

Curriculum Committee Resolution 23/24-14

Date: May 1, 2024
To: St. Olaf Faculty
From: Curriculum Committee
RE: Proposed New Courses

At the May 2024 Faculty Meeting the Curriculum Committee will move that the faculty approve the following new courses.

ECON 249: Economic Reform and Development in Vietnam (Global Semester)

Course description: In recent years, Vietnam has emerged as one of the world's most vigorous economies. This course charts Vietnam's transition from a centrally planned to a market-oriented economy and the associated socio-political changes and environmental costs. Students study the Doi Moi "Renovation" economic reforms launched in 1986 and the growth in trade and investment since that time. Students examine development ethics and equity issues within the context of Vietnam's market economy and the urban consumer class.

Prerequisites: None

Fulfills the following requirements:

GE: None

OLE Core: SCS - Social Science

Rationale: This course is a single element of the Global Semester program. Global Semester is a fall-semester-length academic program which gives students insight into sites around the world. Through the combination of coursework in a variety of disciplines and experiential learning opportunities, the semester provides a remarkable experience of academic merit and personal development.

The Economic Reform and Development in Vietnam course offers students the opportunity for in depth study of economic growth of Vietnam and the sociopolitical and environmental changes that have come about as a result of that growth. The students will be studying economic realities across all countries in the Global Semester and this will provide deeper engagement with theory and practice.

The course is open only to semester participants who apply and are accepted to participate in the Global Semester program. Even where general topics of study overlap with on-campus courses, the students participating in this course have the opportunity for mentored experiential learning in the host context.

ECON 393: The Economic Writing Process

Course description: Students have the opportunity to follow through on a project that they began in one of their 300-level economic analysis elective courses. Students gain hands-on experience in economic writing by turning a draft of this economics research paper into a complete journal article. They learn about the writing process, develop strong writing habits, prepare compelling data visualizations, and incorporate feedback from peers and experts in their areas of interest. Offered alternate years during January term.

Prerequisites: ECON 260, ECON 261, and ECON 262 and any 300-level Economic Analysis elective

Fulfills the following requirements:

GE: None

OLE Core: OEP - OLE Experience in Practice

Counts toward: B.A. in Economics
B.A. in Quantitative Economics

Rationale: Writing research papers is a critical component of students' experience in the Economics and Quantitative Economics majors. Each of the 300-level analysis elective courses requires students to write a substantive research paper in the field of economics. However, in these courses, students need to both learn the new field of economics as well as develop their research projects. As a result, at the end of the semester, students turn in a draft of a research paper and rarely get to learn about the next steps in the writing process. In the course that is being proposed, students will learn what will come next in the writing process for an economist. The process of presenting their work, integrating feedback, and editing take up the vast majority of the research process for professional economists and it's important to expose students to these processes in their time as a major.

This course will further the Economics Department's contribution to the substantial writing curriculum at St. Olaf. Students will have the unique experience of taking a research project from the draft stage to the submission stage. Additionally, this course will provide an opportunity for students to meet the OEP requirement.

The Economics Department also offers a "Research Experience" course during most January Terms. The proposed course is distinct from that course in a number of ways. First, the focus of the Research Experience Course is to provide students the opportunity to perform the research process (which comes before the writing process). It is predominantly focused on data collection and analysis. Second, students do not write or edit a paper in the Research Experience course.

No courses will be withdrawn as a result of this course being added.

ENGL 374: Advanced Topics in Creative Writing

Course description: In this course, students engage in more concentrated study of advanced craft elements. Different topics may focus on specific schools/genres of writing or on a single author's body of work. This study will inform a student's production of a sustained, creative text such as a novella, chapbook of poems, or a longform essay within a small community of writers to cultivate appropriate drafting and revision processes. May be repeated if the topic is different.

Prerequisites: at least one 200-level creative writing workshop or by instructor permission.

Fulfills the following requirements:

GE: None

OLE Core: None

Counts toward: B.A. in English
B.A. in Creative Writing
B.A. in English with K-12 Teaching Licensure

Rationale: ENGL 374 provides a 300-level opportunity in creative writing to enable the curricular development of topics not supported by other 200-level and 300-level creative writing courses. Current 300-level workshops each focus on the three traditional genres of poetry, fiction, and creative nonfiction and are scaffolded (with each literary type's 200-level prerequisite) to emphasize student mastery of a genre and acquaintance with its vocational practices. ENGL 374 will facilitate the generation of innovative, complex approaches to the study of creative writing beyond student mastery of a particular genre. Consequently, faculty pedagogies may not necessarily feature workshopping and may include course design with an emphasis on cross-disciplinary, antiracist, and/or decolonial learning and reflective practices. By reading a single author's body of work or literature representative of a specific school or artistic community, students will participate in ongoing artistic conversations and reflect on how to make original literary contributions of their own. In addition to novella writing (see attached sample syllabus), other possible ENGL 374 topics could include mixed-genre/hybrid forms, art songs and epic poetry writing, graphic memoir writing, interactive digital docu-poems, among others--complementing and extending student experiences in 300-level genre workshops. In this way, this proposed new course rounds out St. Olaf's creative writing curriculum and places it alongside other ACM colleges who provide their creative writing majors opportunities to undertake sustained projects that challenge and reimagine genre in powerful, provocative ways.