Program Proposal for a minor in World Film Studies

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Department of World Languages and Cultures

- 1. Name of the proposed minor. Minor in World Film Studies
- 2. Name of the department(s) involved. Department of World Languages and Cultures
- 3. Name of contact person(s). Olga Mesropova, <u>olgames@iastate.edu</u>
 Kris Vander Lugt, <u>ktvl@iastate.edu</u>
 Stacey Weber-Fève, <u>sweber@iastate.edu</u>
 Thomas Waldemer, <u>waldemer@iastate.edu</u>

4. Need for the proposed minor.

The proposed World Film Studies minor is a 15-credit program that draws on existing cinema courses currently offered in the department of World Languages and Cultures (WLC) and courses from the departments of English, Political Science, and the Greenlee School of Journalism and Communication. The World Film Studies minor provides a systematic framework for the academic study of cinema in a variety of national and cultural contexts. The minor combines courses in film history, theory, and aesthetics while analyzing films and cinematic traditions from a broad range of world regions. The establishment and administration of the minor will require no additional resources.

For over a decade many WLC faculty have been actively engaged in the research and teaching of cinema from a variety of world regions, including films from France, Germany, Russia, Latin America, Spain, China, and Africa. The following courses have become staple offerings in the department (at least two of these courses are offered every academic year):¹

Chin 370: Contemporary Chinese Film and Fiction;

Frnch 326: Studies in French or Francophone Art and Film (in French);

Frnch 378: French Film Studies in English;

Ger 378: German Film and Media Studies

Rus 378: Russian Film Studies in English

Span 326: Studies in Hispanic Art or Film (in Spanish)

WLC 278x: Introduction to Global Film

WLC faculty from all language areas continue to report healthy enrollments in film studies courses numbered 278 or 378 each semester. Additionally, a survey that the department conducted among students who were taking WLC language and culture classes during the Fall semester 2009, found that students were interested in minoring in World Film studies. 63 out of 150 respondents (42%) indicated that they would declare such a minor if it were an option.

¹ For additional data on cinema courses taught in the department since 2004 see Appendix 1.

Another survey that polled students in WLC 278x found that 58.3% of students (14 out of 24 respondents) would declare a World Film Studies minor.²

The proposed minor will bring together WLC's existing course offerings in the area of film studies and will provide more visibility for this focus within the WLC curriculum. While providing a more coherent articulation of the departmental offerings of courses on non-English language cinema, the minor will attract new students within the college and across the university and potentially will encourage more students to major or minor in a world language. We anticipate that the minor will be especially appealing to students in LAS, Humanities, International Studies, and Social Sciences. Furthermore, since most film courses that the department offers have on-line components, a World Film Studies minor presents an opportunity to create and offer more distance-education and online courses in the humanities.

As outlined in this proposal, no additional resources are needed to establish and administer this minor. No new courses are necessary to implement the proposed minor. Based on current enrollment trends in WLC 278x and the 378 courses, we anticipate that the minor will increase SCHs in WLC by attracting additional students to a curriculum with a focus on film. As such, the proposed minor in World Film Studies responds to the University's strategic planning and budget discussions by identifying new revenue streams that can be established with existing courses. Additionally, because the existing 378 courses fulfill the continuing English proficiency requirement for our primary majors, they are already an essential component of the WLC curriculum.

Following WLC's recent successes with various cross-departmental and University-wide curricular initiatives (e.g. the departmental program in Languages and Cultures for Professions or the LAS International Studies program) the proposed minor continues to cut across individual language sections. Although – as indicated above – the department's current course offerings are sufficient to sustain a rigorous academic program focused on world film history, theory, and aesthetics, several WLC faculty have expressed an interest in developing additional courses for the minor should resources become available (for example, Prof. Madeleine Henry has proposed the development of a course on Italian cinema as well as a course on the representation of ancient Greece and Rome in film; the Spanish section has mentioned the possibility of creating a Hispanic cinema course taught in English). As such, while utilizing and formalizing one of the department's existing strengths, the proposed minor will combine students' ongoing and expressed interest in the curriculum in world cinema with the strong commitment of faculty members to teaching and research in the area of cinema studies.

5. Objectives of the proposed minor including the student learning outcomes and how the learning outcomes will be assessed.

The World Film Studies minor offers an integrated, interdisciplinary, cross-cultural approach to

² Of the two indicated surveys, the first was conducted by WLC Language Studies Resource Center (LSRC) among ISU students enrolled in a WLC/language class in the Fall 2009 (approximately 1300 students). The second survey polled students enrolled in WLC 278X in the Fall 2009 and was conducted via WebCT.

the academic study of cinema by providing coursework in film history, theory, and aesthetics while analyzing films and cinematic traditions from a broad range of world regions. Upon completion of the World Film Studies minor students should be able to demonstrate solid knowledge of the vocabulary, theoretical concepts, and research trends of the discipline of cinema studies. Students will also obtain skills of formal film analysis and will become familiar with prominent film directors, influential cinematic works, as well as cinematic traditions and cultures. Through a structured curriculum with a focus on non-English language cinema, students will acquire knowledge and understanding of cinema as a mode of cultural expression and communication. Students who take cinema courses that have a literary component (e.g. Chin 370: Contemporary Chinese Film and Fiction) will also examine the ways in which literary and cinema studies share important theoretical and critical tools of analysis. Upon completion of the minor, students will also develop new perspectives on U.S. culture and cinema through comparison with other non-English-speaking world cultures.

While complementing their education in Liberal Arts and Sciences, students will acquire analytical skills for thinking critically about film and the audio-visual media that saturate contemporary cultures. The skills of visual literacy, written and oral communication, as well as knowledge of historical and cross-cultural perspectives that students will acquire through the World Film Studies minor will help prepare them for a broad spectrum of professional fields – including media distribution and production, journalism, education, public relations, law, advertising and marketing.

Assessment of outcomes for all minors will be based on students' performance on exams, term papers, and course projects in each individual class required for the minor. Outcome assessment for WLC courses is based on the department's standardized set of criteria for assessment of students in culture and civilization courses taught in English.³ An indirect measure of assessing the minor will be an exit survey of graduating seniors that will be conducted by the Department Chair.

6. General description of the minor.

The World Film Studies minor is designed to provide students with knowledge of theoretical, historical, cultural and analytical frameworks as they pertain to the study of cinemas of the non-English-speaking world. The program places special emphasis on the study of world cinemas as modes of cultural expression and communication and as a unique aural and visual language. To complete this 15-credit minor a student must complete:

• WLC 278x (Introduction to Global Film, 3 cr.). This course is required of all World Film Studies minors. Prior enrollment in WLC 278x is recommended but not required for WLC courses numbered 378. 4 WLC 278x is not a prerequisite for any of the courses

³ For programmatic learning outcomes and possible measures of assessment of learning, see "Programmatic Learning Outcomes" section on the departmental website: http://www.language.iastate.edu/main/department/default.htm

⁴ WLC cinema courses numbered 378 have no prerequisites other than sophomore standing. These courses serve as cultural electives for language majors and minors. They also satisfy the University

taught outside of WLC. Any prerequisites for cinema courses in departments outside of WLC are determined by those respective departments.

While articulating methodological, theoretical and artistic commonalities and differences across world cinemas, WLC 278x introduces and / or reinforces essential cinema studies vocabulary, theoretical concepts, and methodologies of film analysis. By comparing and contrasting selected world cinemas and key artistic movements, WLC 278x also highlights the effects of globalization and transnationalism on film industries around the world. Additionally, students analyze films from regions of the world not regularly covered in existing WLC cinema courses (e.g. films from Greece, Poland, Egypt, etc.). As a formal comparative film analysis of cinema from around the globe, this course intellectually and pedagogically ties together other courses required for the minor.

Prof. Mesropova, who designed and taught WLC 278x the first time the course was offered in Fall 2009, will continue to develop and instruct this course on a biennial basis as part of her regular teaching load. Professors Weber-Fève and Vander Lugt have also expressed confidence that they will be available to teach this course if needed. WLC 278x is offered at least every other year and may be offered every year based on demand.

• 12 credits selected from the following list of electives. Of these, at least 6 credits must be from courses taught in the department of World Languages and Cultures.

Courses in WLC (at least 6 credits):⁵

Chin 370: Contemporary Chinese Film and Fiction (3 cr.)

Frnch 326: Studies in French or Francophone Art and Film (in French, 3 cr.)

Frnch 378: French Film Studies in English (3 cr.)⁶

Ger 378: German Film and Media Studies (3 cr.)

Rus 378: Russian Film Studies in English (3 cr.)

Span 326: Studies in Hispanic Art or Film (in Spanish, 3 cr.)⁷

Courses outside of WLC:

Engl 237: Survey of Film History (3 cr.)

Engl 315: Creative Writing – Screenplays (3 cr.)

Engl 335: Studies in Film (3 cr.)

International Perspectives requirement and the continuing English Proficiency requirement for WLC primary majors. These courses are also electives for students in the LAS International Studies secondary major.

⁵ Prof. Mesropova has agreed to serve as the departmental liaison and the coordinator of the minor. She will recruit and convene a film studies advisory committee consisting of faculty who teach cinema courses for the minor. The advisory committee will oversee curricular developments as they pertain to the proposed minor and will construct a logical rotation for departmental offerings in the various 300-level cinema courses.

⁶ Curricular note: no more than 6 credits of each repeatable course (Frnch 326 and French 378) may be applied to the minor.

⁷ Only film-based topics in Frnch 326 and Span 326 may be applied to the minor.

Engl 450B: Seminar in Film (3 cr.)

Jl MC 454: Critical Analysis and History of the Moving Image (3 cr.)

Pol S 365x: Politics and Film (3 cr.)

Cinema courses taught in WLC numbered 378 or 326 offer a focused, in-depth exploration of a particular national cinema (e.g. French, German, Spanish, etc.), topic in world cinema studies (e.g. post-Communist cinema) or director (Pedro Almodóvar). These courses also examine the role that particular national cinemas play in the formation and reflection of their respective cultures. At least one or two of these courses are offered in the department every year and WLC is strongly committed to continuing to offer cinema courses on a regular basis. By taking at least two (or up to four) of these 378 or 326 courses in WLC, students will expand their knowledge of film history, theory, vocabulary, and methodologies of film analysis relevant to specific national and cultural contexts.

Cinema courses offered outside of WLC (courses with the designators Engl, JI MC, or Pol S) provide students with the study of additional film theories, tools of film analysis, film history, and critical approaches to cinema both in the English- and non-English-speaking world. Because courses outside of WLC may have their own prerequisites, students who are unable to satisfy those additional prerequisites will still be able to complete the minor by taking 12 credits within cinema course offerings in WLC. In order to complete the minor, students are not required to take any cinema course outside of WLC.

7. Relationship of the minor to other programs at Iowa State University.

Since the mid-1990s, WLC has offered film courses that have covered a wide range of geographical areas and cultural traditions. In these courses WLC faculty provide students with key insights on non-English speaking languages and cultures from a diverse range of theoretical perspectives. Within the WLC major concentrations, film courses also fulfill the continuing English proficiency requirement. These courses satisfy the International Perspectives requirement and are also electives for the LAS International Studies secondary major. With their focus on visual literacy, written and oral communication, and crosscultural perspectives, WLC cinema courses and the proposed minor dovetail well with the learning goals articulated in the English Department's ISUComm WOVE curriculum.

WLC faculty have also taught and continue to offer numerous Honors Seminars on film. Other units at ISU that offer courses in cinema include the English department (Engl 237, Survey of Film History; Engl 315, Creative Writing – Screenplays; Engl 335: Studies in Film; Engl 450B: Seminar in Film); the Greenlee School of Journalism and Mass Communications (Jl MC 454, Critical Analysis and History of the Moving Image), as well as the department of Political Science (POLS 365X, Politics and Film).

While the majority of courses on world film are currently being offered through WLC, the proposed minor integrates film offerings from units across campus and provides a focused and structured context for the study of world cinema. Professor Lee Poague, who teaches cinema courses in the English department, has endorsed the minor and has indicated that he supports the inclusion of English department film classes among the electives for the minor.

Prof. Michael Bugeja, Director of Greenlee School of Journalism and Communication has also indicated his support for the minor, as did Dr. James Hutter who teaches PolS 365 (Politics and Film) in the Political Science department.

Professors April Eisman, Emily Godbey, and John Cunnally from the College of Design have also expressed support for the proposed minor as well as an interest in developing additional courses that could count as electives for the minor. Prof. April Eisman has proposed the development of a course titled "Artists in film" and another course on special effects in cinema; Prof. John Cunnally is planning to develop and teach in summer or fall of 2011 a course on the history of animation; Prof. Emily Godbey has expressed an interest in developing a course on silent film. While, as indicated above, the World Film Studies minor would be completely viable with existing courses, these courses proposed by the College of Design would greatly enrich the proposed minor and strengthen WLC's cross-University collaborations.

8. Relationship of the minor to the department's/college's/university's strategic plans.

The proposed minor is clearly in line with the University's strategic plan's vision that calls for students to "become broadly educated global citizens who are culturally informed [...] and ready to lead." The World Film Studies minor also serves the University's strategic goals of "Strengthen[ing] students' critical thinking and communication skills [and] enhanc[ing] students' understanding of global, cultural, ethical, and diversity issues." The World Film Studies minor also corresponds to the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences' strategic priority to "Provide diverse academic and cultural experiences by means of language study, cultural studies [...] and coursework in the field(s) of [...] international issues." Additionally, film courses required for the proposed minor fulfill the International Perspectives requirement.

9. Comparison of the proposed minor with:

a. standards, if any, established by accrediting associations

There are no relevant accrediting associations that would need to approve the minor.

b. similar programs at other universities.

Film Studies programs have been established at most research universities in the country. Currently all eleven of ISU's peer institutions, including schools with strong engineering programs, such as Purdue and Texas A&M offer both undergraduate and / or graduate film majors and minors including degrees in film and media studies. Texas A&M offers an Interdisciplinary minor in Film Studies; Purdue University offers an Interdisciplinary Film/Video Studies major and minor. (For a complete listing of cinema studies programs at other Peer Eleven institutions, see Appendix 2).

The only other film studies program in Iowa is offered at the University of Iowa (UI) where students can earn a BA major or minor in Cinema. The proposed minor program is not expected to replicate or to compete with the program at UI and is sufficiently different in its focus and

goals that any unnecessary duplication of effort would be unlikely to occur. The program at UI is offered through the Department of Cinema and Comparative Literature and, in addition to film theory, offers courses on film and video production. Unlike the UI minor, the proposed World Film Studies minor has a specific focus on film history, theory, aesthetics, and critical approaches as they pertain to cinemas from various regions of the world.

In comparison to the cinema studies programs outlined above, the proposed minor is unique in that it puts special emphasis on the cross-cultural and comparative studies of the cultural, sociopolitical, and historical contexts of non-English-language cinema.

10. Program requirements, including:

a. prerequisites for prospective students

There are no prerequisites for students wishing to earn the World Film Studies Minor. Students majoring in any discipline are welcome.

b. language requirements

There is no language requirement for the World Film Studies Minor.

c. courses and seminars presently available for credit toward the program

WLC 278x: Introduction to Global Film

Chin 370: Contemporary Chinese Film and Fiction

Frnch 326: Studies in French or Francophone Art and Film (in French)

Frnch 378: French Film Studies in English

Ger 378: German Film and Media Studies

Rus 378: Russian Film Studies in English

Span 326: Studies in Hispanic Art or Film (in Spanish)

Additional electives (as indicated above, discussed with their respective departments and approved for inclusion in the minor):

Engl 237: Survey of Film History

Engl 315: Creative Writing - Screenplays

Engl 335: Studies in Film

Engl 450B: Seminar in Drama and Film (Film)

Jl MC 454: Critical Analysis and History of the Moving Image

Pol S 365x: Politics and Film

d. proposed new courses or modifications of existing courses

No new courses are required for this proposed minor and no changes are needed in any of the existing courses approved for the minor.

e. implications for related areas within the university

Since the courses required and approved for this minor are currently offered by the department of World Languages and Cultures, as well as the English department, the Greenlee School of Journalism and Communication, and the Political Science department, there are no implications involving teaching load or allocation of resources for any units outside of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

11. General description of the resources currently available and future resource needs, in terms of:

a. faculty members;

The following WLC faculty members have taught film classes and / or have an active research agenda in world cinema:⁸

Frank Mariner, Associate Professor of French Olga Mesropova, Associate Professor of Russian Aili Mu, Associate Professor of Chinese Mark Rectanus, Professor of German and WLC Chair Kris Vander Lugt, Assistant Professor of German Thomas Waldemer, Senior Lecturer in Spanish Stacey Weber-Fève, Assistant Professor of French

In addition, several other ISU faculty members offer courses on film that will be applicable to the minor:

Tom Beell, Professor of Journalism

James Hutter, Associate Professor of Political Science (instructor for Pol S 365x: Politics and Film)

Lee Poague, Professor of English

b. effects of the new courses on the work load of the present staff;

There is no anticipated effect on the workload of the present staff because the courses counted towards the minor are part of existing course loads. The courses instructed in English in WLC also fulfill the continuing English proficiency requirement within the WLC major. As such, they are an integral and essential component of our present major curricula. As indicated above, Prof. Mesropova, who designed and taught WLC 278x the first time the course was offered in Fall 2009, will continue to develop and instruct this course on a biennial basis as part of her regular teaching load. Prof. Weber-Feve and Prof. Vander Lugt have also expressed confidence that they will be available to teach this course if needed. Prof. Mesropova has also agreed to serve as the departmental liaison and the coordinator of the minor. Together with the world film studies advisory committee (see footnote 5), she will work to construct a logical rotation for departmental offerings in the various 300-level cinema courses.

⁸ The Spanish film studies faculty member has recently resigned. However, the Spanish section has indicated that they have made the replacement of the specialist in Hispanic cinema a top priority.

c. research facilities;

No research facilities are necessary for the minor. The department's Language Studies Resource Center (LSRC) has an extensive and growing collection of international films that faculty use in their teaching and research.

d. library facilities (journals, documents, etc.) in the proposed area;

Existing library resources will be adequate for the minor, as they are for the existing world cinema courses currently offered in the department.

e. supplies, field work, student recruitment, etc.

No extra supplies, field work, or student recruitment activity are anticipated beyond what is already provided in WLC.

12. Describe the needs for new resources and/or reallocated resources. Attach to the program proposal memos from the department chair(s), the college dean(s), and other appropriate persons, agreeing to the allocation of new resources and/or the reallocation of resources.

Because all of the courses required for the minor are already in place and are being taught on a regular basis in WLC, there is no need for any new or reallocated resources.

- 13. Attach to the program proposal, letters of support, recommendations, and statements when appropriate:
 - a. from programs at the other Regents universities;
 - b. from programs and departments at ISU which are associated with the proposed program or have an interest in the proposed program.
- 14. If the new program is interdisciplinary, a governance document should be created and submitted to the Associate Provost for Academic Programs. Indicate here that it has been completed.

Appendix 1. Film courses offered in WLC since 2004.

Course	Semester offered	Enrollment
Chin 370	Fall 2005	14
Chin 370	Fall 2006	18
Chin 370	Fall 2008	20
Chin 370	Fall 2009	26
Chin 370	Fall 2010	24
Ger 378	Fall 2004	29
Ger 378 (4 th credit)		4
Ger 378	Fall 2005	27
Ger 378 (4 th credit)		3
Ger 378	Fall 2006	3 21
Ger 378 (4 th credit)		2
Ger 378	Fall 2009	17
French 326	Fall 2009	26
French 378	Spring 2004	24
French 378	Spring 2006	15
French 378	Spring 2007	22
French 378	Fall 2008	19
French 378	Fall 2009	36
French 378	Spring 2010	27
Rus 370	Fall 2004	30
Rus 370 (4 th credit)	1 an 2004	4
Rus 370° (4° Credit)	Fall 2006	24
Rus 378	Fall 2007	33
Rus 378	Fall 2008	40
Rus 378	Fall 2010	48
Span 326	Fall 2008	15
Span 326	Fall 2008	17
Span 320	1'an 2009	1 /
WLC 278X ¹⁰	Fall 2009	48

⁹ Russian film courses were originally offered as RUS 370. RUS 378 was introduced as a new designator in Fall 2007. $10 WLC 278X will be offered again in Fall 2011.

Appendix 2. Cinema Programs at Peer Eleven Universities.

University of Arizona	BA in Film and Television Studies Minor in Media Arts
University of California, Davis	Interdisciplinary BA in Film Studies Minor in Film Studies
University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign	BFA in New Media, School of Art and Design. Cinema Studies Concentration within the Interdisciplinary Studies Major, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Minor in Cinema Studies.
Michigan State University	B.A. in English with a concentration in Film Minor in Film Studies
University of Minnesota	BA, Studies in Cinema and Media Culture. Minor, Studies in Cinema and Media Culture
North Carolina State University	B.A. in Film B.A. in English with a Film Concentration Minor in Film
Ohio State University	Interdisciplinary B.A. in Film Studies through College of Arts and Sciences. Minor in Film Studies
Purdue University	B.A. in Film / Video Studies Minor in Film / Video Studies
Texas A & M University	Interdisciplinary Film Studies minor
University of Wisconsin, Madison	B.A. in Communication Arts, concentration in Radio-Television-Film.

From: Dettmer, Helena R [helena-dettmer@uiowa.edu]

Sent: Wednesday, October 20, 2010 9:31 AM

To: 'mwr@iastate.edu' Cc: Hall, Kathryn C

Subject: FW: Proposal for World Film Studies Minor at ISU

Hi. Mark:

Here is the response from the chair of our Comparative Literature and Cinema Dept.

Helena

Helena Dettmer Associate Dean for Undergraduate Programs and Curriculum College of Liberal Arts and Sciences 120 Schaeffer Hall The University of Iowa Iowa City, IA 52242-1409

fax: (319) 335-3755 phone: (319) 335-2633

From: Valentino, Russell

Sent: Wednesday, October 20, 2010 9:25 AM

To: Dettmer, Helena R

Cc: Hall, Kathryn C; Creekmur, Corey

Subject: RE: Proposal for World Film Studies Minor at ISU

Dear Helena,

I've talked this over with Corey Creekmur, Director of Film Studies, and we agree that in a straightforward sense this doesn't duplicate our degree(s), although it covers a good deal of content we offer on a regular basis. It looks stronger on the area studies/language/culture side of things than on the film side, whereas we have worked for a long time to ensure more of a balance of those perspectives. Our sense is that, as a minor only, it doesn't replicate our degrees — especially our major -- to any significant extent.

Let me know if you need more or other.

Thanks.

Russell

Russell Scott Valentino **Professor and Chair** Department of Cinema and Comparative Literature http://ccl.clas.uiowa.edu Editor, The Iowa Review http://www.iowareview.org University of Iowa

tel. 319-335-2827

From: dhanwada [kavita.dhanwada@uni.edu]
Sent: Thursday, October 28, 2010 4:33 PM

To: Rectanus, Mark W [WLC]

Cc: Joel Haack; Gloria Gibson; Mike Licari

Subject: Re: Proposal for World Film Studies Minor at ISU

Dear Dr. Rectanus,

I had forwarded your proposal for a World Film Studies minor at ISU to the Department Head of English Language and Literature here at UNI and he after consultation with his faculty has agreed to support the proposal. I have included his comments below.

October 26, 2010

To: Kavita Dhanwada
From: Jeffrey S. Copeland, Head
Department of English- UNI
Subject: Proposal for World Film Studies Minor at ISU

Kavita,

I just received your note. The reason I did not respond earlier about this subject is that I first wanted to discuss this with my faculty at a Department Meeting -- and to confer with my people running our Film Studies minor. I have now done so. There are some potential ramifications for our offerings here at UNI, but we are inclined to give our full support to the good folks at ISU in this area. Therefore, I am now going on record, representing my department, as saying we *support* ISU's proposed World Film Studies Minor.

Please let me know if I can provide any other information.

Jeff

Good luck with your proposal and please feel free to contact me regarding any questions.

Sincerely, Kavita Dhanwada

-- Kavita R. Dhanwada Associate Dean, Colleges of Humanities, Fine Arts and Natural Sciences Associate Professor of Biology University of Northern Iowa Cedar Falls, IA 50614-0421 Phone: 319-273-5976 kavita.dhanwada@uni.edu