1b. Revised 30-hour Master’s Degree Requirements in Option 2: Rhetoric & Composition or Language Studies

Attached is a document which supports this change, which was previously approved by the Committee on Graduate Studies.

Proposal for REVISED 30-hour Master’s Degree program in English
approved by Grad Comm. in meeting of 11/05/2010;
approved by Advisory Committee in meeting of 2/7/2011;
approved by Voting Department in meeting of 2/22/2011;
approved by subcommittee of CGS in meeting of 9/15/2011.

Net Effects:

- This proposal will reduce the number of required hours of coursework for the English M.A. from 30 to 24 (i.e., not including thesis or exam hours). Most of our students teach two courses per semester and take two courses per semester. With the 30 hour (or 10 course) requirement, this schedule meant that students ended up with 5 semesters of coursework. The changes effected by this proposal will mean that students will be able to finish the degree in two years.

- The proposal also streamlines the course distribution requirements with respect to historical fields and national literatures. The old (i.e., current) system confronts students and advisors with an array of requirements in 5 fields, with (limited) options within those requirements. The new system simplifies the distribution requirements to no more than three broad historical or methodological fields for each track and allows students and advisors more options within each.

- Currently, all incoming graduate students must take English 800, “Introduction to Graduate Study in English.” Consequently, this course is typically over-full, under-staffed, and oft-resentated. This proposal leaves 800 in place, but expands the range of courses that can fulfill the methods and theory requirement to include other courses as well.

- M.A. students in English may either write a thesis or take a final oral examination to complete their degree requirements. Currently, the M.A. exam is based on a lengthy list of very specific texts from a variety of periods and fields. However, given the constantly changing nature of the field and revisions to the canon, such a list quickly becomes outmoded (which is why no other department we know of has such a system). The new plan requires students to read and be tested on the same number of texts, but allows the advisor and candidate to develop the list of texts for the exam. These must be chosen from broad historical periods that correspond to the course field distribution requirements.

- Currently, the M.A. student may choose three tracks, 1a. Literature, 1b. Literature and Literary Theory, and 2, Language, Literature and Composition. Option 2 is, effectively, a specialization in Rhetoric and Composition or English Language Studies; however, the title has confused many applicants. Moreover, Rhet-Comp and Language Studies are by no means the same thing. The new proposal splits option 2 into two tracks: 2a. “Rhetoric and Composition” and 2b. “English Language Studies,” each with requirements better-geared towards training in each field, with each clearly labeled.
NEW (proposed) M.A. Requirements:

M.A. students enrolling for the first time after Fall XXXX must choose one of the following options:

Option 1: Literary Studies

1A: Literature

1. A total of 30 hours in English courses carrying graduate credit. No more than 6 hours may be taken at the 600 level. At least 6 hours must be taken at the 900 or seminar level.
   - Exam option students will take 9 conventional courses (27 hours), plus 3 hours of ENGL 897 (exam preparation hours) or another elective course.
   - Thesis option students will take 8 conventional courses (24 hours), plus 6 hours of ENGL 899 (MA or MFA thesis hours).

2. 3 hours (1 course) on Methods or Theory appropriate to different areas of focus in Literary Studies: ordinarily 708, 709, 800, or another course appropriately designated by the Graduate Director. A 998 (Directed Reading) directly focused on questions of methods and theory can fulfill this requirement if approved by the Graduate Director.

3. 3 hours (1 course) on Pedagogy: the 801-802 sequence (required for TAs), 780, or other appropriate course as approved by the Graduate Director.

4. 18 (6 courses with thesis option) or 21 (7 courses with exam option) distribution hours to be selected in consultation with advisors (Graduate Director during first year and thereafter advisors with whom students plan to move toward exam or thesis options).
   - At least one course must be pre-1700; at least one must be 1700-1900; and at least one must be after 1900.
   - Two courses (6 hours) outside the department may be included in the 18 distribution hours with approval of the Graduate Director.

5. Exam option (3 hours): the student will generally enroll in 3 hours of ENGL 897 (exam preparation hours) and must pass a 90-minute oral exam based on a 30-item exam list of literary and/or theoretical texts, including at least 6 items from before 1700; at least 6 items from 1700-1900; and at least 6 items from 1900-present.
   - The student may opt to enroll in one additional 3-hour elective course instead of ENGL 897.

6. Thesis Option (6 hours): The student must enroll in 6 hours of ENGL 899 (MA or MFA thesis hours) over 2 semesters of thesis work: (1) a first semester of work with the thesis director leading to polished proposal with a bibliography; and (2) a thesis semester of writing leading to defense of finished thesis.

1B: Literature and Theory

1. A total of 30 hours in English courses carrying graduate credit. No more than 6 hours may be taken at the 600 level. At least 6 hours must be taken at the 900 or seminar level.
   - Exam option students will take 9 conventional courses (27 hours), plus 3 hours of ENGL 897 (exam preparation hours) or another elective course.
Thesis option students will take 8 conventional courses (24 hours), plus 6 hours of ENGL 899 (MA or MFA thesis hours).

2. 3 hours (1 course) on Methods or Theory appropriate to different areas of focus in Literary Studies: ordinarily 708, 709, 800, or another course appropriately designated by the Graduate Director. A 998 (Directed Reading) directly focused on questions of methods and theory can fulfill this requirement if approved by the Graduate Director.

3. 3 hours (1 course) on Pedagogy: the 801-802 sequence (required for TAs), 780, or other appropriate course as approved by the Graduate Director.

4. 18 (6 courses with thesis option) or 21 (7 courses with exam option) distribution hours to be selected in consultation with advisors (Graduate Director during first year and thereafter advisors with whom students plan to move toward exam or thesis options).
   - At least one course (3 hours) must be pre-1800; at least one (3 hours) must be post-1800.
   - At least two courses (6 hours), besides the course used to fulfill requirement 2 (Methods or Theory) must focus primarily on Literary Theory.
   - Two courses (6 hours) outside the department may be included in the 18 distribution hours with approval of the Graduate Director.

5. Exam option (3 hours): the student will generally enroll in 3 hours of ENGL 897 (exam preparation hours) and must pass a 90-minute oral exam based on a 30-item exam list of literary and/or theoretical texts, including at least 6 items pre-1800; at least 6 items post-1800; and at least 12 items in theory. The student may opt to enroll in one additional 3-hour elective course instead of ENGL 897.

6. Thesis Option (6 hours): The student must enroll in 6 hours of ENGL 899 (MA or MFA thesis hours) over 2 semesters of thesis work: (1) a first semester of work with the thesis director leading to polished proposal with a bibliography; and (2) a thesis semester of writing leading to defense of finished thesis.

**Option 2: Rhetoric & Composition, or Language Studies**

**2A: Rhetoric and Composition**

1. A total of 30 hours in English courses carrying graduate credit. No more than 6 hours may be taken at the 600 level. At least 6 hours must be taken at the 900 or seminar level.
   - Exam option students will take 9 conventional courses (27 hours), plus 3 hours of ENGL 897 (exam preparation hours) or another elective course.
   - Thesis option students will take 8 conventional courses (24 hours), plus 6 hours of ENGL 899 (MA or MFA thesis hours).

2. 3 hours (1 course) on Methods or Theory appropriate to different areas of focus in Rhetoric and Composition, ordinarily 780 (Composition Studies), or another course appropriately designated by the Graduate Director. A 998 (Directed Reading) directly focused on questions of methods and theory can fulfill this requirement if approved by the Graduate Director.

3. 3 hours (1 course) on Pedagogy: the 801-802 sequence (required for TAs), 780, or other appropriate course as approved by the Graduate Director.
4. 18 (6 courses with thesis option) or 21 (7 courses with exam option) distribution hours (6 courses) to be selected in consultation with advisors (Graduate Director during first year and thereafter advisors with whom students plan to move toward exam or thesis options).
   At least 6 hours in Rhetoric and Composition courses (including at least one seminar) beyond the courses used to fulfill requirements 2 (Methods and Theory) and 3 (Pedagogy).
   6 hours of elective courses
   For students selecting the exam option, 6 hours in second exam area (rhetoric and composition specialty, language, literature, literary theory), including at least one seminar
   Two courses (6 hours) outside the department may be included in the 18 distribution hours with approval of the Graduate Director.

5. Exam option (3 hours): The student will generally enroll in 3 hours of ENGL 897 (exam preparation hours) and must pass a 90-minute oral exam based on two lists developed in consultation with advisors: a) a 15-item exam list of works in rhetoric and composition, and b) a 15-item exam list of works in a second area: literature, literary theory, English Language Studies, or specialty within rhetoric and composition.
   The student may opt to enroll in one additional 3-hour elective course instead of ENGL 897.

6. Thesis Option (6 hours): The student must enroll in 6 hours of ENGL 899 (MA or MFA thesis hours) over 2 semesters of thesis work: (1) a first semester of work with the thesis director leading to polished proposal with a bibliography; and (2) a thesis semester of writing leading to defense of finished thesis.

2B: English Language Studies

1. A total of 30 hours in English courses carrying graduate credit. No more than 6 hours may be taken at the 600 level. At least 6 hours must be taken at the 900 or seminar level.
   Exam option students will take 9 conventional courses (27 hours), plus 3 hours of ENGL 897 (exam preparation hours) or another elective course.
   Thesis option students will take 8 conventional courses (24 hours), plus 6 hours of ENGL 899 (MA or MFA thesis hours).

2. 3 hours (1 course) on Methods or Theory appropriate to different areas of focus in English Language Studies: 785 or 787, or another course appropriately designated by the Graduate Director. A 998 (Directed Reading) directly focused on questions of methods and theory can fulfill this requirement if approved by the Graduate Director.

3. 3 hours (1 course) on Pedagogy: the 801-802 sequence (required for TAs), 780, 781, or other appropriate course as approved by the Graduate Director.

4. 18 (6 courses with thesis option) or 21 (7 courses with exam option) distribution hours to be selected in consultation with advisors (Graduate Director during first year and thereafter advisors with whom students plan to move toward exam or thesis options).
   At least 6 hours in English Language Studies courses (including at least one seminar) beyond the courses used to fulfill requirements 2 (Methods and Theory) and 3 (Pedagogy).
   6 hours of elective courses
   For students selecting the exam option, 6 hours in second exam area (rhetoric and composition, literature, literary theory), including at least one seminar.
Two courses (6 hours) outside the department may be included in the 18 distribution hours with approval of the Graduate Director.

5. Exam option (3 hours): The student will generally enroll in 3 hours of ENGL 897 (exam preparation hours) and must pass a 90-minute oral exam based on two lists developed in consultation with advisors: a) a 15-item exam list of works in English Language Studies, and b) a 15-item exam list of works in a second area: literature, literary theory, or rhetoric and composition.

The student may opt to enroll in one additional 3-hour elective course instead of ENGL 897.

6. Thesis Option (6 hours): The student must enroll in 6 hours of ENGL 899 (MA or MFA thesis hours) over 2 semesters of thesis work: (1) a first semester of work with the thesis director leading to polished proposal with a bibliography; and (2) a thesis semester of writing leading to defense of finished thesis.

OLD (Current) M.A. Requirements:

From 2011-2012 English Graduate Handbook:

COURSE REQUIREMENTS M.A. students enrolling for the first time after Fall 2000 must choose one of the three options listed

Option Ia -Literature

1. One graduate course from Field A, English Language and Literature in Old and Middle English, and one from Field B, English Literature 1500-1800.

2. One graduate course in each of two of the following fields: C, English Literature post 1800; D, American Literature; E, Composition/Rhetoric and Literary Theory.

3. English 800, Introduction to Graduate Study in English (to be taken at the first opportunity).

4. A total of 30 hours in English courses carrying graduate credit. These must include at least one seminar passed with a grade of A or B. No more than six credit hours may be taken at the 600-level.

5. Thesis or Exam Option: students electing the MA exam will take the final oral examination described below. For students electing the MA thesis, the thesis defense will constitute the final oral examination. Students may enroll in ENG 899 (Thesis/Exam hours) as necessary, but 899 will not count toward the 30-hour course requirement.

NOTE on Fields: Please see Appendix A for M.A. Fields. A student may count an appropriate graduate course in a department or program other than English as meeting the requirement for Field E of the exam, subject to the approval of the Graduate Director.

Option Ib - Literature and Literary Theory

1. One graduate course from Field A, English Language and Literature in Old and Middle English, or one from Field B, English Literature 1500-1800.
2. One graduate course from Field C, English Literature post 1800, or from Field D, American Literature.

3. Two graduate courses in literary theory from Field E, Composition/Rhetoric and Literary Theory.

4. English 800, Introduction to Graduate Study in English (to be taken at the first opportunity).

5. A total of 30 hours in English courses carrying graduate credit. These must include at least one seminar passed with a grade of A or B. No more than six credit hours may be taken at the 600-level.

6. Thesis or Exam Option: students electing the MA exam will take the final oral examination described below. For students electing the MA thesis, the thesis defense will constitute the final oral examination. Students may enroll in ENG 899 (Thesis/Exam hours) as necessary, but 899 will not count toward the 30-hour course requirement.

**NOTE** on Fields: Please see Appendix A for M.A. Fields. A student may count an appropriate graduate course in a department or program other than English as meeting the requirement for Field E, subject to the approval of the Graduate Director.

**Option II - Language, Literature, and Composition**

1. Courses in literature: At least 6 hours, including at least 3 hours from Field B, English Literature 1500-1800, and 3 hours from either Field C, English literature post 1800, or Field D, American literature.

2. Courses in language and composition: At least 6 hours in English Language courses (from Field A) and/or in Composition/Rhetoric courses (from Field E).

3. English 800, Introduction to Graduate Study in English.

4. A total of 30 hours in English courses carrying graduate credit. These must include at least one seminar passed with a grade of A or B. No more than six credit hours may be taken at the 600-level.

5. Thesis or Exam Option: students electing the MA exam will take the final oral examination described below. For students electing the MA thesis, the thesis defense will constitute the final oral examination. Students may enroll in ENG 899 (Thesis/Exam hours) as necessary, but 899 will not count toward the 30-hour course requirement.

**NOTE** on Fields: Please see Appendix A for M.A. Fields. A student may count an appropriate graduate course in a department or program other than English as meeting the requirement for Field E, subject to the approval of the Graduate Director.