

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT ASHEVILLE
FACULTY SENATE

Senate Document Number 0417F
Date of Senate Approval 12/07/17

Statement of Faculty Senate Action:

APC Document 1 (LA): **Rename LA 478 from “Senior Capstone” to
“Cultivating Global Citizenship”;
Reduce the prerequisite hours for LA 478 from 90 to 75;
Alter course description**

Effective Date: Fall 2018

1. Delete: On page 213, the entry for **LA 478, Senior Capstone:**

478 Senior Capstone (4)

A topical capstone seminar, ordinarily taken in the final year, that asks students to address an issue or a group of related issues of current and future importance from an interdisciplinary or multidisciplinary perspective. Students will be expected to integrate the knowledge they have acquired through their major with the wider perspectives provided in their liberal arts core courses. The issue(s) will be explored through reading, lecture, discussion, and through the presentation of a self-directed project. This requirement must be fulfilled in residence. Prerequisites: HUM 324 and Senior standing. No credit given if credit received for HUM 414. Fall and Spring.

Add: On page 213, in place of deleted entry:

478 Cultivating Global Citizenship (4)

A topical capstone seminar, ordinarily taken in the final year, that asks students to address an issue or a group of related issues of current and future importance from an interdisciplinary or multidisciplinary perspective. Students will be expected to integrate the knowledge they have acquired through their major with the wider perspectives provided in their liberal arts core courses. This requirement must be fulfilled in residence. Prerequisites: 75 credit hours and HUM 124, 214 and 324. No credit given if credit received for HUM 414. Fall and Spring.

Impact Statement: The proposed change to rename the course to *Cultivating Global Citizenship* and to reduce the required prerequisite hours to 75 will have no negative effect on resources or staffing. Students who choose to take LA 478 will be able to register earlier in their career, which may help alleviate the enrollment stress on the course if students are waiting until their final two semesters to take the class due to the 90-credit prerequisite.

Rationale: The new name proposed for this course is, in fact, not new at all; it is the name of the cognate course LS 479 under the old Integrative Liberal Studies general education curriculum. (In fact, review of relevant APC documents suggests that the name change, made during the transition from ILS to LAC, may have been unintentional.) The reversion to the original name is requested in order to

- a) offer both students and faculty a clearer understanding of the purpose of the course LA 478, and simultaneously
- b) better distinguish the course from the alternative “senior capstone” course students may elect to complete (namely, HUM 414: The Individual in the Contemporary World).

The change in the prerequisite hours puts LA 478 in line with HUM 414, matching the prerequisite language for both courses. The founding ILS document stated: “The Liberal Studies Senior Colloquium, LS 479 is also topical and is intended to be taken in a student’s final semester at UNCA.” The higher prerequisite hour requirement was to preclude juniors from enrolling and to limit enrollment specifically to seniors. The specification of the final semester was abandoned nearly as soon as the course debuted. Students may choose either of the two senior capstone courses, and this change will make that choice a more equal one. Currently, students with 80-89 hours are requesting a prerequisite override in order to take the course prior to their senior year, and it is usually granted. This will simply make the two senior capstone core courses accessible to the same population of students.

The course description has been edited to remove the prescriptive line “The issue(s) will be explored through reading, lecture, discussion, and through the presentation of a self-directed project.” While nearly all instructors have a component in their course that could be argued to be a self-directed project, this seems to go beyond a description of the course, moving into methodology.