

Fall 2016

Humanities Department Diversity Initiatives for 2016-17

Department Liaison Victoria Bergvall and Diversity Council member Diane Shoos

Continue to grow and develop the Diversity Studies Minor

The Humanities Department's Diversity Studies Minor is our most significant academic contribution to the Diversity Initiatives across campus, with a sustained focus that seeks to engage students deeply with the issues and opportunities for US and global diversity. To that end, we are taking steps to:

- Increase enrollment in that minor and in the required course in the minor, HU2400 Introduction to Diversity Studies in the US (presently enrolled to the expanded cap of 35 students, more than double last fall's enrollment). This was aided by advisors across campus being made aware of the minor and course, in response to the Board of Trustee's concerns of last spring.
- Continue to develop and strengthen the Diversity Studies Minor by initiating through the Fall 2016 White Binder process a series of changes aimed at increasing overall enrollment in the minor and its related courses:
 - Change the Introduction to Diversity Studies from HU2400 to HU3410 to reflect the expectation for sophisticated and intensive reading, discussion, and analysis.
 - Create a core for the minor that consists of a selection of courses that focus on issues of gender, race, ethnicity, class, sexual identity and expression, (dis)ability, and/or other significant identities both within the US and globally.
 - Include additional electives from HU and other departments as avenues for students to enter and complete the minor.

Enhance present Humanities initiatives both within the department and across the campus:

- On Sept. 17: Help sponsor the Parade of Nations "Passport to the World" and multicultural food festival and events in Dee Stadium.
- In early October: With HU and other faculty across campus, work with the American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES), the Center for Diversity and Inclusion, and community members from the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community and the local area to rethink Columbus Day (Monday, Oct. 10), to recognize it instead as Indigenous Peoples' Day; cosponsor a film and discussion series, and work with AISES to organize a PowWow for Oct. 8 in the SDC.
- On Oct. 17-19: Partner with the Earth, Planetary, and Space Sciences Institute and Social Sciences to bring Ginger Strand to campus, sponsored by a Visiting Women and Minorities Scholars grant. Strand is the author of *The Brothers Vonnegut: Science and Fiction in the House of Magic*. She will also visit several HU and SS classes, as well as give presentations and meet with members of campus and local communities.
- On Oct. 26: Co-sponsor with the departments of Social Sciences, Cognitive and Learning Sciences, the Visiting Women and Minority Lecture Series, and Northern Michigan University, a talk entitled "The Sexual Politics of Meat," by Carol Adams, the author of several books that build a feminist-vegetarian critique of the linguistic, psychological, and physical oppression of women and animals.
- On Nov. 3-6: Co-sponsor the 41 North Film Festival, which foregrounds diversity issues through programming and speakers (e.g., Ron Suskind, *Life Animated: A Story of Sidekicks, Heroes, and Autism*; Jason Zeldes and Donté Clark, *Romeo is Bleeding*).

- In March 2017: Organize and sponsor the 8th annual Women's History Month event "Feminists Reading Feminists," now with a companion event that brings a significant feminist film to campus as well.
- In Spring 2017: Organize and sponsor the annual Modern Language Film series which raises critical issues of relevance to cultural diversity.
- Continue to serve diverse student writers through the Multiliteracies Center and continue to hire diverse student coaches to assist in this process.
- Work with university recruiters, and departmental search committees and undergraduate and graduate program directors to continue to recruit high-quality, culturally diverse faculty and students, both undergraduate and graduate, to cultivate a diverse, collegial learning environment.
- Advertise how existing Humanities courses engage students in readings and discussion of significant issues in diversity.