DESIGNATED EMPHASIS IN CRITICAL THEORY BYLAWS

Administrative Home: Languages and Literatures.
Revision date(s): 2/24/2017
Graduate Council Approval: 04/21/2017

Article I. Objective

A. Specialization: The Critical Theory program focuses on the history of Western philosophy and on the modern and contemporary strands of theoretical discourse that draw on, challenge and reconfigure this tradition.

B. Affiliated Ph.D. Programs: Anthropology, Comparative Literature, Cultural Studies, Education, English, French, German, History, Music, Performance Studies, Psychology, Sociology, Spanish, Study of Religion

C. Mission of the DE: The Critical Theory program seeks to provide a foundation in western philosophy and in critical theoretical discourses of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries for graduate students in the Humanities and Social Sciences. While graduate students in these disciplines are often expected to have familiarity with major figures in the philosophical tradition, as well as with more recent theoretical discourses, they are exposed to texts on a piecemeal basis in their regular coursework. The Critical Theory Designated Emphasis provides the opportunity for a sustained and focused engagement with critical theory as such. In terms of curriculum, the Critical Theory Designated Emphasis consists of four courses (CRI 200A, CRI 200B, CRI 200C, and one elective), as described in the Program Requirements. The Critical Theory Program also offers two unit reading courses, as well as an undergraduate course, in conjunction with Comparative Literature (CRI 101/COM 141).

Article II. Membership

A. Criteria for Membership in the DE

1. Any faculty engaged in research appropriate to the disciplines of Critical Theory as described above are eligible to be affiliated with the program.

2. Active research appropriate to the disciplines encompassed by the program.

   Membership is independent and separate from academic department appointments. Membership is based upon disciplinary expertise and active research. Membership must include at least one member from each of the affiliate PhD programs.
3. Voting rights.
   All members are eligible to vote on DE matters. See GC2011-04, Policy on Quorum, Voting Rights and Responsibility.

B. Application for membership.
   1. How faculty may apply:
      Faculty wishing to become affiliated with the Critical Theory program can self-nominate by contacting the Executive Committee by way of the chair. Any member of the executive committee can nominate faculty for affiliation with the program. Nominations will be discussed in meetings or through electronic correspondence inclusive of all Executive Committee members. Nominations are accepted and approved by a majority vote of the Executive committee.

   2. Anticipated contributions that graduate faculty members will perform as a member.
      Faculty affiliated with the Critical Theory program will be asked by the Executive Committee to propose and to teach graduate seminars in the program, in coordination with their home department, and will be asked by students in the Designated Emphasis to serve on qualifying examination committees and dissertation committees as specified in the Program Requirements.

C. Emeritus Status.
   Emeritus faculty with active research programs may remain members of the program, may teach graduate courses, and may serve on student committees. Emeriti will not have voting rights.

D. Verification of Continued Membership
   Membership will include periodic verification of participation by the membership, based on involvement and contributions noted above, and affiliated departments every three years.

E. Membership Appeal Process
   If membership is denied or not renewed, faculty can appeal to the Executive Committee for reconsideration. Applicants denied membership or renewal of membership by the Executive Committee may make a final appeal to the Dean of Graduate Studies.

Article III. Administration

The administration of the program and its activities will be vested in the Chair and an Executive Committee.

Article IV. DE Chair

A. Chair appointment process
   The Chair will be appointed in accordance with the Academic Personnel Manual policy UCD-245.B and the policies and procedures of the Graduate Council and the Office of Graduate Studies.

   The Executive Committee will solicit names of nominees for Program Chair from the faculty and graduate students of the Program. Those nominated will then be contacted regarding their willingness to serve. The names of the nominees who have indicated a willingness to serve will be submitted to the Group’s faculty and graduate students for
comments. All comments will remain confidential.

The Nominating Committee will forward at least one name to the Dean of Graduate Studies along with all comments received on the nominees. All comments solicited from faculty and students will be treated as confidential information by the Committee and by the Office of Graduate Studies.

If more than one nominee is put forward, a preference for one may be expressed, and the basis for that preference must be provided. The nominee(s) may be interviewed by the Dean of Graduate Studies (or delegate) who will then forward his/her recommendation to the Chancellor for appointment. The normal term of the Chair’s appointment is three years, however what is recommended will be based on the nominees’ willingness to serve.

B. Duties of the Chair
1. Verify the faculty members of the DE
2. Serve as graduate adviser
3. Provide overall academic leadership for the DE
4. Develop and implement policies for the DE
5. Represent the interests of the DE to the campus and University administrators
6. Call and preside at meetings of the Executive Committee and of the DE
7. Be responsible for coordinating all administrative matters with the Office of Graduate Studies
8. Be responsible for the accuracy of all publications related to the DE including web pages and catalog copy
   a. Meet annually with the chairs of the affiliated programs

Article V. Committees

As a non-degree granting program, the Designated Emphasis in Critical Theory will be administered entirely by the program chair and an Executive Committee. Formal sub-committees may be formed on an ad hoc basis, requiring a majority vote among the Executive committee.

Executive Committee

The Executive Committee will consist of the chair of the program, who serves as chair of the committee, plus five or more faculty elected from the membership. To ensure broad participation, the Executive Committee will have members from at least three different departments (tri-department rule). All members have voting rights. The faculty members of the Executive Committee will be elected for a three-year term, which is renewable one time. After a hiatus, a previous Executive Committee member may serve another term, with possibility of renewal, upon nomination and election. Every effort will be made to rotate executive committee membership among the entirety of the faculty at large and to put together a committee that accurately reflects the diversity of disciplines and points of view that exist among that faculty. While membership among the faculty at large is a prerequisite for service on the executive committee, the holding of FTE (whether whole or in part) does not automatically entitle one to a position on the committee.

Election of faculty members of the Executive Committee: nomination will be made either during the meeting in the Fall Quarter or by electronic-mail correspondence. Elections will be conducted by electronic-mail ballot. Each member of the program will vote for the number of
positions to be filled on a ballot provided. Those receiving the most votes will be declared elected. Elected members shall assume their duties on July 1.

The principal duties of the Executive Committee will be to determine curricular offerings for the following year, administer available fellowship funding, and determine and implement policy for the program. The executive committee will be the Membership Committee.

The Executive Committee will meet at least once per year, in the Fall Quarter. Additional meetings and executive sessions may be held as deemed necessary by the chair or by a majority of the members of the committee.

**Article VI. Student Representatives**

A student representative may be nominated by any executive committee member and appointed by the executive committee through a majority vote. The student representative does not have voting rights. The Chair of any committee with student members must excuse the student representatives from meetings during discussion about other students, personnel actions or disciplinary issues relating to faculty, during rankings of existing students for funding, and for disciplinary issues related to students.

**Article VII. Graduate Advisors**

Graduate advising for the Critical Theory Designated Emphasis will be carried out by the chair, along with the staff Graduate Coordinator, and as needed by members of the Executive Committee.

**Article VIII. Meetings**

The Program Chair shall call an annual meeting during Fall quarter for the purpose of electing officers and conducting other business. The Chair shall be privileged to call other meetings in the interest of the Group and shall be required to do so at the written request of three or more members. Notification will be emailed at least two weeks before the meeting. Faculty not on campus may participate by teleconference or other available technology.

**Article IX. Quorum**

All issues that require a vote must be:

- Voted on by 50+% of the membership
- On graduate program matters other than amendment/revision of bylaws: passage requires a 50+% supporting vote of the members voting.
- On amendments and revision of bylaws: passage requires a 2/3rds supporting vote of the members voting.

Balloting to establish or revise by-laws or graduate program policy can be done either in a meeting of the program, via e-mail, or other web-based balloting technology. The balloting may be done either publicly (such as a voice vote or show of hands), or anonymously. Any member can make a public or confidential request to the program chair for anonymous balloting at any time. Anonymous balloting will be carried out through appropriate and secure web-based technology and administered by the Graduate Coordinator on behalf of the Chair. If a vote is to be carried out through email or web-based technology, the motion may be
introduced by a majority of the executive committee. If balloting is conducted via e-mail or web-based technology, 7 days must be provided for expression of opinions about the proposal prior to the acceptance of votes; the program must allow 7 days for votes to be returned or before the "polls are closed."

Article X. Order of Business for Meetings

N/A.

Article XI. Amendments

Amendments to these bylaws may be made in accordance with program’s quorum policy in Article IX. Program members may propose amendments by petition to the program Chair. The program Chair, or relevant program committee, may ask for revisions from the faculty who submitted proposed amendments before forwarding the revisions to the membership for review and voting. Quorum, voting and passage is prescribed in Article IX. All amendments and revisions must be submitted to the Graduate Council for review and approval; changes in the bylaws will become effective upon approval by the Graduate Council.