

# MONTANA BOARD OF REGENTS

## LEVEL II REQUEST FORM

Item No.:	144-1001-R0709	Date of Meeting:	July 9-10, 2009
Institution:	The University of Montana - Missoula		
Program Title:	Major in Central and Southwest Asian Studies		

Level II proposals require approval by the Board of Regents.

**Level II action requested (check all that apply):** Level II proposals entail substantive additions to, alterations in, or termination of programs, structures, or administrative or academic entities typically characterized by the (a) addition, reassignment, or elimination of personnel, facilities, or courses of instruction; (b) rearrangement of budgets, cost centers, funding sources; and (c) changes which by implication could impact other campuses within the Montana University System and community colleges. Board policy 303.1 indicates the curricular proposals in this category:

- 1. Change names of degrees (e.g. from B.A. to B.F.A.)
- 2. Implement a new minor or certificate where there is no major or no option in a major;
- 3. Establish new degrees and add majors to existing degrees;
- 4. Expand/extend approved mission; and
- 5. Any other changes in governance and organization as described in Board of Regents' Policy 218, such as formation, elimination or consolidation of a college, division, school, department, institute, bureau, center, station, laboratory, or similar unit.

**Specify Request:**

The University of Montana requests permission to create a major and minor in Central and Southwest Asian Studies in the Department of Anthropology, replacing the option and minor in Central and Southwest Asian Studies in the Department of Geography.

## **Proposal**

### **1. Overview**

This proposal is to create a major and relocate a minor in Central and Southwest Asian Studies to the Department of Anthropology. The proposed Central and Southwest Asian Studies major combines interdisciplinary study of Central and Southwest Asia with language training in the regional languages of Central Asia, the Middle East, the former Soviet Union, and the Central Asian part of Western China. The program emphasizes social science approaches to the study of history, politics, environment, and culture of these regions, with a strong provision for the study of their literature and artistic traditions. Students pursuing this degree are to be trained through a program of interdisciplinary courses offered in various departments, as outlined in the major requirements, as well as in the languages of the region. The requirements include a minimum of two years of language study in sequence, but students are encouraged to take as many language courses as possible, within the limits prescribed by the university for a major.

### **2. Need**

The current minor and option in Central and Southwest Asian Studies, introduced in 2005 in the Department of Geography, have proven popular among undergraduates across majors in the social sciences, humanities, and professional schools. Students taking area studies courses recognize the value and importance of language study in order to apply for graduate programs, or to seek career opportunities requiring knowledge of Central Asia, the Middle East, the former Soviet Union, and Chinese Central Asia. The national priorities for regional specialists of these critical areas coincides with the institutional mission of the University of Montana-Missoula to promote global and civic awareness, and to encourage interdisciplinary breadth and relative depth in the study of Central and Southwest Asia, including at least two years of language study. The move of several faculty from Geography to Anthropology provides an opportunity to focus the offerings in Central and Southwest Asian Studies, allowing establishment of both a minor and major in Central and Southwest Asian Studies.

#### **a. Specific Needs.**

The current minor encourages language study in regional languages (Arabic, Chinese, Persian, Russian and Turkish). Currently, Chinese and Russian are offered through three years as permanent course offerings by tenure line faculty. Arabic has permanent course numbers offered through three years of study. Persian and Turkish are currently offered at the first year, with plans for expansion. By integrating interdisciplinary coursework and language courses in a single major in Anthropology, the new degree program will serve students seeking more in depth training and preparation for international graduate study, public service, or career and employment opportunities in governmental and non-governmental agencies and institutions. This major will strengthen University course offerings in two regions of the world, which have been identified as critical to the United States foreign policy, and will help create a new pool of area studies experts and language learners on the UM campus.

#### **b. How will students and other constituencies be served?**

The proposed major integrates existing courses that are offered on a regular basis across four departments or interdisciplinary programs (Anthropology, History, Modern and Classical Languages and Literatures and Liberal Studies/Asian Studies). The gateway course for the minor, and the proposed major, ANTH/HIST/LS/AS 106: The Silk Road, has been offered every semester for the past four years. Students should be able to complete the major in four years, even if they begin the two years of lower – division language study in their junior year.

**c. Anticipated demand.**

Enrollment in the current, core lower-division courses varies between 60 and 200, with 100 students currently enrolled in the gateway course, ANTH 106: The Silk Road, and 136 students enrolled in ANTH 284: Islamic Civilizations during spring semester 2009. The minor currently has over 20 students declared, and has seen already two years of graduates completing the degree since 2005. Twelve students intend to graduate with the minor in May, 2009. Anticipated demand for the new major would be 10-12 students declaring each year, with the first students graduating in the new major in 2012.

**3. Institutional and System Fit**

No other institution in the Montana University System offers a degree on Central and Southwest Asian Studies. Thus, the major would be the only one available to students in Montana. At the University of Montana-Missoula, the new degree fits well with the stated invitation to “internationalize the UM undergraduate curriculum” and to provide more global curricula for general education. The integration of both Asian and European languages into a single major signals attention to changes in the twenty-first century global environment, and highlights this region of national and international importance for graduates and higher education in general.

**a. Connection between existing and proposed programs**

The current minor includes courses cross-listed across four programs (Anthropology, History, Political Science, and Liberal Studies/Asian Studies) and the proposed major would extend this collaboration by including courses from the Department of Modern and Classical Languages and Literatures. The current faculty teaching Russian and other languages listed have been consulted, and are in full support of this proposal.

**b. Will approval of the proposed program require changes to any existing programs at the institution?**

No changes to existing programs.

**c. Describe what differentiates this program from other, closely related programs at the institution.**

No other program resembles the proposed major in structure, with its unique set of offerings across the social sciences and humanities, except Liberal Studies, which also requires two years of language study, and combines humanistic and social science disciplines across three other departments (English, Modern and Classical Languages and Native American Studies), taught by five tenure line faculty. The proposed major would be taught by seven tenure-line faculty across four departments as well (Anthropology, History, Liberal Studies/Asian Studies and Modern and Classical Studies). Because the number of credits does not exceed 60, students still have the opportunity to combine majors, or a major and a minor, in pursuit of their educational goals. Specifically, this proposed major lists only six (6) credits of 300-level language study towards this major, in order to keep the balance of interdisciplinary studies in the social sciences (unlike majors in Modern and Classical Languages and Literatures) which focus on more intensive upper-division coursework on specific languages and literatures.)

**d. How does the proposed program serve to advance the strategic goals of the institution?**

The University of Montana-Missoula is poised to apply for competitive institutional grants to support area studies in Central and Southwest Asian Studies for which a crucial prerequisite is that international majors are offered at the undergraduate level. The current minor and option, with substantial enrollments, have demonstrated that there is adequate demand to engage in interdisciplinary regional studies. Furthermore, the Faculty Senate has stated repeatedly that at least one year, and preferably two years of second language study is a goal of general education for all students, and this proposed major would support that goal.

**e. Describe the relationship between the proposed program and any similar programs within the Montana University System.**

No such similar programs exist elsewhere within the Montana University System.

**4. Program details. Requirements for the Central and Southwest Asian Studies Major**

Students selecting a major in Central and Southwest Asian Studies must successfully complete the following requirements.

- a) Nine credits in introductory, 100 and 200 level courses
- b) Twelve credits in upper division, 300 and 400 level courses, which include one required capstone seminar, ANTH 460 to be taken by all students in the major.
- c) Eighteen to twenty credits of sequential language training (a first year course sequence of 101-102 for ten (10) credits in a regional language (Arabic, Chinese, Russian, Persian\* or Turkish\*), and a second year course sequence for eight (8) or ten (10) credits (Arabic, Chinese, and Russian, with Persian and Turkish second year offerings to be developed through external funding).
- d) In addition, a maximum of six (6) of the twelve (12) required upper division (300 and 400 level) courses can be upper division credits in the language studies, and allowed in the major ( e.g. RUSS 301 and RUSS 302).
- e) Detailed description of the proposed curriculum.

**Central and Southwest Asian Studies Courses**

*100-200 Level Courses*

**The Silk Road: Anthropology/History/Asian Studies 106**

**Central Asia: Peoples and Environments: Anthropology/History/Asian Studies 214**

**Islamic Civilizations: Anthropology/History/Asian Studies 283**

**Islamic Civilizations: Anthropology/History/Asian Studies 284**

*300-400 level Courses (including third year language sequences)*

**Advanced Modern Standard Arabic Language and Culture I: Arab 301**

**Advanced Modern Standard Arabic Language and Culture II: Arab 302**

**Advanced Chinese I: Chin 301 and**

**Advanced Chinese II: Chin 302**

**Russian Oral and Written Expression: Russ 301**

**Russian Culture and Civilization: Russ 302**  
**Introduction to 19<sup>th</sup> Century Russian Literature: Modern and Classical Languages/Russian Studies/Liberal Studies 306**  
**Introduction to 20<sup>th</sup> Century Russian Literature: Modern and Classical Languages/Russian Studies/Liberal Studies 307**  
**Russian Cinema and Culture: Modern and Classical Languages/Russian Studies/Liberal Studies 308**  
**Politics of Post-Soviet Russia: Political Science 323**  
**Central Asia and its Neighbors: Anthropology 346/History346/Asian Studies 345**  
**Modern China: History 380**  
**Russia to 1881: History 344**  
**Russia since 1881: History 345**  
**Nationalism in Modern Middle East: Anthropology/History 386**  
**Iran between Two Revolutions: Anthropology History 387**  
**Cities and Landscapes of Central Asia: Anthropology 462/History 402/Asian Studies 402**  
**The World of Anna Karenina: History 445**  
**The Russian Revolution: History 446**  
**Artistic Traditions of Central and Southwest Asia: Anthropology 461/History 457/Asian Studies 457**  
**Independent Study: Central Asia: Anthropology 496**

**Required Capstone course:**

**Central Asia Seminar: Anthropology 460/History 462/Asian Studies 460**

## **5. Planned implementation**

The major could begin Autumn semester 2009. Some students taking the minor or option and qualified language study may elect to declare a major instead, so the number of minors may adjust slightly in the first year or two. Courses taught in the programs listed (Anthropology, History, Liberal Studies/Asian Studies and Modern and Classical Languages and Literatures) are offered on a regular basis.

## **6. Resources**

The Central and Southwest Asian Studies Program has been successful in garnering a number of major institutional grants for curriculum development, research, academic service and exchanges, with over \$2.4 million in grants in the last five years. It is anticipated that with the creation of this new major, several new grant applications for the National Resource Centers in Central and Southwest Asian Studies, and Foreign Language and Area Specialist scholarships would be submitted in Autumn 2009.

### **a. Faculty resources**

Seven tenure-track faculty members teach thirty-two (32) permanent courses listed in this proposal. Chinese and Russian are offered by both tenure line faculty and lecturers with five year contract. Persian has been, and is currently being taught by tenure line faculty. Arabic has been taught by adjunct faculty supported by the Office of the President over the past eight years. Turkish and Persian have been taught by visiting Fulbright scholars in the past five years at no cost to the College of Arts and Sciences. It is hoped that a permanent, tenure line Arabic language position can be stabilized and a national search held to expand the current offerings of language study. However no new resources are requested, or needed for this major to be offered in 2009.

**d. Other resources.**

The CSWAS Program will be applying for FLAS scholarships for undergraduates to study critical languages as part of the National Resource Center application in Autumn 2009.

**7. Assessment**

All new degree programs are assessed after the first three years of implementation. Therefore, this new major would be assessed in 2112. Thereafter, it would be assessed with Anthropology.