

The University Senate of Michigan Technological University

PROPOSAL 15-07 (Voting Units: Academic)

Proposal for a MINOR IN DIVERSITY STUDIES Department of Humanities

1. Introduction

The proposed minor in diversity studies is sponsored by the Department of Humanities.

2. Rationale

The Michigan Tech Diversity Framework <http://www.edopp.mtu.edu/DiversityFramework/Default.htm> calls on the University to “develop an academic diversity studies minor.” And Goal 1 of the Michigan Tech Strategic Plan <http://www.mtu.edu/stratplan/stratplan42806.pdf> is to “attract and support a world-class and diverse faculty, staff, and student population.”

The availability of a diversity studies minor on campus would help to increase awareness, understanding, and appreciation of the importance of diversity in the contemporary world. The faculty, students, and courses in this minor could have a campus-wide impact far greater than just the number of students selecting this minor might suggest. Such a minor could help to improve the climate for underrepresented groups on campus and, thus, could help with recruiting and retaining underrepresented students, faculty, and staff.

Since a diverse environment helps people to learn to work successfully in diverse groups, a minor in diversity studies could be an invaluable asset not only for students from underrepresented groups but for all students.

3. Details of Catalog Copy

I. Title of Minor

Diversity Studies

II. Catalog Description

This Humanities Minor in Diversity Studies provides students from all areas of the University with a better understanding of underrepresented populations within the United States. In addition to examining underrepresented groups within the United States, courses in the Minor in Diversity Studies also examine cultures outside the United States that have contributed to the development of these underrepresented groups. This minor is suitable for all Michigan Tech students.

III. List of Courses

The Minor in Diversity Studies requires a minimum of 18 credit hours.

A. Study of underrepresented populations within the United States (at least 6 credits)

Pedagogical objective: To increase students' understanding and appreciation of underrepresented populations within the United States.

HU2520 Cultural Diversity in the Literature of the Americas (spring)
HU3850 Cultural Studies (spring) Prerequisites: UN1002 or UN1003
SS3710 Social Problems (offered alternating years) Prerequisite: UN2002
SS3750 Social Inequality (offered alternating years) Prerequisite: UN2002
SS4100 American Indian Political Issues (offered alternating years) Prerequisite: UN2002
PSY3070 Cross-Cultural Psychology (offered on demand) Prerequisite: UN2002

B. Study of the cultures contributing to these underrepresented populations (at least 6 credits)

Pedagogical objective: To increase students' understanding and appreciation of cultures outside the United States that have contributed to underrepresented populations within the United States

Up to six credits of HU1241 (Less Commonly Taught Languages, Level I), HU1242 (Less Commonly Taught Languages, Level II), Spanish, or French

HU2920 Language and Society (spring)
HU3261 Communicating across Cultures Prerequisites: UN1002 or UN1003
HU3504 Novels from World Literature (fall every other year) Prerequisites: UN1002 or UN1003
HU3910 Language Issues in the World (spring) Prerequisites: UN1002 or UN1003
SS2100 World Peoples and Environments
SS3100 Developing Societies (offered every other year) Prerequisites: UN1002 or UN1003
SS3410 World Resources and Development (offered every other year) Prerequisite: UN2002
SS3810 Culture, Science and Technology (offered every other year) Prerequisite: UN2002
SS4200 Cultural and Political Ecology (offered on demand) Prerequisite: SS2100

4. New and Modified Courses in Support of this Minor

Although the Department of Humanities will adapt existing courses in support of this minor, we will initially implement the minor with courses that are currently available.

5. Estimated Costs

All of the courses required for this minor are already offered at Michigan Tech; hence, the minor requires no additional resources.

6. Planned Implementation Date

Assuming the minor is approved during the 2006-2007 academic year, it will be in place in the fall of 2007.

Introduced in Senate: 17 January 2007

Adopted by Senate: 31 January 2007

Approved by Administration: 08 February 2007

Became Senate Policy 405.1