

M E M O R A N D U M

From: Didier Bertrand, Director
Program in French, Department of World Languages & Cultures

To: Paul Carlin, Chair
Undergraduate Curriculum & Standards Committee

Re: Proposal for a Revised Minor in French

Date: March 10, 2014

The faculty of the Program in French in the Department of World Languages & Cultures wishes to revise the requirements for the minor in French to include the possibility of obtaining three hours of credit for study abroad. As you know, the new SLA Curriculum was approved on April 19, 2013 by the Faculty Assembly. As of Fall 2013, a two-year foreign language proficiency became part of the new curriculum. In order to accommodate this requirement, the language programs changed their second-year two-course sequence of eight credit hours (4 and 4, respectively) into a six credit hour requirement. The Faculty in French feels that the addition of one credit hour and a whole 300-level course benefits and strengthens the minor. We also feel that study abroad should be encouraged and rewarded at the level of the minor as it is in the major.

Rationale

The Department of WLAC feels it should be at the forefront of IUPUI's Strategic Plan that calls for a 25% increase of student study-abroad opportunities. A few years ago, we already included the F396/F496 (*Study Abroad in French*) options to the major in an attempt to encourage our students to experience Francophone cultures firsthand. In the old minor, we only had two courses at the 300-level and did not feel it was wise to let one of them be taught abroad, but with three courses now, we feel that the gains of study abroad outweigh the potential on-campus loss of one of three courses to a sound study abroad program. Therefore, we ask that F396 be added as an option for the minor, as another choice to fulfill the "Oral Production" requirement.

Why the Oral Production Component?

All of IU's Summer Study Abroad programs led by a language department are heavily focused on language acquisition, as opposed to, for example, culture, literature, or the arts. Students enrolled in IU's six-week IES/Paris program have a variety of course options to choose from, but the common core is the language class. Students enrolled in IUPUI's three-week program in Aix-en-Provence, certainly do experience the French culture firsthand, but explicit instruction in this program is also geared toward language acquisition in a communicative context. It is likely that students will speak at least as much French in three to six weeks abroad as they would in a traditional fifteen-week class taken on campus, if we combine classroom instruction, attendance to lectures, and simply living and interacting in a French or Francophone context.

Proposed change:

Minor:	Old (until 2013) (# of credits)	Current (2013 – present)	New (2014 on)
Core Courses	F203 <i>Second-Year I</i> (4) <u>and</u> F204 <i>Second-Year II</i> (4)	F203 <i>Second-Year I</i> (3) <u>and</u> F204 <i>Second-Year II</i> (3)	F203 <i>Second-Year I</i> (3) <u>and</u> F204 <i>Second-Year II</i> (3)
Language	F328 <i>Adv. Grammar</i> (3)	F328 <i>Adv. Grammar</i> (3) <u>or</u> F330 <i>Intro. to Translation</i> (3)	F328 <i>Adv. Grammar</i> (3) <u>or</u> F330 <i>Intro. to Translation</i> (3)
Oral Production	[None]	F331 <i>Pronunciation & Diction</i> (3) <u>or</u> F380 <i>Conversation</i> (3)	F331 <i>Pronunciation & Diction</i> (3) <u>or</u> F380 <i>Conversation</i> (3) <u>or</u> F396 <i>French Study Abroad</i> (3)
→ Culture	F300 <i>Lectures & analyses litt.</i> (3) <u>or</u> F360 <i>Intro to Fr. Culture</i> (3)	F300 <i>Lectures & analyses litt.</i> (3) <u>or</u> F326 <i>Fr. in Business World</i> (3) <u>or</u> F360 <i>Intro to Fr. Culture</i> (3)	F300 <i>Lectures & analyses litt.</i> (3) <u>or</u> F326 <i>Fr. in Business World</i> (3) <u>or</u> F360 <i>Intro to Fr. Culture</i> (3)