



Faculty of Humanities
Department of Classics

RECEIVED MAY 24 2012

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May 22, 2012

RE: Undergraduate External Review Classics, 2010

Dear Members of the Academic Review Committee,

Please find enclosed an update on the changes made to the undergraduate programme in the Department of Classics in response to our recent external review (March 2010).

If you have questions or require further information regarding any of these points, do not hesitate to contact me.

Best Wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Allison Glazebrook".

Allison Glazebrook
Chair, Department of Classics
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May 22, 2012

Changes to the Undergraduate Programme in Classics

The purpose of this document is to update the Academic Review Committee on changes implemented in the Department of Classics following the on-site external review of our undergraduate program (March 2010). The changes are based on the recommendations of the reviewers for improving and enhancing our program. The majority of these recommendations have been implemented over the course of the past two years (following the review) and have been passed by senate and approved for the 2012/13 academic year. For consistency and ease, the format of the recommendations is taken directly from the Final Assessment Report (FAR) sent to Classics.

1. Curriculum Revision: Review of the Curriculum

Course offerings and curriculum requirements in the Department imply that a much older curriculum has been slowly adapted without a systematic rethinking of the whole slate of offerings. The rebuilding of the faculty complement offers the Department the opportunity to rationalize the courses offered, renew and rebalance.

Departmental Update: The Department organized three working groups relating to the three main areas of our programme: ancient languages and literature, art and archaeology, and classical studies. Two of the working groups (ancient languages and literature, and art and archaeology) recommended changes which have now been implemented (in 2010/11 and 2011/12). The third working group, classical studies, developed a Classics with Major in Classical Studies which is available to students as of May 2012.

2. Curriculum Revision: Concerning a proposed new stream in Classical Studies without language requirements.

In its self-study the Department had suggested, in view particularly of the repeal of the Humanities Language Requirement, a degree in Classical Studies with no classical language credit. The Reviewers recommend the current Classical Studies Stream with a reduction in, but not the elimination of, language requirements down to one full credit.

Departmental Update: The Department of Classics decided NOT to offer a classical studies pass degree without languages, but has implemented a Classics with Major with reduced languages. Students in this stream have greater flexibility to develop a programme of study that

combines all three areas of study, but can also focus more on one area of study, if they so choose. This new stream requires two full credits of ancient language (Greek and/or Latin) as compared to the four full credits of language required in the BA Honours classical studies stream and the BA Honours ancient art and archaeology stream. Requiring two credits of language means that a student who decides after two years to switch to the honours stream in ancient art and archaeology or classical studies can do so without having to extend their time to completion. This degree is intended for students who are NOT interested in graduate studies in Classics, but desire a rigorous interdisciplinary humanities degree with which to enter the market place.

3. Curriculum Revision: Concerning an increased presence of literature courses in the curriculum.

- i) Paucity of Literature Courses “The review team identified the paucity of literature in translation courses as a particular problem for the department in the light of the abolition of the language requirement.”
- ii) Related – LOPs “We believe there should be a place for letters of permission to take a [face to face, not on-line] course in this area from a neighbouring university to deal with demand for courses to graduate, especially from students entering the major late.”

Departmental Update: A series of full credit literature courses have been replaced by half credit courses that focus on a historical period rather than a particular genre. Students must first complete CLAS 2P00, a course in which students learn the various genres of literature, vocabulary appropriate to discussing literature and basic skills in reading and analyzing a literary text. After CLAS 2P00, students choose from four half credit courses in Greek and Roman literature (CLAS 3P11/12/13/14). Offering these third year level courses as half credit courses provides students with more options to choose from. Since the courses do not focus on a single genre of literature, they can incorporate a broader range of topics and approaches. Students wishing to focus on a particular genre can do so at the fourth year level in a special topics course. In 2010, for example, we offered a course on the ancient novel. Given current staffing constraints (the full time specialist in Latin literature is currently an Associate Dean), however, it is not possible to offer such a course on a regular basis and so far all these courses have been taught by part-time instructors only.

4. Curriculum Revision: Further augmentations of the curriculum

- i) “The reviewers noticed that there was also the potential for development of CLAS courses in the areas of: etymology, classical philosophy, classics and film, classics and popular culture, ancient science and technology.”
- ii) “In looking for collaborations with other departments, these are some of the gaps that could be filled. For example, could a first-year etymology course help to build bridges with English, or even be structured in such a way as to fill the language requirement gap, as an option to attract students who won’t take Greek and Latin or will not take as much.

The fact that the Department has many reasons to rethink their courses at a major level is an opportunity to consider new courses and creative course content.”

Departmental Update: The Department is in agreement in principle, but we have not added any such new courses at this time, given our staffing constraints. We do address this issue by degree with the offering of CLAS 2V51, a course that will focus on Cleopatra, including her image in popular culture and film. In addition, a new course, CLAS 4V20, will focus on ancient technology.

5. Curriculum Revision: A reduction of the number of ancient history credits required from two to one

[given small number of courses the Department can offer,] “we see the requirement of two full credits in ancient history as too inflexible given faculty resources and students’ academic needs. One full credit in ancient history (perhaps chosen from a slate of four that could be offered on a regular cycle) would satisfy the department’s pedagogical goals while also offering more flexibility in program delivery.”

Departmental Update: The revamping of the ancient art and archaeology stream includes a reduction in the number of required credits in the ancient history sequence. This change decreases the number of requirements of this degree stream from 13 credits to 12 credits and thus puts it in line with the other Honours streams. Students choosing the new degree of Classics with Major are also free to choose how much of the ancient history sequences they take in the completion of their degree. Two full credits of the history sequences are still required in the classical languages stream and the classical studies stream. There is no plan to change this requirement for these two streams.

6. Curriculum Revision: A reduction in the number of courses required in the Art/Archaeology Program

- i. “The Art/Archaeology Program requires 14 full courses, and it is difficult for students to complete the program in four years.”
- ii. “The program progression should also be clarified in the Calendar to aid students in planning their studies year-by-year. A note should be included in the calendar about visits to the Academic Advisor: e.g., ‘Classics students are strongly advised to consult the Academic Advisor in their second year.’”

Departmental Update: The number of required credits for the ancient art and archaeology stream is now reduced to 12 credits and thus in line with the other two Honours streams. We have also added a year-by-year breakdown for each stream in our 2012/13 calendar and include a note suggesting students meet with the Academic Advisor to plan out their programs. In addition, the Chair now sends an e-mail to all second year students prior to registration advising students

about requirements they need to begin in year 2 of their studies. These changes should make it easier for the students in ancient art and archaeology stream in particular to finish in a timely fashion. The Department also implemented training session with second year students and the Academic Advisor on navigating the online registration process.

- 7. Curriculum Revision: A consideration of upper-year course renumbering**
- i) Upper-level language courses could be renumbered to the 400-level to reflect the difficulty of the classes and to speed up time to completion of the degree.
 - ii) “The recent renumbering of the archaeological practicum to a 300-level has also generated concern among students, who need more fourth-year courses, and the Department should consider whether the renumbering has met their pedagogical goals.”

Departmental Update: All 300 level Greek and Latin courses are now 400 level. We have not elevated the archaeological practicum to the 400 level, but other changes have been made to this stream that will help students complete their degree in a timely fashion. Our current fourth year offerings have enough space to accommodate all our majors and now that all upper level language classes are at the 400 level, students have more options for completing the required number of fourth year credits.

8. Addition of a Concurrent BA/BEEd Program

“We recommend the development of a concurrent Education program with the Faculty of Education for a concurrent BA/BEEd in Latin. In conjunction with such an initiative, we would recommend that the department explore the current availability of courses that could be counted towards Teachable Subjects such as History, Art, and Drama in Performing Arts.”

Departmental Update: The Department has not yet fully explored the Concurrent BA/BEEd Program, but is still interested in doing so and will begin to explore this more formally this current academic year. We have met with the Faculty of Education about clarifying the language of teachable subjects so that our history sequences and civilization courses count toward teachable subjects in History for Education’s Admissions Committee. As a result of our discussions, the Faculty of Education is recommending that the following calendar entry, “Applicants must have one undergraduate credit in Canadian History. (All history credits, including the Canadian History credit, must fall under the History department listing in the appropriate course calendar, or be cross-listed as a History credit). A maximum of one undergraduate credit in the History of Art, and one undergraduate credit in Greek/Roman Civilization is allowed. Canadian Politics and Canadian Studies courses are not acceptable” be replaced with “Applicants must have one undergraduate credit in Canadian History. All history credits, including the Canadian History credit, must fall under the History department listing in

the appropriate course calendar, or be cross-listed as a History credit. The exception to this is that a maximum of one undergraduate credit in the History of Art or Greek/Roman Civilization that is not cross-listed with History is allowed. Canadian Politics and Canadian Studies courses are not acceptable". This change will be presented to Senate in September 2012 and if approved, will be helpful to the committee when assessing applications from students with a degree in Classics.

9. Assure Adequate Provision for Student Work in the New Building

- i) "The new space in the International Building is both a challenge and an opportunity. We are concerned that student life in the department will be adversely affected if the new space does not provide access to computers, and particularly to printing and photocopying facilities for students. Since students are very dependent on internet access and use e-books and databases for their assignments, they need access to these materials in the department. Of particular concern is the planning for the annual symposium (BUAS) in this context."
- ii) "Students meet and plan in the undergraduate workroom where they enjoy access to faculty mentoring."
- iii) "Enhancing the library holdings in the department to provide students with an upgraded study facility on site would ensure student presence in the new space."

Departmental Update: Students have access to a computer in the Classics Undergraduate Workroom as well as essential reference works. Through the expansion of our library holdings in IC 335, we've been able to ensure there are some key resources available for both undergraduate and graduate students. We have also been granted priority for classroom space in the International Center and East Academic. This change has kept students closer to the Department over the course of the day. Students use the student workroom and the Humanities Student Lounge more frequently as a result. The undergraduate group, BUAS, continues to be strong and the fact that BUAS held elections for ALL its positions this year attests to the interest of students in this organization and the strong undergraduate community in our department. Also, we've added new computers to the archaeology lab.

10. Leverage The Cypriote Collection: A Virtual Museum

"The Cypriote collection is effectively lost at the moment because of the difficulty of accessing it, but it will be adequately housed in the new space; the construction of a virtual museum of the Cypriote artifacts would be a resource for undergraduate students interested in pursuing Museum Studies. Perhaps a course could be designed around the collection and its conservation.

Collaboration with the department of Computing might allow the department to mount a course in which students get credit for Digitizing images and mounting them on a website.”

Departmental Update: In addition to two curated shows by past undergraduate and graduate students, the department has begun using the collection for teaching purposes and for community outreach. The subject of one of the exhibits developed out of an undergraduate course on archaeological ethics (CLAS 4V28) and incorporated the research of an MRP by an MA student in our MA programme. This spring Professor Greene used the collection in a seminar for CLAS 2P34: Ancient Cities and Sanctuaries. Each seminar section had one seminar held in the archaeology lab for the purpose of looking at artifacts in the Cypriote collection. Professor Smith is planning to spend a seminar of CLAS 2P32 in the same way. Also, a new course – CLAS 4V20 – will make extensive use of the collection and will curate a new show for the department’s display cases. In Fall 2011, a Cypriote scholar, Dr. Ellen Herscher (University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology), gave an AIA lecture. This talk was followed by a “tour” of objects from the Cypriote collection. The event was a success and so we may consider doing a similar event on a regular basis. In 2010/11, the department also hired an undergraduate student to work in the Cypriote Museum with the help of Experience Works. Over the course of the academic year the student organized the museum objects and completed digital photographs of all the objects in our collection. These images are now stored on a CD that can be used in tandem with Laura Robertson's published catalogue of the artifacts and, after some research into platforms, both will eventually be uploaded to a link on our website. In addition, the department has hosted professional archaeological drawing and photography workshops for students in the archaeology laboratory space.