

October 26, 2009

University Provost's Academic Council and Academic Senate Curriculum and Academic Programs Committee

Dear Colleagues,

Re: Adding a minor in Global Health, follow-up memo (with additional revisions)

The School of Human Evolution and Social Change is proposing a new minor in Global Health for undergraduate students. We believe that the new minor will be beneficial to the many non-majors who concentrate their electives within the global health program. The core of the curriculum will give students a strong background in the basics of global health, while the study abroad requirement will give students real-world experience and integrates learning across the minor.

The minor in Global Health would consist of 18 credit hours, of which 12 must be at the 300 or 400 level. Students may petition to have a requirement substituted through the undergraduate advisor. At least 12 credits must be ASU credits, and the capstone and the study abroad requirement must be taken at ASU.

### **Proposed Curriculum:**

#### **I. REQUIRED COURSES**

***a. Introductory Course (3 credit hours)***

SSH 100/ASB 100 Introduction to Global Health (required)\* (SB & G)

***b. Evolutionary/Time Depth Courses (choose one, 3 credit hours)\*\****

SSH 301/ASB 301 Global History of Health (3) (SB & H)

SSH 401 Health and Human Biology (3)

ASM 345 Disease and Human Evolution (3)

***c. Poverty and Social Justice Courses (choose 1, 3 credit hours)\*\****

SSH 400/ASB 410/WST 410 Poverty, Social Justice and Global Health (3) (L or SB & G)

SSH 370/ASB 370 Production, People & Environment (3) – new course, was ST

SSH 414/SOS 414/ASM 414 Urban & Environmental Health

***d. Culture, Society and Health Courses (choose one, 3 credit hours)\*\****

SSH 200/ASB 200 Food and Culture (3) (L)

SSH 404/ASB 462 Culture and Health: Medical Anthropology (3) (C)

ASB 355 Traditional Medicine and Healing (3) HU or SB [renamed from 'Shamanism and Healing']

***e. Electives (6 credit hours)***

Students need to choose two additional classes from the courses listed on an approved list of 48 courses from across ASU. Students are able to fulfill these elective courses through the study abroad experience.

\*\* Other options may be added to meet this requirement, based on an approved list, but only in semesters where these specific courses are not offered.

\* This class may not be substituted.

#### **II. STUDY ABROAD**

Students are strongly encouraged to do two study abroad or similar supervised experiences within their degree program, but a minimum of one approved formal study abroad program is required. Each student will work with the undergraduate advisor to select at least one study abroad experience within their degree program that works with their interests and plans. We offer a range of options for students that are designed to enhance and expand on-campus learning and opportunities for our minors. The goal of the study abroad is to build students' range of skills in relation to global health through first hand experiences that are managed by ASU faculty. These experiences include exposure to health challenges and health systems

– past and present – in other countries, and most also integrate students into faculty research in non-US settings, and emphasize teamwork and collaborative skills. We expect students to elect ASU-lead programs not only because they are integrated to degree learning, but an important aspect of the experience is the opportunity to develop closer relationships with ASU global health faculty, graduate students, and other students in the major/minor, given how important these networks are as students plan to enter graduate school or careers. Students must choose at least one of the programs listed. Other study abroad programs will not fulfill this requirement. Independent travel, even as enrolled as an independent study with ASU faculty, cannot substitute for this requirement. For students with compelling, documented reasons why they cannot travel, alternative arrangements will be made. Financial planning support and financial aid information will be available to students concerned about costs of study abroad. NOTE: Depending on the program chosen, students can earn between 6-9 credit hours on the summer study abroad that will either count towards the core requirements or electives. New options are added each year as the school expands its program offerings.

- *Australia, Fiji: Human Dimensions of Sustainability (from summer 2009)*  
<http://shesc.asu.edu/australia>
- *London, The World in One City: Adventures in History, Health, and Social Change (from summer 2009)*  
<http://shesc.asu.edu/london>
- *New Zealand, Fiji: Adventures in Culture, Health and Environment (from summer 2007 New Zealand, summer 2008 Fiji)*  
<http://shesc.asu.edu/newzealand>
- *China: The Roaring Dragon: Health, Environment, and Social Change (from summer 2010)*  
<http://shesc.asu.edu/china>
- *Ecuador, Andes and Amazon Field School (summer)*  
<http://andes.asu.edu>. Note: this Ecuador program is not a School of Human Evolution and Social Change program, but offers ASB/SSH credit (not included in tally below) and is directed by global health faculty
- *Global Internship: Indigenous Community Development and Health in Paraguay OR other approved topics (summer or winter)* <http://shesc.asu.edu/global/practicum>

Planned starting summer 2011: *Medical Anthropology Field School in Antigua, Guatemala.*

#### **Justification/Demand for the New Minor:**

The School is trying to meet the needs of two categories of students with this proposal: (1) people who have an interest in global health but do not want to pursue it as a career, and (2) people in other departments with an applied interest in global health. Many students outside of the Global Health program take these courses as electives, and demand is increasing rapidly. Because Global Health is an interdisciplinary area of study, students across many departments will find overlaps with their areas of interest. The courses are particularly popular among Anthropology majors, Biology majors, and Pre-Med majors. A minor in Global Health gives students who take many of their electives in the program further recognition for their coursework. We have had quite a number of enquiries about the minor from students in a wide range of related disciplines that see the minor will enhance their opportunities for international and well as national positions after graduation, or expand their qualifications to the health field where more jobs are available.

The BA in Global Health was launched this last fall and has ~140 majors already. Demand is clearly high for the major, and we expect will equalize at about 500 majors given this rate of new students signing up. Most of our SSH courses we teach as cross-lists (because it is an interdisciplinary program and our faculty teach across degrees also). Enrollment demand in almost all our course classes exceeded available seats this last year (see below); we are offering much larger classes and summer/winter options and have assigned additional faculty to teach more/larger courses this coming year starting in the fall. Core requirements and their equivalents will be taught regularly so that students will easily be able to fulfill the minor requirements. A list of equivalent courses is available upon request. The historical enrollment information is shown below.

#### **Specific Explanation of the Rationale for a Study Abroad Requirement:**

The requirement to study abroad on specific programs designed for our specific students is a central part of the philosophy and pedagogy of this minor, as it is to the already existing major. We have made a clear and *systemic* commitment to develop and maintain very high quality programs for our students at the School level, with the support of the College. Students go overseas in the company of senior core faculty on programs that are designed especially to (a) create academic cohesion to the program by bringing all the themes explored across requirements to focus on one complex case study from multiple perspectives, (b) create critical *community* among students and faculty, and (c) provide a platform for students to develop and execute capstone projects related to larger faculty research initiatives that are tied into the specific country sites. The requirement ensures that students obtain real-world experience related to global health outside the US (in a

structured, academic environment), the experience of being a competent global traveler and citizen being implied by being awarded a degree in *global health* and hence expected on their c.v.

But the rationale for study abroad is much broader than this: there is *extensive* peer-reviewed research showing that even short-term faculty-lead study abroad *markedly* increases retention within a degree program, that students who study abroad under such conditions feel a perpetual link to the degree/program (exceeding all other institutional commitments later including degree or school), and also do better academically. A main concern about implementing study abroad as a curriculum requirement that we often hear voiced is the financial costs to the students, and related to this that it may reduce diversity of the student body. There are a number of observations that are important in this regard: 1) under federal law, study abroad program costs including travel and lodging, are covered by financial aid, just like other educational expenses; 2) we have no significant other fees on the global health degree, so the payment of fees to cover the cost of travel in the larger picture represents a relatively a modest fee overall for the total program: compare this to most existing undergraduate public health programs that typically have really significant additional program fees in addition to tuition or differential tuition; 3) we have worked with the Center for Global Education Services to develop a successful financial model (piloted last year and to be rolled out for other ASU colleges/units this coming year) that allows us to collect tuition residuals in a way that can be used to provide targeted scholarship support when needed/desired, and 4) the Global Health major is in fact proving significantly *more* diverse than the other large undergrad major in our school (Anthropology) that does not have the study abroad requirement.

On further important point: The Senator Paul Simon Study Abroad Foundation Act is currently with Senate Foreign Steering Committee and passed the house on 6/10/09; the President has indicated he will sign. It is centrally concerned with implementing the recommendations of the Lincoln Commission Report on how to create a more globally informed American citizenry. A major goal of the bill is to normalize study abroad education across American universities with a target of half of all US graduating students having studied abroad (currently it is 1%, the historical ASU rate also). That bill, if passed, will provide funding in support of study abroad *ONLY* to institutions that have codified a commitment to study abroad within academic curricula. The already approved major and this proposed minor in global health are thus completely in line with significantly expanding federal initiatives, and this will allow ASU to qualify for funding ahead of the curve, which will in turn can then provide enhanced opportunity for our students to participate in this pedagogically critical experience. See: [http://www.nafsa.org/public\\_policy.sec/study\\_abroad\\_2/faqs\\_2/#existing](http://www.nafsa.org/public_policy.sec/study_abroad_2/faqs_2/#existing)

We appreciate your consideration of our proposal for a minor in Global Health. We would ask that this be in effect for Spring 2010. Please let me know if there are any questions.

Cordially,



Alexandra Brewis Slade  
Associate Director  
School of Human Evolution and Social Change

cc: Sander van der Leeuw, Director

Term	Core GH Course	Enrollments	Seats Offered	Description	Notes
Spring 08	SSH100/ASB 100	192	200	Intro to GH	First semester it was taught
Summer 08	ASB 462 (SSH 404)	117	online	Medical Anthropology: Culture and Health	
	Study Abroad Courses	47 students taking 6-9 cr		Courses include SSH 400/ASB 410, SSH 301/ASB 301, ASM 494/SSH 494 (Urban and Enviro Health), SSH 403 Cross-cultural Studies in GH	Part of our study abroad program, year 1
Fall 08	SSH100/ASB 100	399	400	Intro to GH	First semester of GH major
Winter 08	ASB 462 (SSH 404)	57	online	Medical Anthropology: Culture and Health	this course will be cross-listed permanently with SSH 404
Spring 09	SSH100/ASB 100	456	456	Intro to GH	
	SSH 400/ASB 410	62	60	Poverty, Social Justice and GH (L)	
	SSH 301/ASB 301	62	60	Global History of Health	
Summer 09	ASB 462 (SSH 404)	109	online	Medical Anthropology: Culture and Health	
	Study Abroad Courses	97 students taking 6-9 cr		Courses include SSH 400/ASB 410, SSH 301/ASB 301, ASM 494/SSH 494 (Urban and Enviro Health), SSH 403 Cross-cultural Studies in GH	Part of our study abroad program, doubled from summer 2008
Fall 09	SSH100/ASB 100	456	456	Intro to GH	
	ASM 494/SSH 494	47	48	Urban and Enviro Health	Now is SSH 414/ASM 414
Winter 09	SSH100/ASB 100		40	Intro to GH	
	SSH 200/ASB 200		40	Food and Culture	
	SSH 400/ASB 410		40	Poverty, Social Justice and GH	
	ASB 462 (SSH 404)		40	Medical Anthropology: Culture and Health	
Spring 10	SSH100/ASB 100		556	Intro to GH	We will have two sections of this course(456 + 100) as demand is so high
	SSH 404/ASB 462		60	Medical Anthropology: Culture and Health	

**From:** Linda Lederman [mailto:Linda.Lederman@asu.edu]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 27, 2009 1:48 PM  
**To:** curriculumplanning@asu.edu  
**Cc:** Alexandra Brewis Slade; Jenny Smith; Janice Clark  
**Subject:** FW: Minor in Global Health - no later than Thursday, Oct. 29

This request has my approval and I am forwarding for your consideration

Linda

Linda Costigan Lederman, Ph.D.  
Dean, Social Sciences  
Professor of Human Communication & Director, Institute for Social Science Research (ISSR)  
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences  
Arizona State University  
PO Box 876505  
Tempe, AZ 85287 USA  
Voice: 480-965-0668 Fax: 480-965-1093

ASU College of Liberal Arts and Sciences — *Transforming learning, discovery and lives*

---

**From:** Jenny Smith  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 23, 2009 2:31 PM  
**To:** Linda Lederman  
**Cc:** Alexandra Brewis Slade; Janice Clark; Filiz Ozel; Denise Campbell  
**Subject:** MA and Minor in Global Health

Linda,

The attached curricular proposals were approved by the CLAS Curriculum Committee and Senate. Would you please forward them with your endorsement to [curriculumplanning@asu.edu](mailto:curriculumplanning@asu.edu)?

Thank you,  
Jenny

**JENNY SMITH**  
Executive Assistant  
**College of Liberal Arts and Sciences**  
Arizona State University | P.O. Box 876605 | Tempe, Arizona 85287-6605  
480.965.6506 | Fax: 480.965.2110 | e-mail: [jenny.smith@asu.edu](mailto:jenny.smith@asu.edu)

ASU College of Liberal Arts and Sciences — *Transforming learning, discovery and lives*