

# UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE FORMS

## Academic Program Approval

This form is a routing document for the approval of new and revised academic programs. Proposing department should complete this form. For more information, call the Faculty Senate Office at 831-2921.

**Submitted by:** \_\_\_\_\_ McKay Jenkins \_\_\_\_\_ phone number \_\_\_\_\_ 831-4869 \_\_\_\_\_

**Department:** \_\_\_\_\_ English \_\_\_\_\_ email address \_\_\_\_\_ mckay@udel.edu \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_ 4 September 2012 \_\_\_\_\_

**Action: Add minor** \_\_\_\_\_

(Example: add major/minor/concentration, delete major/minor/concentration, revise major/minor/concentration, academic unit name change, request for permanent status, policy change, etc.)

**Effective term** \_\_\_\_\_ 13F \_\_\_\_\_  
(use format 04F, 05W)

**Current degree** \_\_\_\_\_  
(Example: BA, BACH, BACJ, HBA, EDD, MA, MBA, etc.)

**Proposed change leads to the degree of:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(Example: BA, BACH, BACJ, HBA, EDD, MA, MBA, etc.)

**Proposed name: Environmental Humanities Minor** \_\_\_\_\_  
Proposed new name for revised or new major / minor / concentration / academic unit  
(if applicable)

### Revising or Deleting:

**Undergraduate major / Concentration:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(Example: Applied Music – Instrumental degree BMAS)

**Undergraduate minor:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(Example: African Studies, Business Administration, English, Leadership, etc.)

**Graduate Program Policy statement change:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(**Must attach** your Graduate Program Policy Statement)

**Graduate Program of Study:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(Example: Animal Science: MS Animal Science: PHD Economics: MA Economics: PHD)

**Graduate minor / concentration:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Note: all graduate studies proposals must include an electronic copy of the Graduate Program Policy Document, highlighting the changes made to the original policy document.**

**List new courses required for the new or revised curriculum. How do they support the overall program objectives of the major/minor/concentrations)?** (Be aware that approval of the curriculum is dependent upon these courses successfully passing through the Course Challenge list. If there are no new courses enter "None")

#### ENGL230 Introduction to Environmental Literature

This course is a survey of literature engaging the relationship between people and the natural world. It will serve as a broad introduction to the field of environmental literature, including fiction, nonfiction, essays, poetry, and film, and will include substantial segments devoted to literary traditions both within and beyond American borders.

This course will sketch out the long and rich tradition of environmental literature. How we have honored, cherished, degraded, and exploited the land around us and the people and creatures that live there. How we have used mythology and science and religion for insight into animals and landscapes we have often only poorly understood. Readings will be taken largely from the work of novelists and nonfiction writers, but also from poets, philosophers, and scientists. In addition to weekly reading assignments, students will be responsible to extensive and regular writing assignments, ranging from field and reading journals to formal academic essays and journalism.

The course serves as one of three required core courses for a minor in Environmental Humanities.

#### HIST223 Nature and History

This course is a survey of how people across the globe have related to the non-human world roughly in the last 10,000 years. The first part of the course focuses on revolutionary changes in world environmental history, from the invention of agriculture to the rise of consumer culture. The second part of the course considers the long history of efforts to solve environmental problems – a history that goes back hundreds and even thousands of years in many places. Because a historical perspective is critical in understanding contemporary environmental problems, this course will be one of the three required courses for the minor.

**Explain, when appropriate, how this new/revised curriculum supports the 10 goals of undergraduate education: <http://www.ugs.udel.edu/gened/>**

The Environmental Humanities minor would satisfy, in one way or another, all of the university's ten goals of undergraduate education:

**Goals 1 and 2: By their very nature, humanities courses require students to read and write extensively, and to develop skills in critical thinking and cultural analysis.**

**Goals 3 and 4: Many of these courses require independent and collaborative work, especially on historical and journalistic writing projects. Again, by their**

nature, these courses require students to assess and evaluate the impact of individual and group behavior on the larger human and ecological community.

**Goals 5 and 6:** Because these courses are individually and collectively interdisciplinary, they nurture student understanding of the diverse approaches to knowledge in the arts, humanities, sciences and social sciences. Clearly, a deeper and more sophisticated engagement with the relationship between humans and their environment will encourage lifelong learning.

**Goals 7, 8, 9 and 10:** Many of these courses (notably environmental journalism and the courses in the sciences) require students to do research outside the classroom, and virtually all the humanities courses require students to consider local, national and global forms of aesthetic, intellectual and cultural expression.

**Identify other units affected by the proposed changes:**

(Attach permission from the affected units. If no other unit is affected, enter "None")

This proposed minor is a joint effort of the Departments of English, History, Philosophy, and Geography (especially Environmental Studies). Please see attached letters of support from these units.

**Describe the rationale for the proposed program change(s):**

(Explain your reasons for creating, revising, or deleting the curriculum or program.)

Three years ago, A&S Dean George Watson asked Professor of English McKay Jenkins to chair a search committee to look for a professor of Environmental Humanities. The hope was that the addition of a senior hire would enable the college to launch a new program in the field, which is growing nationally at both research universities and liberal-arts colleges, and to leverage UD's already strong emphasis on environmental science and environmental policy. The national search led to the successful hiring of Adam Rome as Associate Professor of History and English. Beginning in the fall of 2011, Professors Jenkins and Rome organized the Environmental Humanities Working Group, a team of 10 professors from around the university, to envision and plan the curriculum for a new Environmental Humanities minor. The group met every month over the course of the year. In addition to Professors Jenkins and Rome, the group included Susan Barton (Plant and Soil Sciences), Jacob Bowman (Wildlife Ecology), Huntian Cao (Fashion and Apparel Studies), James Kendra (Public Policy - and director of the Disaster Research Center), Sandy Isenstadt (Art History), Del Levia (Geography - and director of the Environmental Science and Environmental Studies programs), Victor Perez (Sociology), and Thomas Powers (Philosophy - and director of the Center for Science, Ethics, and Public Policy). The directors of the Interdisciplinary Humanities Research Center - Ann Ardis (Deputy Dean of A&S - now Interim Deputy Provost) and Janis Tomlinson (Director of University Museums) - also participated in the group's deliberations.

Though the sciences provide basic insight into environmental issues, a growing number of scholars, policymakers, and environmental professionals have recognized that many of the most basic environmental questions are humanistic. Why do we have environmental problems? What shapes our ideas about the human place in nature? How has our relationship to the non-human world changed over time? The work in environmental history, environmental literature, and environmental ethics now is especially rich. This minor will give students the chance to think more rigorously and imaginatively about environmental issues by integrating the insights of many disciplines.

The Environmental Humanities minor will fit perfectly with a variety of university goals, particularly collaborative and interdisciplinary teaching and research; problem-based learning; and expanding the scope of classroom work to engage in real-world issues. The field is (by its very definition) a synthesis of the humanities, and complements the sciences and public policy. It will be attractive to two distinct (and large) groups of students: those in the sciences hoping to deepen their understanding of environmental issues and to learn more effective means of communicating their own work; and those in the humanities wishing to study complex environmental issues without having to major in the sciences. Both groups of students would be very well served by the minor as they pursue graduate or professional work in this important and growing field.

In addition to the two new proposed required courses listed above, we are seeking permanent status for an experimental elective course that Professor Jenkins has taught for the last two years, ENGL267 Environmental Humanities: The Chesapeake Bay. A description of the proposed permanent course is included here:

#### ENGL231 Studies in Environmental Literature

A course devoted to a specific topic in the field of environmental literature that offers students the opportunity to deepen their engagement with environmental literature, and offers the chance to look at a specific genre, geographic region, or environmental/literary topic in far greater detail.

This course has been taught as an experimental ENGL267 class for the last two years, focusing on the literature, journalism and history of the Chesapeake Bay. In this version of the class, students examine the deep history, literature, and ecology that defines one of the great, troubled watersheds of the world. In addition to being the largest estuary in the United States, the Chesapeake has been at the center of a long series of moments in American history, including colonization; slavery; agricultural and urban development; and environmental activism. The course provides students with tools to read, analyze, and write about literature, history and geography as well as environmental policy, politics, journalism, and activism. Classroom discussions will be supplemented by guest speakers, and by field trips to the bay's tributaries.

The course can be repeated twice when topics vary.

#### **Program Requirements:**

(Show the new or revised curriculum as it should appear in the Course Catalog. If this is a revision, be sure to indicate the changes being made to the current curriculum and include a side-by-side comparison of the credit distribution before and after the proposed change.)

The 18-credit Environmental Humanities minor will require that students take three core courses and three electives. The core courses are in three fundamental fields in the humanities – English, History, and Philosophy. Each of these core courses will be taught once a year. The first elective is a fourth humanities course – the list of electives

includes more specialized courses in English, History, and Philosophy as well as courses in other humanities disciplines. Because one of the goals of the minor is to encourage students to consider what the humanities adds to scientific understanding of environmental issues, the second elective will be a science course. The third elective will be a course in either the social sciences or the humanities. Again, the goal is to encourage students to think about the different ways of understanding environmental issues. Though some of the electives have prerequisites, the choice in each case is broad enough that students from different majors will have no difficulty fulfilling the elective requirements.

### **CORE COURSES (required):**

ENGL230: Introduction to Literature and the Environment  
HIST223: Nature and History  
PHIL448/UAPP434: Environmental Ethics

### **ELECTIVE REQUIREMENTS**

#### ELECTIVE ONE: HUMANITIES (Pick One)

ANTH304: Culture, Health, and Environment  
ARTH429: The City  
BIST127: Environments and Cultures in Conflict  
ENGL231: Studies in Literature and the Environment  
ENGL 347: Topics in Am. Lit: Am. Literary Geographies  
ENGL365: Genre Studies: "Environmental Apocalypse"  
ENGL365: Genre Studies: "Green Romanticism"  
ENGL365: Genre Studies: Environmental Nonfiction  
ENGL409: Environmental Journalism  
ENGL409: Science and Medical Reporting  
ENGL409: Food Writing  
ENGL480: The Environmental Imagination  
ENGL480: Geographers of Hope  
FLLN467: Nature, Utopia and the Garden  
HIST268: Seminar: American Environmental History  
HIST337: Topics in Am. Hist: American Environmental History  
HIST477: Nature & Nation in Latin America  
HIST480: Seminar in World History: History and the Global Environment  
PHIL340: Cross Cultural Environmental Ethics  
UNIV490: Our Toxic World  
WOMS381: Utopia/Dystopia

#### ELECTIVE TWO: SCIENCES (Pick One)

ANFS101 Intro to Animal Science  
ANFS102 Food For Thought  
BISC107 Elementary Evolutionary Ecology  
BISC302 Ecology  
CHEM100 Chemistry of the Human Environment  
ENWC 201 Wildlife Conservation  
ENWC214 Apiology

ENWC312 Field Ecology  
MSEG443 Ethics in Nanoscience  
PLSC 100 Plants and Human Culture  
PLSC 140 People and Plants: Feast or Famine  
PLSC 170 Soils and Environmental Quality  
PLSC 275 Healing Plants: Medicine, Myth and Magic  
PLSC 390 Honors Colloquium - Students of Our Environment  
PLSC 461 Soils and Wetland Delineation

ELECTIVE THREE: SOCIAL SCIENCES or HUMANITIES (Pick One. Note: Students may also pick a second humanities course from the list above to satisfy this requirement.

COMM200 Environmental Communication  
FREC406 Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy  
GEOG101 Weather and Climate  
GEOG106 Landforms  
GEOG203 Introduction to Cultural Geography  
GEOG 235 Conservation of Natural Resources  
GEOG310 Social Geography  
GEOG325 Urban Geography  
GEOG422 Resources, Development and the Environment  
GEOG/UAPP 434 Planning Sustainable Communities and Regions  
POSC350 Politics and the Environment  
SOC204 Urban Communities  
SOC325 Disasters and Society  
SOC470 Environmental Sociology  
UAPP425 Energy Policy and Administration  
UAPP465 Climate Change Policy and Equity

**ROUTING AND AUTHORIZATION:** (Please do not remove supporting documentation.)

Department Chairperson \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Dean of College \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Chairperson, College Curriculum Committee \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Chairperson, Senate Com. on UG or GR Studies \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Chairperson, Senate Coordinating Com. \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary, Faculty Senate \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Senate Resolution \_\_\_\_\_ Date to be Effective \_\_\_\_\_  
Registrar \_\_\_\_\_ Program Code \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Vice Provost for Academic Affairs & International Programs \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Provost \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Board of Trustee Notification \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

September 17, 2012

MEMORANDUM

TO: McKay Jenkins, Department of English  
FROM: John Hurt, Chair, Department of History  
SUBJECT: Proposal for a Minor in Environmental Humanities.

I am most pleased to confirm that the Undergraduate Studies Committee of this Department has approved your proposal for a minor in Environmental Humanities. The whole Department stands in support of this initiative in its present form and as it develops.

The rationale in the proposal is lucid and persuasive. The committee that worked on the project included and reached out to professors in both the sciences and the humanities and selected the courses that will best fit the project's goals. History is proud to see that a new HIST course (Nature and History) will assume a prominent role from the onset. Other History courses will likely contribute also.

This is an important interdisciplinary project and should enhance the academic reputation of the University. I predict that it will attract some of our best students.



College of Agriculture &  
Natural Resources

DEPARTMENT OF PLANT & SOIL SCIENCES

Dr. Blake C. Meyers  
Edward F. and Elizabeth  
Goodman Rosenberg Professor  
Chair of Department  
153 Townsend Hall  
Newark, DE 19716-2170  
Phone: (302) 831-3418  
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September 17, 2012

Dr. McKay Jenkins  
Tilghman Professor of English  
Department of English  
University of Delaware

Dear Prof. Jenkins,

I am writing this letter in my capacity as chair of the Department of Plant & Soil Sciences. I have reviewed the proposal for the interdisciplinary Environmental Humanities minor. This new minor will introduce undergraduates to environmental thought from a humanities view, providing a broad understanding of social, cultural, historical, and literary perspectives on the environment. This will complement the existing Environmental Studies major, which focuses on environmental issues and policies, emphasizing politics, resource economics, and law. There is an excellent fit of the courses in the minor that are taught in our department, and our faculty who teach those courses are excited about the development of this minor, and the opportunity to teach the students in the program. This new Environmental Humanities minor will be an important component of the undergraduate curriculum.

I hope that the approval and launch of the new minor go well, and let me know if you need anything more from me or the Department of Plant & Soil Sciences.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Blake C. Meyers'.

Blake C. Meyers, Ph.D.  
Professor & Chair



September 17, 2012

MEMORANDUM

TO: McKay Jenkins, Department of English  
FROM: John Ernest, Chair, Department of English  
SUBJECT: Proposal for a Minor in Environmental Humanities.

I write to express my strong support for the proposed Minor in Environmental Humanities. The rationale is clear and compelling, demonstrating the extent to which the proposed Minor would promote the university's stated goals for undergraduate education. Equally important, the proposed Minor offers an innovative model for interdisciplinary studies—enabling students (and faculty) not only to develop productive perspectives on environmental concerns but also to reconceptualize the philosophical and practical value of traditional humanities disciplines. The English Department will benefit from this occasion for innovative teaching and research, and our students will surely benefit from this opportunity to develop new tools for addressing one of the most pressing areas of concern of our time.

In short, this is an impressive program, one in which the English Department is proud to participate, and one that will undoubtedly enhance the university's reputation.

Philosophy Department  
University of Delaware

18 September 2012

To Whom It May Concern:

The Philosophy Department is very happy to support this request for a new minor in Environmental Humanities. There is currently a vigorous discussion, in academic philosophy departments across this country, of the philosophical implications of the scientific, ethical and public policy issues involved in climate change and other environmental topics. The formation of an Environmental Humanities minor will help bring interested UD students into contact with that discussion.

Sincerely,

Fred Schueler  
Chair



DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY

University of Delaware  
Newark, Delaware 19716-2541  
Ph: 302/831-2294/2295  
Fax: 302/831-6654

Date: 12 September 2012

Mckay Jenkins, Tilghman Professor of English  
Department of English  
University of Delaware

Dear McKay,

As Director of UD's Environmental Science and Environmental Studies Programs, I write in strong support of the proposed interdisciplinary Environmental Humanities minor. It is my belief that the new Environmental Humanities minor will be complementary to our existing environmental programs. The existing Environmental Studies major provides students with a comprehensive understanding of environmental issues and policies in the context of sustainability, politics, resource economics, and law, whereas the new Environmental Humanities minor will emphasize humanistic elements of environmental thought. As such, it is important to note that the ontological, epistemological, and methodological stances of Environmental Humanities is clearly distinct from that of environmental science and studies, equipping students with a different lens through which to examine environmental issues. I opine that the creation of the new Environmental Humanities minor is long overdue and will fill an important void in the undergraduate curriculum.

I wish you and participating faculty the very best in the approval, launch, and implementation of this important and interesting minor.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Delphis F. Levia".

Delphis F. Levia, Ph.D.  
Professor of Ecohydrology  
Director, Environmental Science and Environmental Studies Programs

## Checklist for Curriculum Proposals

\_\_\_ . 1. Are all **signatures on the hard copy of the proposal**?

yes . 2. Is the **effective date** correct?

yes . 3. Is the **rationale** for the proposal consistent with the changes proposed?

yes . 4. Does the proposed **number of credits** match the stated number?

yes . 5. Have affected units been identified and contacted? Are required **support letters** attached?

N/A . 6. Is a **resolution** necessary? If so, is it attached?

(Necessary for: establishing a major; disestablishing a major; a name change to any program with permanent status; a name change to a department or college; a transfer or creation of any department; request for permanent status).

yes . 7. Are all **courses (required or referenced)** in the UDSIS Inventory or in the approval process?

N/A . 8. Are all **university requirements** correctly specified?

\_\_\_ . A. Breadth requirements.

\_\_\_ . B. Multicultural requirement.

\_\_\_ . C. Writing requirement.

\_\_\_ . D. DLE requirement.

N/A . 9. Are all **college requirements** correctly specified?

N/A . 9. Is a **side-by-side comparison** provided?