Overview:

The program in Italian has three tenure-stream faculty members for the first time in Vanderbilt’s history. This change in staffing offers an important opportunity to rethink how we can best meet the needs of existing and future students, as we increase the visibility and strength of the Program of Concentration in Italian and European Studies at our institution.

The changes that we are proposing to the Concentration in Italian and European Studies are based for the most part on the changes made to the Italian offerings (in particular the creation of new courses) and on the need to redistribute the courses for each area more coherently. We are also proposing other minor revisions that have occurred to us while working on the main goal.

Proposed changes:

The revision we are proposing here includes the following:

- We wish to integrate into the Concentration in Italian and European Studies new courses that have already been approved and appear in the
Undergraduate Catalog: ITA 200; ITA 236; ITA 238; ITA 241; ITA 242; and ITA 250.

- Currently, the Italian component of the Concentration consists of coursework in two areas: “Italian Language and Literature” and “Culture and Civilization.” We wish to change the second to “Modern Cultural Intersections”, which more accurately reflects the interdisciplinary nature of this area of coursework.

- We wish to reorganize the courses belonging to the two areas according to their content.
  “ITA 230, Italian Civilization” → “Modern cultural intersections”
  “ITA 232, Literature from the Middle Ages to the Renaissance” → “Italian Language and Literature”
  “ITA 233, Baroque, Illuminismo, and Romanticism in Italy” → “Italian Language and Literature”;

- As suggested by CEP, we would like to eliminate the category of one elective course and raise “Modern cultural intersections” to 12 credit hours.

- We wish to introduce “EUS 260, European Cities” in the Humanities area of the European Studies component of the Concentration, because it fits with one of the interdisciplinary topics we cover in Italian, in particular it expands on “ITA 238, City Fictions.”

**Rationale:**

The proposed revisions are more effective in both covering complex topics and allowing a more rational distribution of topics between the two areas of the
Italian component of the Concentration, “Italian language and literature” and “Modern cultural Intersections,” which existed previously.

The area “Italian language and literature” contains seven foundational courses in both Italian language and Italian literature. These courses allow students to acquire basic linguistic proficiency as well as an overview of the key works and periods of Italian literature from the medieval era to the 18th century:

- ITA 200 and ITA 201W are courses on Italian grammar and language;
- ITA 220 offers a survey of the key concepts in the history of Italian literature;
- major authors in Italian literature from the Middle Ages to the 19th century (ITA 231, 232, 233, 250).

The area “Modern cultural intersections” includes nine courses, one designed to further develop linguistic proficiency through cultural conversation, and the rest being interdisciplinary courses that center on various facets of Italian culture (politics, cinema, painting, literature, architecture, sociology, etc.) from the 19th century to the present. Thus, while the preceding area focuses mostly on medieval and early-modern periods, this area focuses on the modern and contemporary periods. The nine courses are conceived as follows:

- ITA 214 develops advanced oral proficiency through analysis and discussion of contemporary materials, including newspaper articles, videos, artistic performances, etc.;
- ITA 230 and 242 explore key concepts in Italian culture, the first with emphasis on the major political and philosophical authors, the second exploring Italian society from Fascism to the present;
• In ITA 235 and ITA 239 students are introduced to the social, political, and other cultural contexts of contemporary Italian fiction and poetry;

• ITA 238 offers an Interdisciplinary exploration of how Italian authors, directors, and artists aspire to change the way readers and viewers understand and experience urban realities. Social, cultural, geographical, and architectural aspects of Italian cities as depicted in fiction, travel literature, cinematic images, the visual arts, and music.

• ITA 236 explores the Italian American experience, focusing on the history of Italian immigration in the United States and analyzing the ways in which Italian Americans are portrayed in the media.

• ITA 240 and ITA 241, two courses on Italian cinema (Classic and Contemporary), explore the world of Italian cinematography in its historical and political context, as well as its manifold intersections with narrative and the visual arts in the 20th and 21st century.

Votes:

French and Italian:
YES = 12
NO = 0
ABSTAIN = 1
NO VOTE= 1

The EUS :
YES = 7
NO = 0
ABSTAIN = 0

Vote tally emails:
VOTE TALLY FW: Italian and European Studies
Modena, Letizia

Sent: Wednesday, January 08, 2014 5:43 PM
To: Modena, Letizia

Subject: RE: Italian and European Studies

Would you please get Joy's vote – send her a message with the documents and ask for the vote (again!)

Our vote in French and Italian was:
12 in favor; 1 abstain; 3 no vote

From: Modena, Letizia
Sent: Wednesday, January 08, 2014 11:02 AM
To: Scott, Virginia M
Subject: FW: Italian and European Studies

Hi Virginia,
Quick help needed when you can. To proceed on the revision of the major, we'd need vote tally emails (especially Joy's email), as per Prasad request.
Could you please send them to us?
I know you are about to leave, have a good trip and see you later!
Back
Letizia
FW: VOTE required
Calico, Joy Haslam
Sent: Wednesday, January 08, 2014 5:36 PM
To: Medana, Latula

Hi Latula, and happy new year! Here is the email I sent to Ginny after we took the vote. Is this what you're looking for?

Joy H. Calico  
Director, Max Kade Center for European and German Studies | Associate Professor of Musicology  
On campus: 243 Buttrick | VU Station B6351806  
2301 Vanderbilt Place  
Nashville, TN 37235-1806  
615.322.2528

From: Calico, Joy Haslam  
Sent: 05 December, 2013 11:52  
To: Scott, Virginia M  
Subject: RE: VOTE required

Hi Virginia,

The EUS faculty advisory committee has voted on the matter below. The results are as follows:
YES = 7
NO = 0
ABSTAIN = 0

Good luck with finishing everything!
Joy

Joy H. Calico  
Director, Max Kade Center for European and German Studies | Associate Professor of Musicology  
On campus: 243 Buttrick | VU Station B6351806  
2301 Vanderbilt Place  
Nashville, TN 37235-1806  
615.322.2528
Revised catalog copy
Program of Concentration in Italian and European Studies

The joint major in Italian and European Studies acknowledges the cultural, political, and strategic importance of Italy within the community of European nations. It requires 42 credit hours of course work; a semester of study in Italy is recommended. Prospective majors should consult with the Director of Undergraduate Studies in Italian and with the Director of the European Studies program. Course work for the joint major is distributed as follows:

**Italian (24 credit hours):**

- Italian language and literature: 12 credit hours from the following courses: ITA 200 (requires ITA 101b or 102), 201W, 220, 231, 232, 233, or 250. 201W is prerequisite for 220, 232 and 233. (Note: 100-level Italian language courses do not count toward the Major).
- Modern cultural intersections: 12 credit hours from the following courses, of which at least 6 credit hours must be taken in Italian: ITA 214, 230, 235, 236, 238, 239, 240, 241, or 242.

**European Studies (18 credit hours):**

- European Studies core courses (9 credit hours): EUS 201, 203, and 250 (requires thesis).
- Social Science: 3 credit hours from the following courses: PSCI 210, 211 or appropriate substitute with the approval of the Director of the European Studies Program.
- History: 3 credit hours from the following courses: HIST 226, 227, 228, or 229.
- Humanities: 3 credit hours from the following courses: EUS 240, 260; HART 218 or 219.
Current Catalog Description with changes
Program of Concentration in Italian and European Studies
(Undergraduate Catalog 2013-2014)

The joint major in Italian and European studies acknowledges the cultural, political, and strategic importance of Italy within the community of European nations. It requires 42 credit hours of course work, and a semester of study abroad in Italy is recommended. Prospective majors should consult with the director of undergraduate studies, Director of Undergraduate Studies in Italian, and with the director of European Studies, Director of the European Studies Program, or Associate Director of the Max Kade Center for European and German Studies. Course work for the joint major is distributed as follows:

Italian (24 credit hours)

- Italian language and literature: 12 credit hours from the following courses: ITA 200 (requires ITA 101b or 102), ITAL 214, 220, 230, 231, 232, 233, or 250. ITAL 201W is a prerequisite for 220, 232 and 233, or appropriate substitute in consultation with the adviser in Italian. (Note: 100-level Italian language courses do not count toward the Major): ITA 200 (requires ITA 101b or 102), ITAL 201W, 220, 230, 231, 232, 233, and 250, or appropriate substitute in consultation with the adviser in Italian.

- Italian culture and civilization (9 hours) Modern Cultural intersections: 12 credit hours from the following courses, of which at least 6 credits hours must be taught in Italian: ITAL ITA 214, 230, 236, 238, 232, 233, 235, 239, or 240, 241, or 242.

Electives (3 hours): Other Italian content course approved by the director of undergraduate studies in Italian.

European Studies (18 credit hours)

- European Studies core courses (9 credit hours): EUS 201, 203, and 250 (requires thesis).

- Social Science: 3 credit hours from the following courses: PSCI 210, 211 or appropriate substitute with the approval of the Director of the European Studies Program, EUS adviser.

- History: 3 credit hours from the following courses: HIST 226, 227, 228, or 229.

- Humanities: 3 credit hours from the following courses: EUS 240, 260; HART 218 or 219.
Michael,

I am forwarding the email from Professor Letizia Modena regarding Italian and European Studies.

With the revised proposal and approval from EUS director, we may have all that is needed to assemble the package and send it to Faculty Council?

Best,
Prasad

Dear Prasad,
Here below please find Prof. Joy Calico’s approval to include EUS 260 per your request. She is the EUS Director. Attached, the final proposal with the requested revisions.
Is this all I need to do for the proposal to move on to faculty council?
Once again, thank you for your work.
Best regards,
Letizia

--
Letizia Modena,
Assoc. Prof. of Italian, Director of Undergraduate Studies in Italian
Vanderbilt University
Department of French & Italian
Location: 215 Furman Hall

Delivery Address:
2301 Vanderbilt Place
VU Station B #356312
Nashville, TN 37235

Dear Letizia, thanks for your patience on this matter! I read over the materials and agree that yes, it makes sense to include EUS 260 in that list of EUS courses for the concentration in IT/EUS.
Dear Joy,

Don't worry, I totally understand. Take your time, early next week will be fine. Luckily it's a quick matter, just a "yes" or "no" on whether you agree that EUS 260, European Cities, can be introduced in the list below. Don't need a vote from all. Hopefully this is the last request regarding the revisions for Italian and European Studies.

Thank you Joy, and have a good break.

Letizia

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**Revised catalog copy**

**Program of Concentration in Italian and European Studies**

The joint major in Italian and European Studies acknowledges the cultural, political, and strategic importance of Italy within the community of European nations. It requires 42 credit hours of course work; a semester of study in Italy is recommended. Prospective majors should consult with the Director of Undergraduate Studies in Italian and with the Director of the European Studies program. Course work for the joint major is distributed as follows:

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**European Studies (18 credit hours):**

- European Studies core courses (9 credit hours): EUS 201, 203, and 250 (requires thesis).
- Social Science: 3 credit hours from the following courses: PSCI 210, 211 or appropriate substitute with the approval of the Director of the European Studies Program.
- History: 3 credit hours from the following courses: HIST 226, 227, 228, or 229.
- Humanities: 3 credit hours from the following courses: EUS 240, 260; HART 218 or 219.
Letizia, I apologize for my slow response to this; the end of the week really got away from me, and I am under a Monday deadline. Is it OK if get back to you Mon or Tue, or do you need to know this asap?

Joy H. Calico  
Director, Max Kade Center for European and German Studies | Associate Professor of Musicology  
On campus: 243 Buttrick | VU Station B#351806  
2301 Vanderbilt Place  
Nashville, TN 37235-1806  
615.322.2528

From: Modena, Letizia  
Sent: 26 February, 2014 12:01  
To: Calico, Joy Haslam; Polavarapu, Prasad L  
Subject: FW: Program of Concentration in Italian and European Studies

Dear Joy,

I hope this finds you well. I'm forwarding below a request from the CEP regarding the revisions for Italian and European Studies. As you can see, n. 1 requires your approval regarding the introduction of EUS 260, European Cities in the Humanities area of the European Studies Component. My colleagues and I think that that class could be a great option for our students, since I teach a similar class on Italian Cities through fiction. Do we have your approval?

Thank you very much,

Letizia

From: Polavarapu, Prasad L  
Sent: Wednesday, February 26, 2014 10:58 AM  
To: Modena, Letizia; Scott, Virginia M  
Cc: Campbell, Karen E; Muise, Michael R; Bremer, Jonathan E  
Subject: RE: Program of Concentration in Italian and European Studies

Dear Letizia,

Your revised proposal for Italian and European Studies was discussed at the CEP meeting yesterday. I am pleased to inform you that the CEP has approved your proposal subject to the following corrections:

(1). To introduce “EUS 260, European Cities” in the Humanities area of the European Studies component of the concentration, the approval of EUS director is needed. Please provide documentation for that approval.

(2). In the revised catalog copy, consider modifying the first bulletin point, by adding that 201W is prerequisite for 220, 232 and 233; and keeping the “100-level ..” statement on its own line. For example:

“Italian language and literature: 12 credit hours from the following courses: ITA 200 (requires ITA 101b or 102), 201W, 220, 231, 232, 233, or 250. 201W is prerequisite for 220, 232 and 233.  
Note: 100-level Italian language courses do not count toward the Major.”

(3). In the revised catalog copy, please add a comma between “political” “and”:

“The joint major in Italian and European Studies acknowledges the cultural, political, and strategic”

The faculty council meets on March 11. If you can send us the final version quickly with the changes mentioned above, I will be able to forward your proposal to the Faculty Council in time.

Sincerely,

Prasad
Dear Dr. Polavarapu,

Thank you for your reply. Sorry I sent it on Saturday, I didn't know when the next meeting would be and I've been working on other service commitments. The new proposal has very minor changes, and they are all in line with the suggestions the Committee made.

I truly hope it will pass this time, so that we can have a working Major in the catalog next year. As it is now, it doesn't.

My sincere thanks for your time,

Letizia

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Dear Letizia,

Thank you for sending the revised proposal for CEP’s consideration at its meeting tomorrow.

Your proposal was sent to the committee members this morning. I am not sure if that will give enough time for CEP members to review the proposal before the meeting. We also have three other proposals, that were submitted early on, for discussion at the tomorrow’s meeting.

We will take up your proposal at the meeting tomorrow if we are able to get through the other three proposals and CEP members had enough time to review your proposal.

Best,
Prasad Polavarapu

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Dear Members of the CEP,

Attached please find our revised Italian and European Studies Major proposal and our explanations regarding the suggested revisions. I would be happy to attend your meeting and address your concerns in person, rather than run the risk of the revised major not being included in the catalog for the Fall.

Thank you very much for your work and your patience.

Regards,
Letizia Modena
To: A&S Faculty Council  
From: Prasad Polavarapu, Chair, Committee on Educational Programs (CEP)  
Ref: Changes to Italian and European studies

Dear Jonathan,

The Committee on Educational Programs (CEP) met on February 25, 2014 to discuss the proposal submitted by Professors Virginia Scott and Letizia Modena for changes to the Concentration in Italian and European Studies. The committee approved the proposal with minor revisions, with a vote of 6-0. Professor Letizia Modena incorporated the revisions and provided the revised proposal.

The revised proposal is attached to this email.

Best,
Prasad

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Prasad L. Polavarapu  
Professor of Chemistry  
7332 Stevenson Center  
VU Station B 351822  
Vanderbilt University  
Nashville, TN 37235  
Ph: (615)322-2836  
Fax: (615)322-4936  
Prasad.L.Polavarapu@vanderbilt.edu  
http://www.vanderbilt.edu/chemistry/faculty/polavarapu.php  

For Express/Overnight (FEDEX/UPS/DHL) Mail:  
Vanderbilt University  
Chemistry Store Room  
1234 Stevenson Center Lane  
Nashville, TN 37235 USA