

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND ACTION\ACADEMIC AND PERSONNEL

June 17, 2021

ACTION: **Approve Addition of Minor in Creative Writing and Termination of Minor in Anthropology for Wayne State College**

Per Board Policy 4200, which requires all academic program additions and terminations to be submitted to the Board for approval, Wayne State seeks approval to add the Creative Writing minor and terminate the Anthropology minor, beginning Fall 2021.

The System Office and Wayne State College recommend approval of the Addition of Minor in Creative Writing and Terminate Minor in Anthropology for Wayne State College.

ATTACHMENTS:

- WSC Creative Writing Minor (PDF)
- WSC Anthropology Minor (PDF)

Wayne State College
Proposal to Add an Undergraduate Minor
Creative Writing

1. Descriptive Information

- A. Name of Institution:
Wayne State College (WSC)
- B. Name of Program:
Creative Writing Minor
- C. Degrees/credentials to be awarded graduates of the program:
Minor in Creative Writing
- D. Other programs offered in this field by the institution:
Major in English, Concentration in Writing & Literature
Major in English, Concentration in Writing
Minor in English
- E. CIP code:
23.0101
- F. Administrative units for the program:
Department of Language and Literature, School of Arts & Humanities
- G. Proposed delivery site(s) and type(s) of delivery, if applicable:
Wayne campus
- H. Proposed date (term/year) the program will be initiated:
Fall 2021
- I. Description of Program:
The proposed Creative Writing minor complements the existing major concentration in English Writing, and balances out the existing major and minor in English Literature. The minor will comprise 21 hours as outlined below:

Minor in Creative Writing: 21 hours

- ENG 402 Advanced Poetry Workshop (3)
- ENG 403 Advanced Fiction Workshop (3)
- ENG 404 Advanced Creative Nonfiction Workshop (3)
- At least 9 hours from the following: (9)
 - ENG 202 Poetry Workshop (3)
 - ENG 203 Fiction Workshop (3)
 - ENG 204 Creative Nonfiction Workshop (3)
 - ENG 205 Play Writing/Screen Writing (3)

At least 3 hours from the following: (3)
ENG 361 American Literature I (3)
ENG 362 American Literature II (3)
ENG 365 Modern American Fiction (3)
ENG 371 British Literature I (3)
ENG 372 British Literature II (3)
ENG 378 Topics in Modern British Fiction (3)
ENG 380 Shakespeare (3)
ENG 381 Classical Mythology (3)
ENG 382 The Bible as Literature (3)
ENG 383 Film and Literature (3)
ENG 384 World Literature (3)

Course Descriptions:

ENG 202 Poetry Workshop (3) Study of and practice in the techniques of poetry writing for the beginning student.

ENG 203 Fiction Workshop (3) Study of and practice in the techniques of writing short fiction.

ENG 204 Creative Nonfiction Workshop (3) Study of and practice in the techniques of writing creative nonfiction, or fact-based writing that is crafted in a way that is both artistic and accessible rather than scholarly.

ENG 205 Play Writing/Screen Writing (3) Study of and practice in the techniques of play writing and/or screen writing. Cross-listed as CNA 205.

ENG 361 American Literature I (3) A survey, beginning with pre-contact indigenous literature and concluding with the Naturalist/Symbolist Period.

ENG 362 American Literature II (3) A survey, beginning with the Harlem Renaissance and Modernist Period in American Literature and concluding with study of significant contemporary writers.

ENG 365 Modern American Fiction (3) Short stories and novels by significant 20th century American writers.

ENG 371 British Literature I (3) A survey of British literature, beginning with Beowulf and concluding with works by 18th century writers.

ENG 372 British Literature II (3) A survey of British literature, beginning with the Romantic writers and concluding with contemporary writers.

ENG 378 Topics in Modern British Fiction (3) Short stories and novels by significant 20th century British writers.

ENG 380 Shakespeare (3) Directed reading of Shakespeare's plays and poetry against the background of Renaissance culture. Cross-listed as CNA 380.

ENG 381 Classical Mythology (3) A study of the ancient epic and of Greek drama; readings of Homer, Virgil, Aeschylus, Sophocles, Euripides, Aristophanes, and Aristotle.

ENG 382 The Bible as Literature (3) Literary analysis of the Hebrew scripture (Old Testament) and of the New Testament.

ENG 383 Film and Literature (3) An on-going series of courses concerned with the relationship (thematic, generic, social-historical, etc.) between cinema and literature. CNA/ENG 383 repeatable once for credit. This course is cross-listed as CNA 383.

ENG 384 World Literature (3) This course examines works from literary canons and traditions world-wide. The course may treat a common theme across various cultures; focus on a particular time period, culture, or genre; or compare and contrast texts from two or more countries.

ENG 402 Advanced Poetry Workshop (3) Prerequisite: ENG 202 or permission of instructor. Continued study of and practice in the techniques of poetry writing.

ENG 403 Advanced Fiction Workshop (3) Prerequisite: ENG 203 or permission of instructor. Continued study of and practice in the writing of short fiction.

ENG 404 Advanced Creative Nonfiction Workshop (3) Prerequisite: ENG 204 or permission of instructor. Continued study of and practice in the writing of creative nonfiction.

2. Centrality to Role and Mission

Wayne State College's Mission Statement includes, "Wayne State College is a comprehensive institution of higher education dedicated to freedom of inquiry, excellence in teaching and learning, and regional service and development." The Vision Statement includes, "Wayne State makes a notable difference to rural and community life through learning excellence, student success and regional service." Among the Core Values is "Learning Experience." The CCPE's Comprehensive plan defines Wayne State's emphasis as "high quality, comprehensive undergraduate programs." The Creative Writing minor helps fulfill these statements by promoting freedom of inquiry, academic excellence, and stimulating learning experiences.

Among the Goals of the NSCS 2025 Strategic Plan are Workforce & Economic Impact and Academic Experiential Learning Activities. In addition to its academic quality and value to the institution and its students, the WSC Creative Writing program is well-positioned to contribute to these two areas in particular:

- The affiliation of the WSC Press to the English program allows creative writing students experiential learning opportunities in the fields of writing and English. A member of the Association of Writers and Writing Programs (AWP), the WSC Press provides students with opportunities to publish their own writing, as well as edit and format the books of professional writers. The WSC Press specializes in regional and Nebraska writing, particularly

poetry (but also short fiction and literary analysis). Additionally, the WSC Press organizes the Plains Writers Series, which provides creative writing students with lectures, readings, and master workshops by practicing professional writers. The WSC Press thus also introduces creative writing students to the network of professional writers in the eastern Nebraska region.

- The WSC creative writing program participates in service-learning projects that partner with community organizations and introduce the craft and utility of writing to the local community. Recently, the program partnered with the Wayne Public Library to present a series of workshops titled “Writing the Family Story.” The workshops allowed community members to work with creative writing students to explore their family histories and write them down to be recorded for posterity. The partnership culminated in a book that memorialized the stories and their families.

3. Evidence of Need and Demand

A. Need for the program:

Written communication skills continue to be a foundational workplace skill in high demand among employers. The Creative Writing minor, with its focus on clarity, precision, drafting, and rewriting, hones these skills, regardless of the type of writing in question (poetry, fiction, non-fiction). The creation of this minor will allow students in various majors to add a written communication credential to their major area of study.

Written communication skills are needed in every career path, on an daily basis, from interoffice communications to program proposals to public outreach. Indeed, Forbes magazine notes that writing skill can help “future proof” one’s career:

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/gretasolomon/2018/08/09/why-mastering-writing-skills-can-help-future-proof-your-career/>

While excellent writing skills will benefit any profession, employment projections for writing-focused professions are strong. As noted in Chadron State College’s November 2020 proposal for the Advanced English major, the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) projects increases in demand for the following careers in Nebraska by 2026:

- Copy Writer: 7% increase
- Creative Writers, Lyricists, and Poets: 7% increase
- Public Relations Specialists: 9% increase
- Technical Writers: 17% increase
- Video Game Designers: 14% increase

B. Demand for the Program:

The existing English minor focuses on the academic study of literature. A new Creative Writing minor would allow students to pursue their writing interest. Currently there is no minor option that focuses on writing, only a major. Since a major concentration in Writing already exists, all of the courses for the minor are already offered and part of the regular English program rotation.

The demand for creative writing has traditionally been strong at Wayne State, and has increased since creative writing workshops became part of the General Studies program. This success has allowed the faculty to introduce writing as a field of study to the first-year class. A hoped-for

byproduct of the General Studies reform was that students would pursue minors in their areas of interest. The traditional English minor, at 8 students, is designed with a literary emphasis, and does not appeal to students wishing to focus on writing. The Editing & Publishing minor (offered in conjunction with the Communication Arts department) has 14 students, in contrast, and among them are many Writing majors. It is evident there is student interest in creative writing and the production of writing.

The minor may also appeal to students outside of the traditional liberal arts. Chadron State College's recent (Nov. 12, 2020) proposal to add a new major in Advanced English Studies well documents the need for writing skills in the workforce at large and across specific professions in particular. As written communication skills continue to be valued in the workplace, students majoring in more traditionally applied and career-preparatory disciplines are seeking to hone their writing skills, and have them credentialed. This minor, and the continued expansion of the English program into technical and professional writing, will meet the needs of those students.

4. Adequacy of Resources

A. Faculty and Staff Resources:

There are two full-time Creative Writing faculty in the Department of Language and Literature, as well as several qualified adjunct faculty, to meet the staffing needs for the Creative Writing minor. Play-writing is taught by a full-time tenure-track faculty member in Communication Arts. No additional personnel needs are anticipated at this time.

B. Physical Facilities:

Current facilities include classrooms in the Humanities Building on the Wayne State campus. Classroom and equipment needs are adequate for delivery of the program.

C. Instructional Equipment and Informational Resources:

The Humanities Building has a computer lab dedicated to editing and publishing. This lab has been adequate to meet the needs of the program. LMS resources are sufficient.

D. Budget Projections for the first five years of program:

Little budgetary impact. Occasionally an adjunct may be needed to cover an extra section.

5. Avoidance of Unnecessary Duplication

Many public colleges in Nebraska have a Creative Writing minor, including Chadron State, UNK, UNL, and UNO. However, there is currently no Creative Writing minor available at a public college in this region of the state. Of schools in the member states in the MHEC, Morningside, Briar Cliff, Mount Marty, and USD offer the minor. As a public college in northeast Nebraska, WSC would help fill a regional need by offering Creative Writing.

6. Consistency with the Comprehensive Statewide Plan for Postsecondary Education

The Creative Writing minor at Wayne State College fits into the CCPE's Comprehensive Statewide Plan by offering a high quality academic program that enhances the learning experience of students.

The CCPE Plan notes that “Postsecondary education has an important role in supporting the state’s economic development goals by contributing to a competent and competitive workforce for our state, by ensuring lifelong learning and training opportunities for our citizens, and by promoting an innovative and entrepreneurial culture that rises to the challenge of globalization.” The Creative Writing minor will provide the state with a workforce who is skilled in written communication skills, regardless of career path. As a minor, the program will be available to students of all majors.

The CPPE Plan also notes the importance of regional service: “Nebraska’s postsecondary institutions fill a vital role in many communities by serving as a cultural hub, not only educating their students in the arts and humanities but sharing those learning opportunities with the public whenever possible.” As the Creative Writing program’s service-learning projects have demonstrated, it is dedicated to serving the local community and will continue to do so.

Wayne State College

Proposal to Eliminate Minor in Anthropology

1. Descriptive information

- A. Name of institution
Wayne State College (WSC)
- B. Name of program to be terminated
Minor in Anthropology
- C. Degrees/credentials to be awarded graduates of the program
N/A
- D. Other programs offered in this field by the institution
BA or BS in Sociology, Minor in Sociology
- E. CIP code
45.0201
- F. Administrative units for the program
Department of Psychology and Sociology; School of Education and Behavioral Sciences
- G. Proposed delivery site(s) and type(s) of delivery, if applicable
Currently delivered at Wayne State College, In-Person Course Delivery
- H. Proposed date (term/year) the program termination will be initiated
Fall 2021
- I. Description of Program:

Anthropology studies human existence through the varied lenses of linguistics, science, history and sociocultural perspectives. The study of anthropology develops the skills necessary to pursue a variety of careers. Sociology, as the scientific study of human behavior and social processes, is closely associated with the field of anthropology. As such, the Anthropology minor at WSC has been incorporated under Sociology, and courses were all staffed by a single faculty member.

Minor in Anthropology: 21 hours

A minor must include a minimum of 12 hours unduplicated by the student's major

Note: Another major or minor is required for students selecting sociology and anthropology major/minor combinations

SOC 101 Introduction to Sociology (3)

SOC 110 Introduction to Anthropology (3)

Electives chosen from below: (15)

SOC 345 Race and Ethnic Relations (3)

SOC 350 Religion and Culture (3)

SOC 415 The Family (3)

SOC 435 Forensic Anthropology (3)
SOC 444 Topics in Sociology (by advisement) (3)
SOC 445 Native Americans (3)
SOC 465 Peoples and Cultures of the Middle East (3)

2. Centrality to Role and Mission

Removing the minor does not change the mission of the college or the department. The BA/BS in Sociology will remain as well as the minor in Sociology. In terms of being central to our role and mission as a state college, the Sociology major/minor is appropriate for pre-professional health fields, such as Occupational Therapy and for Accelerated Nursing and the Public Health Minor. Removal of the Anthropology minor accompanies the termination of several courses that have not been offered by WSC in over two years, courses which our current faculty are not qualified to teach.

3. Evidence of Need and Demand

There is no evidence of need or demand, and there has not been any evidence for the past several years; thus, the proposal to terminate this minor. The Sociology program's Anthropologist faculty member retired in December 2018. This position was not filled with another full-time Anthropologist. Since then, we have only offered SOC 110 Introduction to Anthropology taught by an adjunct. There are currently no Anthropology minors.

4. Adequacy of Resources

Removal of the Anthropology aligns curricular offerings to resource re-allocation decisions made in 2018. This will not affect the demand for SOC 110 Introduction to Anthropology that is taught by adjuncts.

5. Avoidance of Unnecessary Duplication

N/A

6. Consistency with the Comprehensive Statewide Plan for Postsecondary Education

N/A. This is a termination of an existing academic offering.