined focus within a single discipline or a logical combination of disciplines. It is designed for a student who has completed a baccalaureate degree and is in pursuit of advanced-level learning. Students desiring a graduate certificate must be admitted to the university as a credential-seeking graduate student, but are not required to be on track for a specific degree. There is no formal committee requirement for graduate certificates. Certificate students are subject to all general policies governing the courses for the master's degree.

The graduate certificate curriculum consists of a minimum of 18 graduate credits, and may include a final project, portfolio, or report for integration of the sequence of course materials. All graduate student programs of study submitted to the Graduate School must consist of, at a minimum, 50 percent graduate stand-alone courses. The remaining credits may be the 500 component of 400/500 slash courses. No final examination is required.

Process: Needs a Cat I proposal

Comments and Observations

- Note that this is not a stand-alone certificate and must be taken in conjunction with a “degree program”—assumption is that the degree program being referred to is a graduate degree program. The originators of the proposal made this change at a later stage and the proposal was resubmitted. This change is critical in answering the “need” question. Since the certificate is not a stand-alone, it will only be seen as added value to students who are majoring in other areas and obtain this certificate along the way. If the “degree program” that is being referred to is an undergraduate degree program, then there still is the issue of demand for this certificate among potential employers that needs to be addressed (but not by the grad council).
- What is the need for a certificate if you can get a minor? Who would choose a minor vs. certificate and why? Numbers need to be shown for how many would choose a minor vs. a certificate.
- Significant concerns are raised in the liaison communications with respect to the weak scientific/technical content of the certificate. A course has been added to address some of the comments, although it is not clear that a Category II proposal has been submitted for that course (it will be offered by another College). Another fix to address this issue is to have this certificate be taken in conjunction with a degree program and not as a stand-alone.
- The certificate has five core courses and a total (minimum) of 23 credits need to be taken. The five core courses, totaling 18 credits, along with 1 credit of Food Projects and 1 credit of Capstone Portfolio form the 20 credit core. Students are required to take 1 additional elective; ten potential elective courses are listed. One of the core courses is new (ANTH 547) and another one is in the
works (Intro to Food Systems: Local to Global) based on several e-mail exchanges in the liaison section. Currently, the only material that we have is a list of topics for the course and the instructors who would teach these topics. There is talk of splitting the ANTH 4/586 course to a stand-alone graduate course. Concerned that even if the ANTH 586 is made a graduate level course, the total number of graduate only course credits (not including blanket courses) will total eleven. This is on the borderline of 50+ percent grad courses for a graduate program.

- More details are needed on how the team taught course (Food Systems...) will add to the faculty load. Also, are there plans of compensation for teaching this course? If so state this in the budget.
- Faculty time for the students’ capstone portfolio- need details on what mentoring the portfolio entails; reduce max number of students advised per faculty to 3 or 4 based on projected enrollments. Also, a comment is made that the hiring of the program coordinator will help reduce the load of reviewing capstone portfolios. Please elaborate- will this person be grading the portfolios and mentoring students?
- How will the learning outcomes be assessed? Please provide a matrix linking each learning outcome to the assessment method.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course #/Name</th>
<th>Minor</th>
<th>Cert</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Existing? New?</th>
<th>Prerequisites</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ANTH 547: Research methods in Food, Culture and Social Justice</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>New, course number does not exist, unclear if Cat II has been filed</td>
<td>Not sure, none listed in syllabus</td>
<td>CLO 5 is vague; also assessment needs explanation. This would be a stand-alone grad course.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ES 499/599: Food and Ethnic Identity-Eating at the Border</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Variable, but 3 for this special topics course</td>
<td>Existing</td>
<td>None mentioned</td>
<td>Does not have learning outcomes for either undergrad or grad. No differentiation for grad assessment. There is a potential to double count the Empty Bowls service project with 444/544</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANTH 444/544: Nutritional Anthropology</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Existing, not being taught in FY11-12</td>
<td>Enforced- ANTH 110 or 210 and ANTH 240 or 330</td>
<td>Concerned that the proposed 544 activity (committee oversight and reading group) tests higher learning levels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST 599: Food in World History</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Existing</td>
<td>None mentioned</td>
<td>No comments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANTH 486/586: Anthropology of Food</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Variable, but 4 credits for this topic</td>
<td>Existing</td>
<td>Recommended ANTH 370 or graduate standing</td>
<td>No comments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WS 465/565: Women, weight, and body image</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Existing</td>
<td>None mentioned</td>
<td>No access to syllabus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST 416/516: Food in World History</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Existing</td>
<td>None mentioned</td>
<td>Grad learning outcomes are not higher order outcomes, not separate assessment for grad students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AREC 599: Food Systems: Local to Global</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td>New course, not clear if Cat II has been developed</td>
<td>None mentioned</td>
<td>This would be a new, stand-alone course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANTH 406/506: Projects</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Existing</td>
<td>None mentioned</td>
<td>No comments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANTH 406/506: Capstone Course</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Existing</td>
<td>None mentioned</td>
<td>No comments</td>
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</tbody>
</table>