LEHMAN COLLEGE
OF THE
CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES

CURRICULUM CHANGE

1. **Type of Change:** New Interdisciplinary Minor

2. **Program Description:** 12-Credit Minor in Russian Area Studies

   Coordinator: Ekaterina Salmanova (Lecturer, Languages and Literatures)
   Steering Committee: Gary Schwartz (Professor, Languages and Literatures);
      Elin Waring (Professor, Sociology); Robert Whittaker (Professor, JCT);
      Ekaterina Belousova (Adj. Asst. Professor, Anthropology); Ralph W.
      Boone (Adj. Lecturer, English)

   The Minor in Russian Area Studies provides students with an interdisciplinary
   approach to the language, culture, history, politics, and environmental aspects of
   the Russian Federation (and of its predecessor states, including the Soviet
   Union). The minor will serve students who are majoring in fields in which global
   and cross-cultural awareness are especially valuable, such as business, political
   science, nursing and health services, social work, as well as in such humanities-
   based fields as music, art, and literature, and in related multimedia fields.
   Russian language is not a requirement for the minor.

**Degree Requirements**

Students will satisfy the College requirement of a minor field by taking four
 courses (12 credits), at least two of which must be at the 300-level or higher. All
students will take the introductory three-credit course POL/RUS220 (Russia
Today). The remaining 9 credits may be taken from courses on Russia in any
department. Russian-language courses on the 200- and 300-level may be
included, but are not required.

   Introduction to Russian Area Studies (3 credits):
   POL/RUS 220  Russia Today

   Electives (9 credits):
   Electives may be chosen from among courses on the history and culture of
   Russia, in English or in Russian. Two of the three electives must be at the 300-
   level or higher. Examples of courses that meet the requirements for this minor
   include: RUS 201 (Intermediate Russian I), RUS 202 (Intermediate Russian II),
   RUS 281 (Intermediate Russian Tutorial), RUS 301 (Advanced Russian I), RUS
   302 (Advanced Russian II), RUS 381 (Tutorial in Russian); HIE 336 (Early
   Russian History), HIE 337 (Modern Russian History); RUS 333 (The Russian
Short Story), RUS 336 (Russian Drama to Chekhov), RUS 338 (Classical Russian Poetry), RUS 343 (Survey of Russian Drama (in English)), RUS 346 (Dostoevsky--in English), RUS 347 Tolstoy-in English), RUS 360 (Russian Authors--in English), SLA 362 (Topics and Themes in Slavic Literature--in English), SLA 365 (Aspects of Slavic Culture and Civilization--in English).

3. **Rationale:** Russia occupies the largest territory of all countries, spanning two continents--Europe and Asia. The Russian Federation, heir to the wealth and traditions of the USSR, is among the most influential political, economic, and cultural force operating in the world today. Immigrants from Russia and the former Soviet Union represent one of the largest ethnic groups in the greater New York area. Insofar as Lehman College both speaks to this population and values global and interdisciplinary studies, a minor in Russian Area Studies brings into focus a significant area of educational importance and strength from among the College’s broad curricular offerings.

The curriculum of the Russian Area Studies minor is comprised of currently existing courses in the departments of Languages and Literatures, History, and Political Science. Many of these courses are offered regularly, and the core course for the interdisciplinary minor, POL/RUS220 Russia Today, is a distribution course in the General Education program.

The interdisciplinary minor in Russian Area Studies allows students majoring in Russian language and literature to expand their study of Russia to related topics in history, politics, and other realms. The Russian Area Studies minor also allows students who wish to study Russia, but who do not want to complete a Russian-language major or minor, to pursue their interest in this important area of academic study.

4. **Date of Steering Committee Approval:** March 1, 2011
**Date of Department of Languages and Literatures Approval:** March 2, 2011