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## Educational Policies Committee Program Proposal, College of Humanities and Social Sciences, January 11, 2019 – Folklore and American Studies

Utah State University

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11 January 2019

**ITEM FOR ACTION**

Utah State University's Department of English in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences proposes changing the name of American Studies to Folklore and American Studies and restructuring the program in the manner described below.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Department of English in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences proposes changing the name of American Studies to Folklore and American Studies and restructuring the program.

**RECOMMENDATION**

The President and Provost recommend that the Board of Trustees approve the proposal to change the name of American Studies to Folklore and American Studies and restructuring the program in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences' Department of English.

RESOLUTION  
UTAH STATE UNIVERSITY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

WHEREAS, Utah State University's Department of English in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences proposes changing the name of American Studies to Folklore and American Studies and restructuring the program and

WHEREAS, The proposed name change from American Studies to Folklore and American Studies more accurately reflects what students are studying in the department and better helps recruit students to the major, and

WHEREAS, The proposal has been approved by the academic dean, the Educational Policies Committee, and the USU Faculty Senate, and

WHEREAS, The proposal has been approved by the President and Provost of Utah State University;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the Utah State University Board of Trustees hereby approve the proposal to change the name of American Studies to Folklore and American Studies and restructuring the program in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences' Department of English and that notification of this proposal be forwarded to the Utah State Board of Regents of the Utah System of Higher Education.

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RESOLUTION APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE:

**Utah System of Higher Education  
Changes to Existing Academic Program Proposal  
Cover/Signature Page - Abbreviated Template**

**Institution Submitting Request:** Utah State University

**Program Title:** *Current* American Studies *Proposed (if applicable)* Folklore and American Studies

**Sponsoring School, College, or Division:** CHaSS

**Sponsoring Academic Department(s) or Unit(s):** English

**Classification of Instruction Program Code<sup>1</sup>:** 05.0102 05.0209, 05.0102

**Min/Max Credit Hours for Full Program Required:** Min Cr Hr / Max Cr Hr Min Cr Hr / Max Cr Hr

**Proposed Effective Term for Program Change<sup>2</sup>:** Fall 2019

**Institutional Board of Trustees' Approval Date:**

**Award Type:** MA

**Program Change Type (check all that apply):**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Name Change of Existing Program
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Program Restructure with or without Consolidation
<input type="checkbox"/>	Program Transfer to a new academic department or unit
<input type="checkbox"/>	Program Suspension
<input type="checkbox"/>	Program Discontinuation
<input type="checkbox"/>	Reinstatement of Previously Suspended Program
<input type="checkbox"/>	Out of Service Area Delivery Program

**Chief Academic Officer (or Designee) Signature:**

I, the Chief Academic Officer or Designee, certify that all required institutional approvals have been obtained prior to submitting this request to the Office of the Commissioner.

Please type your first and last name \_\_\_\_\_ Date:

I understand that checking this box constitutes my legal signature.

<sup>1</sup> For CIP code classifications, please see <http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/cipcode/Default.aspx?y=55>.

<sup>2</sup> "Proposed Effective Term" refers to term when change to program is published. For **Suspensions and Discontinuations**, "effective term" refers to the term the program will suspend admissions.

## Program Change Description - Abbreviated Template

### Section I: The Request

Utah State University requests approval to change name from American Studies to Folklore and American Studies and restructure Folklore and American Studies effective Fall 2019. This action was approved by the institutional Board of Trustees on .

### Section II: Program Proposal

#### Program Change Description/Rationale

*Present a brief program change description. Describe the institutional procedures used to arrive at a decision for the change. Briefly indicate why such a change should be initiated. State how the institution and the USHE benefit by the change.*

The Department of English proposes changing the name of the graduate program and graduate degree from "American Studies" to "Folklore and American Studies" as part of larger strategy for a more integrated and holistic graduate program. Currently, Folklore Studies is a specialization in American Studies and therefore administratively a minor partner, despite the fact that USU's Folklore Program is historically strong and nationally recognized. For example, although Folklore students undertake a rigorous program of courses, the Master's degree says "American Studies" and does not reflect their Folklore Studies background. Similarly, many American Studies students take folklore courses but also do not have this reflected in their degree. The proposed change would more accurately reflect the work that students are doing. As part of the larger program change, there will be minor curricular changes to ensure that all students take at least one Folklore and one American Studies course, ensuring a more integrated and interdisciplinary Master's Degree program. that will provide students with greater depth in both of these subject areas. The proposed change will also help the Department of English recruit students to the program by delineating the dual strengths and focus of the degree more clearly. This change will also help the English department improve our administrative efficiency as it will be able to consolidate admissions and assessment responsibilities (currently operating as two separate committees for each process) into two integrated admission and assessment committees for the program as a whole. The decision to make these program changes was accomplished through discussions held by American Studies and Folklore faculty in their monthly program meetings, as well as a joint meeting involving faculty from both areas. A formal vote was held to approve these program changes with members of the American Studies and Folklore faculty on Sept. 12, 2018, where the changes were approved unanimously.

#### Consistency with Institutional Mission/Institutional Impact

*Explain how the action is consistent with the institution's Regent-approved mission, roles, and goals. Institutional mission and roles may be found at [higheredutah.org/policies/policyr312/](http://higheredutah.org/policies/policyr312/) . Indicate if the program will be delivered outside of designated service area; provide justification. Service areas are defined in [higheredutah.org/policies/policyr315/](http://higheredutah.org/policies/policyr315/) . Will faculty or staff structures be impacted by the proposed change?*

This action is completely consistent with USU's mission as both a research-oriented university and as a student-centered, land grant university because the proposed changes promote a more rigorous interdisciplinary program of study and will expose students to a greater range of ideas and faculty. No existing faculty or staff structures will be adversely impacted by this proposed change, and this proposed change will allow the Department of English to manage existing faculty and curricular resources more efficiently.

#### Finances

*What costs or savings are anticipated from this change? If new funds are required to implement the change, indicate expected sources of funds. Describe any budgetary impact on other programs or units within the institution.*

No new funds are required for this change. It allows for greater collaboration and sharing of resources between Folklore and American Studies faculty, since the programs will share courses, students, and faculty more fully. In particular the programs anticipate fewer canceled classes due to low enrollment and more faculty available to serve on graduate thesis committees. Faculty will also be able to manage admission and assessment processes more efficiently by consolidating them under a single committee for each, comprised of faculty from both areas.