



# The University of Georgia

University Council  
Athens, Georgia 30602

September 7, 2011

## UNIVERSITY CURRICULUM COMMITTEE – 2011-2012

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Undergraduate Student Representative – Mr. Marshall Moser

Graduate Student Representative – Mr. Zachary Watne

Dear Colleagues:

The attached proposal for a new prefix: KYRG, Kyrgyz, will be an agenda item for the September 14, 2011, Full University Curriculum Committee meeting.

Sincerely,

David E. Shipley, Chair  
University Curriculum Committee

cc: Provost Jere W. Morehead  
Dr. Laura D. Jolly



# The University of Georgia

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4 August 2011

Dear Dean Ruppensburg,

I would like to request a new class prefix: KYRG for KYRGYZ 1001-1002 and 2003-2004, "Elementary and Intermediate Kyrgyz Language and Culture." The linguistic component of the class will cover the fundamentals of grammar, pronunciation, reading, composition, and conversation of Kyrgyz. The cultural component will focus primarily on the literature, religion, art, and music of Kyrgyz speakers.


At the end of spring semester, Dean Fallows apprised me of the problems involved in offering classes in lesser-taught languages for which only one TA was available, with no possibility of faculty being able to teach the language in question if the TA dropped out. He suggested that we could offer it as "Kyrgyz Language and Culture," which would allow sufficient flexibility for the course content to emphasize culture as well as language, as necessary. If necessary, I could teach the course (if the FLTA had to withdraw for some reason) since Kyrgyz is a Turkic language and I know and have taught Turkish and am familiar with Kyrgyz culture. Also, it is my understanding that with such a class title, the class would not fulfill foreign language requirements. Nevertheless, it can be used toward fulfilling requirements of the African Studies certificate and Arabic major.

I would particularly like this prefix because I have received a Foreign Language Teaching Assistant (FLTA) grant (from the Fulbright program-Institute for International Education) to bring a Kyrgyz teacher to UGA in order to teach it for 2011-12. It is important for UGA to teach Kyrgyz since it is considered by the federal government to be a language that is important for national security. Kyrgyz is one of the languages in the Turkic language family, of which there are roughly 165-180 million speakers. Kyrgyz itself is spoken by about 4.5 million people in Kyrgyzstan, China, Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Uzbekistan, Pakistan and Russia.

Federal Fulbright funding will pay the complete salary, living expenses, and travel costs of a native speaker of Kyrgyz in order to teach two courses each per semester for one year. Fulbright also supplies the teacher, who is fluent in both her native language and English and is also skilled in methods of modern spoken-language teaching. The teacher then must return to her country after one year. I would be her supervisor; and Kyrgyz will consequently be housed in the Department of Religion. Fortunately, since the program is tied to national security, there is a strong probability that the funding for the program will continue. In addition, we have been given assurances that we will be "grandfathered" into the program. Hence, although we need to reapply to the program each year, we will have relative security that each year we will be granted funding for a new teacher.

In spite of the strong likelihood of continued federal funding for this and other FLTA positions, I see these as only a stepping stone toward gaining major long-term

federal funding for instructorships in these languages. Such long-term federal funding will be able to provide the foundation for language programs that will be very useful for students in many disciplines across the campus, which will be especially important if UGA is to gain a solid reputation as a first tier research institution whose scope is truly global.

Regards,   
Dr. Alan Godlas  
Associate Professor

Approval:

Dr. Sandy D. Martin  
Department Head