Proposition: 21-06/07
Sponsors: Creider (LIBR)
Proposed Committee: University Affairs
Assigned Committee: University Affairs
Title: Change the Requirements in the Undergraduate Catalog for the “Viewing the Wider World” Requirement.

Proposal:

To change the wording in the Undergraduate Catalog on page 17 under Viewing the Wider World. (The bill also proposes new directions to govern the certification of Viewing the Wider World courses; see appendix).

From:

“Prior to graduating NMSU students are required to take, preferably during their junior or senior year, 6 credits of Viewing a Wider World from two colleges other than their own. These upper-division courses strongly emphasize the international character and multicultural influences in the fields of study and strengthen information retrieval skills by including an assignment which requires the students to do a detailed literature search involving the use of library facilities.”

To:

“Prior to graduating, NMSU students are required to take, preferably during their junior and/or senior year, 6 credits of approved upper-division Viewing a Wider World courses. These classes must be from two different departments and must be from outside the student’s home department or major field of study. Classes that are cross-listed in the student’s home department or major field of study do not qualify. These upper-division courses strongly emphasize the international character and multicultural influences in the fields of study, teach critical thinking and oral communications skills, and strengthen information retrieval skills by including an assignment that requires students to do a detailed literature search involving the use of library facilities.

Students may fulfill part of the VWW requirement (one course, normally three (3) hours of credit) through a study abroad experience. To satisfy this option, students may petition the dean of their college to include their foreign study experience, which must be at least four weeks of study abroad, or earning three (3) credits.”

Rationale:

1. This change strengthens the international component in the curriculum for all students at NMSU. (See attached directions that are proposed to guide the certification of new Viewing the Wider World courses).

2. This change makes the content of the course, rather than the college from which the course is taught, the determinant of its “wider world” content.

3. This change provides greater flexibility to students seeking courses that fill the Viewing the Wider World requirement.
Appendix

Viewing a Wider World Course Certification Guidelines

Courses qualifying as VWW classes must include assignments that address the following skills and content areas:

I. Skills areas:

1. Research and writing, including a rigorous library based research assignment.
2. Critical thinking.
3. Oral communications skills.

II. Content areas: VWW courses emphasize the international and/or multicultural influences in their fields of study and address at least three (3) of the following content areas (with recommended Student Learning Outcomes):

1. An international experience or the examination of international issues.
   • Students participate in an international experience sufficient to provide a working knowledge of a foreign language and/or everyday culture.
   • Students are able to describe and analyze important issues, policies, or concerns that have global or international significance.

2. The examination of multicultural issues.
   • Students are able to define and analyze issues and policies that have a multicultural dimension.
   • Students gain a working knowledge of a culture other than one’s own.

3. The analysis of ethical issues.
   • Students are able to apply ethical reasoning to a significant moral or ethical issue facing the world.

4. The investigation of borders, boundaries and frontiers, broadly conceived.
   • Students are able to explain and analyze examples of how borders work to delineate, divide, and define peoples, nations, cultures, or disciplines.
   • Students demonstrate knowledge of particular borders, whether geographical, political, social, cultural, or disciplinary.

5. The investigation of nature, the natural environment, and human interactions with the natural world.
   • Students are able to describe and analyze important concerns, policies, and issues relating to the natural environment (e.g. global warming, food scarcity).
   • Students are able to describe and analyze issues relating to the relation between human cultures (including the built environment) and the natural environment.