Office of the Provost

New Minor Proposal Form

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<th>Proposed New Minor: Academic Components</th>
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Please note that minors are approved by the school/college only. For new minors, then, eCAP serves as a notification process and a means of entering the new minor in the Bulletin.

Title of Minor (e.g., Minor in History):

Minor in Portuguese & Brazilian Cultural Studies

1. Please provide the name, title, email address, and phone number of the primary contact person for this academic program:

Nancy Harowitz, Associate Professor and Chair, Department of Romance Studies

nharrow@bu.edu; 617-353-6225

2. Please briefly describe the proposed new minor:

The 24-credit Minor in Portuguese & Brazilian Cultural Studies draws on existing curricula to provide a framework of advanced study for undergraduates who have completed fourth-semester Portuguese (CAS LP 212) or have demonstrated equivalent proficiency. Minors will expand and refine their Portuguese language skills while deepening their knowledge of the Portuguese-speaking world, with primary focus on the world’s fifth largest country, Brazil —its history, literature, culture, society, and contemporary prominence in Latin American and broader global contexts. Coursework selected in consultation with the Minor advisor may include comparative Latin American literature courses taught in Spanish and/or relevant English-language offerings in African American studies, anthropology, economics, history, history of art and architecture, international relations, music, and political science in addition to required language, literature, and culture courses taught in Portuguese. The framework is deliberately flexible enough to allow heritage speakers and other students who enter BU with near-native fluency to pursue and benefit from the minor.
3. Please provide a rationale for the proposed new minor:

The creation of this new minor can be justified on both counts of 1) intellectual and real-world importance, and 2) current feasibility and sustainability.

1) Portuguese is the sixth most widely spoken language in the world. It is the official language of Angola, Brazil, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Portugal, São Tomé and Príncipe, and Mozambique. It also retains a historical presence in Macau (China), East Timor (Southeast Asia), and Goa (India). An estimated million citizens of the United States are native speakers, and more people speak Portuguese than French, German, Italian, or Japanese in the U.S.

Besides being the largest country in Latin America, Brazil is a political and economic leader of the region, as part of the Mercosul (Common Market of the South) along with Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Paraguay, and Uruguay. Brazil is also the world’s fifth largest economy, and its current foreign policy is based on the country’s position as a regional power in Latin America and a member of the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) association of major emerging economies. Brazil has recently hosted the World Cup soccer tournament (2014) and will host the Olympic Summer Games in 2016, with a resulting increase in general interest in Brazilian language and culture.

The 2015 report of the Modern Language Association (MLA) cites Portuguese as one of three languages that experienced significant growth in enrollments nationally from 2009 to 2013. Here in Massachusetts, the past decade has seen successful efforts to implement and/or expand Portuguese language programs with a focus on Brazilian culture at colleges and universities including MIT, Northeastern, Tufts, Wellesley, and UMass-Anherst.

2) Boston University has also made a strategic, concerted, and successful commitment to reviving and building our Portuguese language program. We did not offer Portuguese between 2002-2003 and 2008-2009, to the detriment of our undergraduate and MA programs in Latin American Studies and our ability to train doctoral students with research interests in the region and in the cultures of the Iberian peninsula. From 17 students enrolled in first-year Portuguese in Spring 2010, Portuguese enrollments have climbed to more than 100 each year. The four-semester sequence (CAS LP 111, 112, 211, 212) that introduces the cultures of the Lusophone world and builds foundational skills in speaking, listening, reading, and writing is now regularly offered as an option for fulfilling undergraduate language requirements in CAS, COM, and SHA. In keeping with time-tested provisions for linking Boston-based learning with immersive study abroad, students since Summer 2014 have had the opportunity to accelerate their progress through the foundational sequence by taking second-year Portuguese (LP 211/212) under the auspices of Boston University’s recently established summer program in Rio de Janeiro: (http://www.bu.edu/abroad/find-programs/by-destination/rio-de-janeiro-brazil/).
To lead this rebuilding effort, CAS has made the crucial faculty appointments of a full-time Lecturer (Dr. Célia Bianconi, since promoted to Senior Lecturer) and a committed tenure-track assistant professor (Rodrigo Lopes de Barros), who specializes in Brazilian Studies and conducts cross-cultural research on Brazil and the Carribbean. Together, they have designed and gained final approval for the roster of 300-level LP courses in language, literature, film, and culture that will anchor the proposed new minor from its inception. They have established strong ties with cognate units and student groups including the Latin American Studies Program in the Pardee School of Global Studies, the intercollegiate Cinema & Media Studies Program, and the Boston University Brazilian Association, for which Dr. Bianconi serves as faculty advisor. In addition, Dr. Bianconi has established Boston University as a leader in online/hybrid/onsite Portuguese language education through her work as co-PI of federally funded STARTALK intensive summer institutes for K-16 teachers in 2012, 2013, and 2014 (http://www.bu.edu/rs/2012/09/10/startalking-in-portuguese/).

Increasingly, BU’s Spanish graduate students study Portuguese, some have taught in the program, and others have devoted parts of their dissertation research to Brazil, with support from the Fulbright program. The new minor is thus not only viable and ready for enrollment by already interested students; it comes equipped with the kind of faculty investment and vibrant academic and co-curricular contexts that, together with a formal credential, promises to sustain Portuguese & Brazilian Cultural Studies in a virtuous cycle of program development and enrollment growth.

4. Please list the requirements and courses for the proposed new minor: (denoting new courses in bold print)

The Minor in Portuguese & Brazilian Cultural Studies adheres to the predominant model for minors in CAS at Boston University, requiring 24 credits (six 4-credit courses), all completed with a grade of C or higher. [Portuguese & Brazilian Studies minors at comparable institutions typically require five or six courses totaling 15-24 credits.] Students must complete four CAS LP courses where the language of instruction is Portuguese: two language-focus courses numbered 300-309 (native and other highly advanced speakers of Portuguese will be advised on appropriate substitutions), and two courses on Brazilian literature/culture/film. The remaining two courses are chosen, depending on the student’s interests and goals, from CAS LP offerings in language/literature/film/culture plus courses with a substantial focus on Brazil from approved offerings in Spanish literature and/or other humanities and social science disciplines.

Prerequisite: CAS LP 212 (Fourth-Semester Portuguese) or equivalent
Requirements: Six 4-credit courses, all completed with a grade of C or higher

Limit of two language-focus courses numbered CAS LP 300-309* (may be taken in any order):

CAS LP 305  Topics in Portuguese Language and Brazilian Culture (may be taken twice for credit if the topic changes)
CAS LP 307  Portuguese for Business and Professional Life

*Students who are native or highly proficient speakers of Portuguese will substitute two other Portuguese & Brazilian Studies courses after consulting with their Minor advisor and receiving his or her approval.

Two courses in Brazilian literature and culture (may be taken in either order):

CAS LP 350  Brazilian Literature Before 1900 (taught in Portuguese)
CAS LP 352  Tropical Metropolis and Brazilian Modernity (taught in Portuguese)

Two additional courses chosen in consultation with the Minor advisor from the following or, with prior advisor approval, from courses not listed below that include substantial attention to Brazil and/or other parts of the Portuguese-speaking world:

CAS LP 305  Topics in Portuguese Language and Brazilian Culture (if not already taken twice to fulfill the requirement of two language-focus courses)
CAS LP 310  Introduction to Brazilian Cinema (in English translation)
CAS LP 312  Inventing Brazil (in English translation)
CAS AA/AH 316  African Diaspora Arts in the Americas
CAS AA 385/HI 350  The Atlantic World
CAS AA 396/HI 353  Atlantic Africa and the Slave Trade
CAS AA/HI 489  The African Diaspora in the Americas
CAS AH 242  Latin American Art Since Contact
CAS AH 323  Topics in Latin American Art
CAS AN 314  Cultures of Latin America
CAS EC 369  Economic Development of Latin America (prereq: CAS EC 101 and 102)
5. Please provide the bulletin copy (exactly as it will appear) for the proposed new minor including program goals/outcomes:

**Minor in Portuguese & Brazilian Cultural Studies**

The minor in Portuguese & Brazilian Cultural Studies is for students who seek to become proficient in Portuguese, the world’s sixth most widely spoken language, while acquiring a good grasp of Brazilian culture and Brazil’s historical, political, economic, literary, and artistic importance around the world, especially in Latin America.

For students beginning their study of Portuguese at Boston University, the minor builds on four prerequisite semesters of language work (CAS LP 111-212 or equivalent), including an option to complete both the third and fourth semesters through Boston University’s intensive six-week summer study abroad program in Rio de Janeiro. [Link to http://www.bu.edu/abroad/programs/rio-de-janeiro-intensive-portuguese-language-program/]

Minors take two additional, 300-level, language-focus courses; they study the historical roots and contemporary expressions of Brazilian literature/ film/culture in Portuguese; and, in
consultation with their minor advisor, they choose additional courses with a focus on Brazil from an approved roster that includes offerings in African American studies, anthropology, economics, film, history, history of art & architecture, international relations, Latin American literature in Spanish, music, and political science. Students entering BU with some prior study of Portuguese join the prerequisite sequence at the appropriate level or proceed directly to the minor, based on placement test results. Native and other advanced speakers of Portuguese work with their minor advisor to design and gain approval for pathways where courses on Brazil and other parts of the Portuguese-speaking world may be substituted for the minor’s two language-focus courses.

An enriching complement to closely related majors such as Spanish, International Relations, and Latin American Studies, the minor in Portuguese & Brazilian Studies also leads to enhanced post-graduate academic and career opportunities for students majoring in any liberal arts and sciences or professional field. Brazil’s emergence as a regional power and global leader among developing countries has intensified demand for culturally competent speakers of Portuguese; and recent BU graduates have gone on to use their Portuguese language skills in workplaces ranging from the airline industry to investment banking to software engineering and social media development.

**Requirements**

Six 4-credit courses with a grade of C or higher. With advisor’s approval, students may include up to three transfer courses from other colleges, universities, or non-BU study abroad programs. At least three courses must be taken on the Charles River Campus.

1. Two language-focus courses numbered CAS LP 300-309 (unless equivalent proficiency is shown, in which case the minor advisor will determine appropriate substitute courses).
2. Two courses taught in Portuguese on Brazilian literature and culture: CAS LP 350 and CAS LP 352.
3. Two additional courses with a focus on Brazil (to be chosen in consultation with the student’s advisor from relevant offerings in the humanities, arts, and social sciences).

**Placement Examination**

A placement test is required of all students whose most recent course in Portuguese was taken in high school or at a college other than Boston University and who wish to continue their study of this language here. Information about the placement test is available in the Department of Romance Studies and on the department website. [Link to http://www.bu.edu/rs/undergraduate-languages-literatures-and-linguistics/placement-test-information/]
6. Please provide the projected enrollment for the proposed new minor and the basis of that projection:

Academic year enrollments in Portuguese exceeded 100 in both the 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 academic years. Based on explicit expressions of interest, we estimate that 5-10% of students currently enrolled in the program are poised to register for the minor as soon as it is approved.
Cognate Comment Request

TO: Name: Louis A. Ferleger
Department: History

FROM: Name: Nancy Harrowitz
Department: CAS RS
Telephone: 617-353-8625 E-mail nharrow@bu.edu
Course Number: 
Course or Program Title: Proposal for a minor in Portuguese & Brazilian Studies

Our Department would like to request cognate comments on this course (or program). A complete proposal is attached for your review. If you need further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kindly return the signed original to me by September 30th so that I may include your comments when submitting our proposal for review and approval. Please do not send any cognate letters directly to the dean’s office. Thank you.

COMMENTS: The proposed minor takes advantage of current resources in the history department and integrates them within a broader language and cultural studies curriculum that draws on the faculty’s expertise from across disciplines. Our department supports the formation of this minor, and we’re pleased that our teachers can contributed to its development through teaching on the African diaspora in Brazil, transatlantic history, and the history of social movements in Latin America.

Please explain fully any objections.

Signature: Date: 9/29/15
Title: Chair, History Department
Date: July 30, 2015

Cognate Comment Request

TO: Name: Victor Coelho
   Department: CFA MH: Musicology & Ethnomusicology

FROM: Name: Nancy Harrowitz
      Department: CAS RS

Telephone: 617-353-8625 E-mail nharrow@bu.edu

Course Number: __________

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COMMENTS: This is an important and timely proposal for a Minor that will be welcomed by students and faculty alike. As stated explicitly and implicitly in the proposal, Lusophone culture connects the histories and artistic traditions of the old, New, and modern worlds, and Portuguese and Brazilian culture offer global perspectives on colonial and post-colonial topics, literature, and hybrid, mobile artistic traditions. Lusophone studies have a strong presence at some universities, such as Yale, but would seem particularly relevant to BU given the deep Brazilian and Portuguese culture in Boston and the many cultural resources offered as a result. Most importantly, the Minor leverages the strength of many scholars and artists across campus with a specialization in the area. In Musicology & Ethnomusicology we already offer two courses that cover these areas, and we have just hired a specialist in Latin American music who has a strong interest in Brazil, I support this enthusiastically.

Please explain fully any objections.

Signature: Victor Coelho
           Date: 9/30/15

Title: Professor and Chair, Dept. of Musicology and Ethnomusicology
Dear Nancy,

I am currently in DC on conference travel, but usually this sort of email trail is sufficient.

I confirm that the Pardee School is in favor of the proposed minor. Our only concern had been confusion with the regional studies majors and minors offered by the Pardee School Division of Regional and Thematic Studies. This concern has been fully addressed by the name change. We wish you all success with the new program.

Best,
Bill

William W. Grimes
Professor of International Relations and Political Science
& Associate Dean for Academic Affairs
Pardee School of Global Studies | Boston University
152 Bay State Rd | Boston, MA 02215
617-353-9420 | 617-353-9290 (fax)
Cognate Comment Request

TO: Name: Matt Cartmill  
Department: Anthropology  

FROM: Name: Nancy Harrowitz  
Department: CAS RS  
Telephone: 617-353-8625 E-mail nharrow@bu.edu  

Course Number:  
Course or Program Title: Proposal for a minor in Portuguese & Brazilian Studies  

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COMMENTS: The Department of Anthropology offers no objections to the proposed minor.  

Please explain fully any objections. 

Signature: Matt Cartmill  
Date: Sept. 30, 2015  
Title: Matt Cartmill, Chair, Dept. of Anthropology (CAS)
Cognate Comment Request

TO:      Name: Barton Lipman
         Department: ____________Economics_____________________
FROM:    Name: ____________Nancy Harrowitz_____________________
         Department: ____________CAS RS_____________________
         Telephone: 617-353-8625 E-mail nharrow@bu.edu
Course Number: ____________
Course or Program Title: __Proposal for a minor in Portuguese & Brazilian Studies

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COMMENTS: The proposed minor seems quite appropriate to me. I have no objections or concerns, in general or regarding the economics course included as an option for the elective.

_______________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________

Please explain fully any objections.

Signature: _______ Date: _________9/28/15________
Title: _______Professor and Department Chair________
Cognate Comment Request

TO:  Name: ____________________________ Adela Pineda

Department: ____________________________ Latin American Studies

FROM:  Name: ____________________________ Nancy Harrowitz

Department: ____________________________ CAS RS

Telephone: ____________________________ 617-353-8625 E-mail nharrow@bu.edu

Course Number: ____________________________

Course or Program Title: ____________________________ Proposal for a minor in Portuguese & Brazilian Studies

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COMMENTS: My only comment is the two courses to be chosen among courses with Brazil-oriented content should also give credit to LASP WITHIN the Pardee School of Global Studies explicitly since the list of IR/LASP courses are administered by the Pardee School"

“from CAS LP and LASP courses offered at the Pardee School”

Please explain fully any objections.

Signature: ____________________________ Adela Pineda  Date: ____________________________ September 28, 2015

Title: ____________________________ Associate Professor of Spanish/ Director of the Latin American Studies Program
Cognate Comment Request

TO:  Name:  David Mayers  
      Department:  Political Science

FROM: Name:  Nancy Harowitz
      Department:  CAS RS
      Telephone:  617-353-8625  E-mail:  nharrow@bu.edu

Course Number:  
Course or Program Title:  Proposal for a minor in Portuguese & Brazilian Studies

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COMMENTS:  

Looks fine. Approved.

Please explain fully any objections.

Signature:  David Mayers  Date:  9/24/15

Title:  professor and chair of Political Science
Cognate Comment Request

TO: Name: Bruce Redford
Department: History of Art and Architecture

FROM: Name: Nancy Harowitz
Department: CAS RS
Telephone: 617-353-8625 E-mail nharrow@bu.edu

Course Number: ____________
Course or Program Title: Proposal for a minor in Portuguese & Brazilian Studies

Our Department would like to request cognate comments on this course (or program). A complete proposal is attached for your review. If you need further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kindly return the signed original to me by __September 30th_____ so that I may include your comments when submitting our proposal for review and approval. Please do not send any cognate letters directly to the dean's office. Thank you.

COMMENTS: Although she is a Hispanist, HAA's specialist in Latin American art, Ana Maria Reyes, has a significant interest in Brazilian visual culture. Moreover, her contextual approach weaves art & architecture together with history & politics. Therefore the inclusion of AH 242 & AH 323 as electives in the proposed new minor is entirely appropriate. Please explain fully any objections.

Signature: ____________ Date: __9/29/15__
Title: Professor & Chair, HAA