November 5, 2007

TO: Scott Pratt, Associate Dean, CAS
FROM: Lisa Freinkel, Director Comparative Literature
SUBJECT: Revised COLT Major

In your email of 10/29/07 you requested some follow-up information about the budgetary implications of the proposed new structure of the COLT Major. As you intuited, these changes are in fact budget neutral.

In the old Major, students needed to take seven courses within COLT; in the proposed new plan, students will need to take eight courses. Thus, we've only added an additional required course. At the same time, by Fall of 2008, thanks to this year's academic search, we will have increased our annual core FTE from 1.2 faculty members to 2.2. We will have an additional 5 courses available to us each year.

Nonetheless, we've also shifted our curricular expectations a bit at the same time: of the eight required courses in the new Major, we now have four specified courses at the upper-division level (COLT 301, 302/3/4, 305 and 415) as opposed to only two required upper-division courses in the old Major. This entails an increased reliance on professorial (as opposed to GTF) staffing. We have determined that we will be able to meet that commitment easily thanks to our budget -- which already includes funding for at least two post-doctoral instructors every year -- and to this year's new hire of a 1.0 FTE faculty member in COLT.

Finally, you asked about our new capstone seminar, COLT 415. We would be delighted if more than 25 students were eligible to enroll in that course every Fall. We are hoping that our Major grows significantly over the next few years. If that situation occurs we anticipate offering two sections taught by the same faculty member, and increasing the GTF mentorship involvement with the course. Again, the budgetary implications are neutral.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any further questions or concerns that you may have.