INDIANA UNIVERSITY SOUTH BEND
MLS New Course Requests
Mike Keen (mkeen@iusb.edu)

I. Introduction:
The IUSB Master of Liberal Studies Program was created in 1987. Until now, it has remained unchanged. However, during the last year the program has undergone a thorough review by the faculty members of the Graduate Liberal Studies Committee. Based on this review, a series of major curricular revisions have been recommended. These recommendations include the creation of 10 new courses to strengthen the program and to broaden the curricular options for students enrolled within it.

II. Rationale for revisions and additions:
1. Many of our students come from programs other than the Liberal Arts and Sciences or have been out of school for years and therefore are not fully prepared to do graduate level work in liberal studies.
2. Approximately 50% of the students who complete their coursework never successfully complete a graduate project proposal and therefore don’t even begin work on their final projects and graduate. Approximately 85% of those who successfully complete a proposal go on to complete their projects and graduate within the next two years.
3. The large number of undergraduate courses taken for MLS elective graduate credit, with a Request for Graduate Credit form, has been critically noted by our accrediting agency.
4. The capstone option of only a graduate project that is required for graduation does not allow enough flexibility for all of our students to best articulate the program with their future intellectual and/or career plans.

III. Current Requirements
Currently, students must take 3 core seminars, 5 electives, and 6 hours of D500 Graduate Project.

Core Seminars
D501 Humanities Seminar (3 hrs)
D502 Social Science Seminar (3 hrs)
D503 Science Seminar (3 hrs)

Electives
Electives can be completed by taking additional core seminars (each may be taken two times under a different topic); 300 and 400 level undergraduate courses with a Request for Graduate Credit Contract listing extra work; graduate courses from other IUSB departments, divisions, and schools.

Capstone Experience
D500 Graduate Project (3-6 hrs)
(prereq: core and elective requirements complete)
IV. New Requirements: Traditional Independent Project/Creative Activity Track

In order to make sure all students are fully prepared to do graduate level study, as well as to more clearly and systematically introduce them to graduate liberal studies, we would like to add a new introductory proseminar D510 Introduction to Graduate Liberal Studies (the 510 number is an unavoidable bureaucratic artifact). All students will be required to take this course. Part-time students will begin with this course. Full-time students will be able to take this course concurrently with other core or elective courses.

The initial core course structure will remain the same. However, in order to strengthen the elective portion of the curriculum, and to begin to reduce reliance on undergraduate numbered courses, we would like to create a new series of variable title elective courses (D511, D512 and D513). We will use these to create some hybrid MLS graduate electives by soliciting faculty who are willing to create a special graduate syllabus for an upper-level course they are teaching, and to submit it to the Graduate Liberal Studies Committee for approval. Once approved, when the course is offered we will also joint-list it under the LBST elective. In order to provide study abroad opportunities for MLS students, we will do the same with D514 Study Abroad.

While this does not fully solve the problem of joint undergraduate/graduate courses, it will at least let us stop using courses with undergraduate numbers on our graduate transcripts. If we don’t create these courses and this process, we will only be able to continue with the current practice. I believe that eventually we will be able to build out some wholly new graduate electives and get away from the current practice of joint undergraduate/graduate courses. In addition, we wish to create directed reading and independent study courses so MLS students can enroll in these courses at the graduate level instead of through undergraduate numbers.

Finally, we want to better prepare students to successfully complete their graduate project proposals and projects. To do this, we would like to create D601 Graduate Project Proposal Seminar. We are already offering a version of this course under the D500 Graduate Project number. We would now like to formalize this under its own number. In addition, we want our course numbers for the graduate project courses to better reflect their placement at the end of the curriculum. This is the reason for the new 600 number courses for the graduate project courses. So as not to take away from the existing core course and elective coursework of the program, we are adding D601 as an additional three hours to the program. It will now be a 33 hour program.

**Proseminar**
D510 Introduction to Graduate Liberal Studies (3 hrs)

**Core Seminars**
D501 Humanities Seminar (prereq: D510) (3 hrs)
D502 Social Science Seminar (3 hrs)

TOTAL 30 hrs
(prereq: D510)

D503 Science Seminar
(prereq: D510) (3 hrs)

Electives

D511 Humanities Elective
(prereq: D510) (3 hrs)

D512 Social Science Elective
(prereq: D510) (3 hrs)

D513 Science Elective
(prereq: D510) (3 hrs)

D514 Study Abroad
(prereq: D510) (3-6 hrs)

D594 Directed Reading
(prereq: 2 of following: D501, D502, D503) (1-3 hrs)

D596 Independent Research
(prereq: D501, D502, & D503) (1-3 hrs)

To complete their elective requirements, students can select from the above courses. In addition, students may repeat core seminars (each may be repeated two times under a different topic); take 300 and 400 level undergraduate courses with a Request for Graduate Credit contract listing extra work for graduate credit; take graduate courses from other IUSB departments, divisions, and schools.

Capstone Experience

D601 Graduate Project Proposal Seminar (S/F) (3 hrs)
(prereq: core and elective requirements complete)

D602 Graduate Project (6 hrs)
(prereq: D601)

TOTAL 33 hrs

V. Public Intellectual Track

As we have reviewed our program, consulted with several programs in the Chicago area (DePaul University, Northwestern University, North Central College), and examined national trends, it has become clear to us that not all students are best served by the traditional independent research or creative activity track. Therefore, we would like to create an additional option, the public intellectual track. The core of this option is the same as the traditional track. However, in place of the independent graduate project, students will be required to take 2 additional core courses and to complete a new capstone course, D600 Public Intellectual Practicum. In this course they will study how to use the liberal arts and sciences literacies that they have acquired through the program to more effectively participate in the public intellectual, cultural, and artistic life of the broader community. This latter course will entail the creation of a portfolio of public intellectual work. Though no
single piece will be as extensive as a traditional thesis, together they will represent a significant body of work. Each year, student portfolios will be assessed by the GLS Committee to make sure the program is meeting its academic goals.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Proseminar</th>
<th>3 hrs</th>
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<tr>
<td>D510 Introduction to Graduate Liberal Studies (3 hrs)</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Core Seminars</th>
<th>15 hrs</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>D501 Humanities Seminar (prereq: D510) (3 hrs)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>D502 Social Science Seminar (prereq: D510) (3 hrs)</td>
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<tr>
<td>D503 Science Seminar (prereq: D510) (3 hrs)</td>
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Students must take a total of 5 Core Seminars to fulfill this requirement. No one area can be taken more than twice to fulfill this section of the requirements.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Electives</th>
<th>12 hrs</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>D511 Humanities Elective (prereq: D510) (3 hrs)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>D512 Social Science Elective (prereq: D510) (3 hrs)</td>
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<tr>
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To complete their elective requirements, students can select from the above courses. In addition, core seminars may be repeated (each may be taken two times under a different topic); take 300 and 400 level undergraduate courses with a Request for Graduate Credit contract listing extra work for graduate credit; take graduate courses from other IUSB departments, divisions, and schools.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Capstone Experience</th>
<th>3 hrs</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>D600 Public Intellectual Practicum (3 hrs) (prereq: core and elective requirements complete)</td>
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**TOTAL 33 hrs**

**VI. Program Scheduling**
As in the past, the MLS program will continue to offer all three core seminars every semester. We will offer D510 Introduction to Graduate Liberal Studies every Fall, and if needed, in the Spring as well. By arrangement with the Dean, beginning Fall 2005, the Director of MLS will have a 50% appointment. The additional 25% assignment will provide time for teaching D510 in the Fall, as well as for teaching the D601 Graduate Project Proposal Seminar in both the Fall and Spring. Initially, we will teach the new D600 Public Intellectual Practicum every Spring (we will add Fall if demand requires it). In addition to the Director, several members of the Graduate Liberal Studies Committee have indicated an interest in teaching both D510 and D600.

The Director of MLS will be charged with encouraging and helping faculty members to submit graduate syllabi to the GLS Committee for approval as graduate-level electives. In addition, students will be able to continue to fulfill their elective requirements as they have in the past.

With the above arrangements, both full-time and part-time students will be able to complete their programs without any undue interruptions or delays.

VII. Program Flow

Core program for all students entering the program:
Step 1. All students enroll in D510 Introduction to Graduate Liberal Studies in their first semester. Full-time students may enroll in core seminar or elective courses.

Step 2. Students take three core seminars D501, D502 & D503

Step 3. Students take 4 elective courses (they can begin electives at the same time as core seminars).

Step 4. Students must decide in conference with the MLS advisor (Director) whether they plan to pursue the traditional research and creative activity track or the public intellectual track.

If students select the traditional track:
Step 5. Students take D601 Graduate Project Proposal Seminar.

Step 6. Students take D602 and complete the graduate project.

If students select the public intellectual track (full-time students can do the following steps concurrently):
Step 5. Students take two additional core seminars.

Step 6. Students take D600 Public Intellectual Practicum and complete their public intellectual portfolios.

VIII. Typical Course Histories
A. Full-Time Students
Semester 1:
   D510 Introduction to Graduate Liberal Studies
   one core seminar
   one elective

Semester 2:
   2 core seminars
   one elective

Discuss which track to pursue with MLS advisor.

If they select the traditional track:
Semester 3
   2 electives
   D601 Proposal Seminar

Semester 4
   D602 Graduate Project

If they select the public intellectual track:
Semester 3
   2 more core courses
   1 elective

Semester 4
   1 elective
   D600 Public Intellectual Practicum

B. Part-Time Students
Part-time students typically take one course a semester (though occasionally some mix in a semester with 2 courses). They would have to begin with D510 Introduction to Graduate Liberal Studies. They must then complete the three core seminars. Then, they would start on their electives. At this point, part-time students will also meet with the Director to determine which track to pursue. If they choose the traditional track, they will first take D601 Proposal Seminar, and then D602 Graduate Project. If they choose the public intellectual track, they will need to complete two more core seminars, and then finish the program with D600 Public Intellectual Practicum.
Departments To Which New Course Proposals Have Been Submitted

Michael Kaufman, Director
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Sandra French, Director
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