Changes to the Minor in Digital Studies

Rationale

I am writing to request several small changes to the Minor in Digital Studies listing in the catalog. These changes make no substantial alterations in the requirements for the minor, and do not require any changes in the resources required to support this minor program.

The current catalog copy and revisions changes are included below as attachments. In summary:

- Revise “Affiliated Faculty” to add Susan Fernsebner, Andrea Smith, and Mark Snyder.
- Revise “The Digital Studies Program” description to be more clear and succinct. (Insertions in green, deletions in red.)
- Add “DGST 395” course description. This is a new course proposed as part of the Communication and Digital Studies Major and included separately with that proposal.
- Revise “Requirements” section to be more complete and correct. The 2014-15 catalog requirements omit the two constraints on electives (must draw from 2 disciplines; 6 credits must be 300-level or higher) and seem to imply, incorrectly, that the minor requires 21 credits.
- Revise “Requirements” section to update several course numbers and modify the list of electives. In many cases, these are special topics that are moving to permanent catalog courses. In other cases, such as THEA 433, these are new or newly-identified courses with a sufficiently digital component (at least 50% related content or assignments) that develop at least one (and usually two) of the four outcomes for the minor:
  - Develop skills in designing, building and sharing ideas that can be expressed through the uniquely multimodal, procedural, and networked capabilities of digital tools.
  - Explore processes of knowledge production by using digital technology in researching, analyzing, and executing critical inquiry.
  - Build knowledge in contemporary and historical digital cultures, including social, ethical and philosophical issues related to technology.
  - Build, promote and sustain an active and engaged digital identity.

Impact Statement

The changes requested in these minor changes to the Minor do not require or depend on additional resources.
DIGITAL STUDIES (Old Catalog Description)

Zach Whalen, Program Director,
Department of English, Linguistics, and Communication

Affiliated Faculty

Antonio Barrenechea, Department of English, Linguistics, and Communication
Martha Burtis, Division of Teaching and Learning Technologies
Stephen Farnsworth, Department of Political Science and International Affairs
Carole Garmon, Department of Art and Art History
James Groom, Division of Teaching and Learning Technologies
Rosemary Jesionowski, Department of Art and Art History
Elizabeth Lewis, Department of Modern Languages and Literatures
Jeffrey McClurken, Department of History and American Studies
Carolyn Parsons, Simpson Library
P. Anand Rao, Department of English, Linguistics, and Communication

The Digital Studies Program

Digital Studies engages students in the discovery, analysis, and creation of digital information and media. As an interdisciplinary minor, students will gain the academic and technological skills necessary to analyze information and communicate in an increasingly digital world. The Digital Studies Minor requires an introductory course, a capstone course, and elective courses across disciplines of study that explore the creation and use of digital information and the related social, legal, cultural, epistemological, and historical issues. Students will gain technological skills necessary to critically research, evaluate, and produce digital information and new media. Through collaborative work with digital tools, students will produce new information resources and will apply digital technologies in meaningful ways across various disciplines of study. The capstone experience requires independent research, interdisciplinary analysis, technological skills, and the production of a publicly accessible digital studies or new media project.

The minor incorporates (among others) the disciplines of American Studies, anthropology, art and art history, communication, computer science, English, historic preservation, and history, Spanish, and Political Science from which students may select elective courses. The minor is open to students from any discipline in the arts and sciences, education, or business colleges at UMW.

Students interested in enrolling in the minor should contact the director of the Digital Studies minor for additional details.

Requirements for the Digital Studies Major

Eighteen (18) credits to include one introductory class (DGST 101); 12 credits from ARTS 104, 341, 454; COMM 353, 370F; CPSC 106; ENGL 202H, 245, 251Y, 314, 359, 376VV, 386, 451; HISP 303; HIST 325, 428, 471D7; MUTH 170; PSCI 363, 471K1; SPAN 413; or other courses as approved by the director.

Capstone: 3 credits. HISP 428; ENGL 451; individual studies (491/492) or other courses as approved by the director.
**101 — Intro to Digital Studies (3)**
Introduces an interdisciplinary approach to using technology and specifically provides a foundation for the Digital Studies Minor. Coursework may include digital approaches to creativity, historiography, media analysis and thinking critically about and through digital culture.
DIGITAL STUDIES (New Catalog Description)

Zach Whalen, Program Director,
Department of English, Linguistics, and Communication

Affiliated Faculty

Antonio Barrenechea, Department of English, Linguistics, and Communication
Martha Burtis, Division of Teaching and Learning Technologies
Stephen Farnsworth, Department of Political Science and International Affairs
Carole Garmon, Department of Art and Art History
James Groom, Division of Teaching and Learning Technologies
Rosemary Jesionowski, Department of Art and Art History
Elizabeth Lewis, Department of Modern Languages and Literatures
Jeffrey McClurken, Department of History and American Studies
Carolyn Parsons, Simpson Library
P. Anand Rao, Department of English, Linguistics, and Communication
Mark Snyder, Department of Music

The Digital Studies Program

Digital Studies engages students in the discovery, analysis, and creation of digital information and media. As an interdisciplinary minor, students will gain the academic and technological skills necessary to analyze information and communicate in an increasingly digital world. The Digital Studies Minor requires an introductory course, a capstone course, and elective courses across disciplines of study that explore the creation and use of digital information and the related social, legal, cultural, epistemological, and historical issues. Students will gain technological skills necessary to critically research, evaluate, and produce digital information and new media. Through collaborative work with digital tools, students will produce new information resources and will apply digital technologies in meaningful ways across various disciplines of study. The capstone experience requires independent research, interdisciplinary analysis, technological skills, and the production of a publicly accessible digital studies or new media project.

The minor incorporates (among others) the disciplines of American Studies, anthropology, art and art history, communication, computer science, English, historic preservation, and history, Spanish, and Political Science from which students may select elective courses. The minor is open to students from any discipline in the arts and sciences, education, or business colleges at UMW.

Students interested in enrolling in the minor should contact the director of the Digital Studies minor for additional details.

Requirements for the Digital Studies Major

Eighteen (18) credits to include one introductory class (DGST 101); 12 credits from ARTS 104, 341, 454; COMM 353, 357; CPSC 106; DGST 395, 483 (up to 3 credits); ENGL 203, 245, 252, 253, 314, 345, 359, 350, 386, 451; HISP 303; HIST 300AA, 325, 428, 427; MUTH 170, 370; PSCI 363, 471K1; THEA 433, 452B, 481 or other courses as approved by the director where the courses chosen reflect at least two disciplines with 6 credits at 300-level or higher;
Capstone: 3 credits. HIST 428; ENGL 451; individual studies (491/492) or other courses as approved by the director.

**Digital Studies Course Descriptions (DGST)**

**101 — Intro to Digital Studies (3)**
Introduces an interdisciplinary approach to using technology and specifically provides a foundation for the Digital Studies Minor. Coursework may include digital approaches to creativity, historiography, media analysis and thinking critically about and through digital culture.

**395 — Applied Digital Studies (3)**
Applies the skills and methodologies developed in the Digital Studies curriculum toward larger-scale, self-designed digital projects that contribute meaningfully to some cultural field, academic discipline, social issue, or other research question.

**483 — Digital Studies Consulting Practicum (1)**
Students in the course will develop their skills with a variety of digital tools and technologies used at the University for the purpose of providing peer support on digital projects. Students will also receive instruction in effective tutoring techniques and creating technical documentation and support materials.