

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

S.71-34

MEMORANDUM

To..... SENATE

From..... ACADEMIC PLANNING COMMITTEE

Subject..... PROGRAM IN AFRICAN/MIDDLE EAST
STUDIES, S.71-34

Date..... FEBRUARY 9, 1971

MOTION:

1. "That Senate approve the establishment of a program in African/Middle East Studies.
2. That the program initially consist of a minor in African/Middle East Studies requiring 15 credit hours in courses at the 300 and 400 level, and 18 credit hours at the 100 and 200 level, 9 of which shall be in either French or German or Russian; furthermore, that if this minor is taken in conjunction with a major the upper division courses for the minor shall be taken outside the student's major department.
3. That responsibility for the program rest in the Division of General Studies with the organization and administration to be as set out in Section 3a of Senate paper 424 revised.
4. That the implementation date of the program be no earlier than September, 1971."

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To.....Members of Senate.....

From.....Academic Planning Committee.....

Subject.....Program in African/Middle East
Studies

Date.....February 9, 1971

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That Senate approve the establishment of a program in African/Middle East Studies.
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MOTION

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

A national need exists to develop a corps of people with an understanding of the complex backgrounds of problems relating to Africa and the Middle East. The Canadian Government is heavily involved in Africa and the Middle East in the area of technical assistance where the needs it can attempt to satisfy are enormous.

Government involvement overseas is matched by the provision of training facilities within Canada. The Columbo Plan has been in operation for

almost two decades and on October 31, 1969, no less than 724 persons were studying in Canada under its auspices. On the same date, there were 64 students from Algeria, Syria, Tunisia, and the United Arab Republic, 228 from other French speaking African states and 427 from Commonwealth African countries.

The second rationale creating the national need relates to the commercial and industrial needs of Canada. Until Canada develops broad based secondary industries, trade will continue to be directed toward established industrial areas. However, once secondary industries develop, Canada will have to compete in established markets and in the potential markets represented by underdeveloped countries. Potential markets already exist for two Provincial primary products in Africa and the Middle East areas which lack protein and workable soft woods.

In summary, a continuing national and a potential commercial need exists for a body of people trained in a wide variety of discipline relating to a thorough understanding of Africa and the Middle East.

From its inception, Simon Fraser University has enjoyed a clear field regarding Africa and the Middle East. No existing University in Canada has a concentration of faculty with teaching and research interests in these areas nor does any University possess library resources directed towards concentration in these areas. Faculty recruitment at Simon Fraser University commenced in 1964 and led to the employment of faculty with interests ranging from Africa to the Middle East to India. At present, there are 17 faculty interested in the coordination of activity regarding Africa and the Middle East. At the present time, Simon Fraser University is the only institution in Canada with interests in the modern Middle East; it places twice as much emphasis on Africa as any other institution in Canada and it is the only University interested in linguistics.

These interests have developed within departments. The point has now been reached whereby, in the interests of faculty and students concerned with Africa and the Middle East, emphasis must be placed on an inter-disciplinary approach. Both faculty and students are affected equally for a person working primarily in one field must be aware of developments in numerous other fields and must be able to draw on the knowledge, research and advice of others specializing in such fields.

The objectives of the program proposed are:

- A. To encourage inter-disciplinary approaches to the study of Africa and the Middle East.
- B. To provide students with a basis for a continuing interest in the area of their choice after graduation.
- C. To facilitate the inter-change of ideas and knowledge between faculty and students.

IMPLEMENTATION

The program will be implemented no earlier than the fall semester of 1971. The nucleus of the program at this stage will consist of the staff currently at Simon Fraser University who teach African/Middle East content orientated courses, and will include the current course offerings relating to Africa and the Middle East (see Appendix 1). If student and societal demand prove the viability of this program, the establishment of a major in African/Middle East Studies will be considered.

A P P E N D I X I

A. Courses currently taught relating to Africa and the Middle East

History 162	Afro-Asia Today
History 262	European Intrusion into Afro-Asia in the 19th Century
History 291	Africa: Waning Empires and Emerging Nationalism
History 460	The Dissolution of the Ottoman Empire, 1774-1922
History 465	The Twentieth Century: The Middle East
History 466	The Twentieth Century: North Africa
History 469	Administration in Tropical Africa: Great Britain
History 470	Administration in Tropical Africa: France
History 474	Regional Studies in Tropical Africa: West Africa
History 476	Regional Studies in Tropical Africa: East Africa
History 292	Middle East: Waning Empires and Emerging Nationalism
P.S.A. 172	Anthropological Concepts
P.S.A. 271	Types of Authority in Traditional Societies
P.S.A. 274	Traditional Economy and Technology
P.S.A. 371	Kinship, Marriage and Property Systems
P.S.A. 376	Regional Studies in Anthropology: Africa
P.S.A. 466	Problems of Social Change in Developing Societies
P.S.A. 476	Types of Conquest and Cultural Fusion
Archeology 272	Old World Archeology
Archeology 473	Regional Studies in Archeology - Africa
Economics 455	Economic Development (relevant content)

B. Courses which may be devoted to Africa or the Middle East

History 493	Directed Honours Readings
History 494	Honours Essay

C. Courses listed in the Calendar and taught once.

Geography 464 Intertropical Africa (Summer, 1966)

D. Courses listed in the Calendar but not yet taught.

Geography 465 The Middle East

History 471 Administration in Tropical Africa: Belgium and Portugal

History 475 Regional Studies in Tropical Africa: Central Africa