UMBC UGC Program Changes & Other Request: History Major

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Specifics (see instructions):

We want to make some changes to the Required Courses for the history major. Here is the current applicable language from the Undergraduate catalog:

Required courses (15 credits) HIST 201 - Introduction to the Study of History (3.00)

Select one course from each sequence: 12 Credits

HIST 110 - Western Civilization to 1700 (3.00)
HIST 111 - Western Civilization 1700 to the Present (3.00)
HIST 101 - American History to 1877 (3.00)
HIST 102 - American History, 1877 to the Present (3.00)
HIST 103 - East-Asian Civilization (3.00)
HIST 200 - Themes in World History (3.00)
HIST 203 - Film & History: Representations of Imperialism in Modern World History (3.00)
HIST 204 - Don't Buy It: The Global History of Commodities (3.00)
HIST 207 - Asian Diasporas (3.00)
HIST 209 - Themes in World History: Planets and Worlds, Earth and Home (3.00)
HIST 496 - Historical Research (3.00) (American)
HIST 497 - Historical Research: (3.00) (non-U.S.)

The new policy would be:

Here is the updated language for the Required courses in the Undergraduate catalog:

Required Courses (6 credits)

HIST 201: Introduction to the Study of History (3.00) Either HIST 496: Historical Research (3.00) (American history) or HIST 497: Historical Research (3.00) (European, Asian, Latin American or African history)

Core Lower-Level Courses (9 credits)

Core Lower-Level Courses must be numbered below 300 and distributed in such a way that each student has a minimum of 3 credits in American history and a minimum of 3 credits in European, Asian, Latin American or African history.

Rationale (see instructions):

The department's upper-level electives stress skills and provide flexibility; the current lower-level required courses are more rigid and imbalanced; recent developments in World History and Global Studies have led to an increase in offerings in this area. Providing flexibility for Core lower-level courses will expose students to a broader variety of historical narratives while continuing to provide rigor and practice in historical thinking, research, and writing skills.