

COLORADO COLLEGE - OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR

APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION TO THE MAJOR IN LIBERAL ARTS & SCIENCES

I wish to major in Liberal Arts & Sciences. I understand that my courses of study within this major must be supported and approved by three faculty sponsors, one of whom is my principal sponsor and academic adviser. The project or thesis must be evaluated by all faculty sponsors. The approval of the Dean's Advisory Committee is necessary for final acceptance of my plan of study within the major; and I further understand that, to make changes in the approved plan, I must have the agreement of each faculty sponsor.

(Please submit 8 copies of this application and your Liberal Arts & Sciences proposal to the Advisory Committee no later than the second semester of your sophomore year. The Advisory Committee will not consider your application until the completed proposal - including faculty recommendations - has been received.)

Name (Please Print) \_\_\_\_\_ Worner Box 1913

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Current number of units earned 19 Expected graduation date May 1995

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Street City State Zip 06117

Principal Sponsor/Adviser John Simons Dept English

Associate Sponsor Owen Cramer Dept CLASSICS

Associate Sponsor Jonathan Loe Dept Philosophy

Description of the field of concentration (TITLE) Eastern Culture and Creative Writing

This form must be signed by three faculty members who are full-time or adjunct faculty members who will be here (to the best of their knowledge) while the student is completing the major. Return to the Office of the Assistant Dean of the College, along with a description of the major and the required courses. The Assistant Dean will notify both student and sponsors of acceptance or rejection of the proposal, and the outline will be approved by all three sponsors and sent to the Registrar. (Any change of adviser must be approved by the Advisory Committee, upon submission of a letter from the adviser.)

Principal Faculty Sponsor [Signature]  
Signature

Associate Faculty Sponsor [Signature]  
Signature

Associate Faculty Sponsor [Signature]  
Signature

To the Sponsors: Your signature indicates approval of the proposed major. Please comment on this proposal in a brief letter to the Advisory Committee under separate cover. Please indicate your familiarity with the student's past academic performance and comment on his/her ability to carry out a program which requires an unusual amount of independence and responsibility. (Please note: Sponsors should submit a final report to the Advisory Committee, evaluating what the student has accomplished in the major.)

LIST OF REQUIRED COURSES FOR PROPOSED LIBERAL ARTS & SCIENCES MAJOR  
(Note: only between 9 and 14 units can be counted for the major.)

Required courses already taken: with statement as to how courses relate to major.

Phil 103 - Philosophies of Africa

Engl 283 Beginning Fiction work

Pc Asia 325 - Chinese meditative Arts

Engl 309 Advanced Fiction work

Rel 203 - Buddhism

Phil 350 - Confucius

Required courses to be taken: with statement as to how courses relate to major.

Great Lakes Jerusalem Program: Zionism, Israeli Society, Historical Geography,  
Thesis (GS400) 1 unit Palestinian Society, Current Issues and Conflict -  
Resolution

(Be sure to list General Studies GS 400-401 if you plan to get units of credit for your thesis.)

Total number of units to be counted toward the major: ~~10~~  $\frac{1}{2}$  11

Other Requirements: Please indicate the content of your proposed thesis. In addition, the application should be accompanied by a typewritten description of the concentration proposed, that is, a rationale demonstrating the cohesiveness of the proposed program of courses. The student should also explain why the proposed goals of the major cannot be achieved through a departmental major or through outside courses taken in addition to the requirement of a departmental major.

Assistant Dean of the College Victor Nelson-Cisneros  
Signature

NOTE:

This completed application must be in the Assistant Dean of the College's office by 5:00 p.m., the second Friday of the block in order to be considered at that block's meeting. The Dean's Advisory Committee meets the 3rd Thursday of each block.

4/7/94  
L.A.S. Proposal

## Major in Eastern Culture and Creative Writing

Often in life it is the connections which are not initially apparent which turn out to be the most fruitful. So to, my college transcript seems at first look to resemble a jumble, but within that jumble are two main themes. These themes are often not associated with each other, but they are the two most important things which I will take with me from Colorado College, and I intend to make the culmination of my college career a project which will bring them together. The themes are literature, which I have loved all my life and have just begun to create, and Eastern culture, which I have only lately become enthralled with and which I have been delving deeper into every chance I get. Even with out my efforts to pull these two areas together, as the world changes, they are becoming more and more interrelated day by day. The catch words of the nineties have been multi-culturalism and diversity, and the transformations are occurring at such a rate that the distinction that I make here between Eastern and Western societies will become obsolete in the next century. While a combination of the two themes I mentioned was unheard of a hundred years ago, today there is not a bookstore in town which will not have a section for books which incorporate Eastern philosophical, religious or cultural ideas into literature

I have recently come across an opportunity to combine those two themes with a third, one which I have not had a chance to explore through my classes, but which is extremely important to me on an individual level. I will be spending the fall of '94 semester in Israel and studying the current conflicts between the Israelis and the Palestinians. This will give me the opportunity to study a culture which is a cross-section of Eastern and Western influences first hand. While there I will be taking courses to familiarize myself with the historical and religious roots of the conflicts, as well as spending a great deal of time on current issues. However, the classroom time is only a small part of what I'll be doing there. My time will mainly be spent on the West Bank, talking to people, examining the situations, living for brief amounts of time with host families. In short, I will be exposing myself to the cultural elements of the society, and getting perspectives from individuals, not from televisions.

The culmination of this major will be my thesis, in which I will be able to draw everything together. The thesis will be a fictional work concerning my experiences in Israel, and focusing on the cultural, ethnic, and religious diversity

of the country. Through the classes I have taken on Eastern culture, I have studied the way that many different societies interact with their religions, philosophies and environments. This background will aid me in understanding the obstacles and the issues which are at stake in the Middle East, and it will also help me to understand where each faction of the people are coming from. Likewise, the creative writing courses I've taken have given me the framework to take my experiences in Israel and turn them into a story which will be effective in relaying the tensions and the perspectives of the people who have something at stake.

Listed below are the courses which I have taken which apply to this major, accompanied by a brief description of each and an explanation, if it is not otherwise apparent, of how each one relates to this major.

**Philosophies of Africa:** This class dealt with many different aspects of African philosophy, including much material that was not even considered to be philosophical by many. Among the things we looked at were religious mythology, ancient Egyptian writings, political propaganda, and speeches by Malcolm X. Of these areas, the ones which relate best to this major and to my thesis project are the Egyptian texts which have helped shape Middle Eastern philosophy, and the political writing of Frantz Fanon. Fanon was a psychiatrist in Algeria during the time when they were trying to gain independence from France. In his writings he condoned the use of violence and declared that it was really the only way to gain full independence. The political implications of such attitudes on the West Bank could heighten the conflict to a level that is too scary to mention.

**Chinese Meditative Arts:** This course looked at many elements of Chinese culture as they are presented to the Chinese as they are growing up. We studied tai chi, origami, calligraphy, dance, painting, and seal making. The aspect of this class which are important to the major and the thesis, is that it showed me that if I wanted to understand a culture, standing on the periphery and looking in will not suffice.

**Buddhism:** In this class I studied Buddhism from its roots into modern times. The transformation of the beliefs and the division into sects has been dramatic through the course of time. Understanding how and why the changes occur, have helped me to understand the formation of rifts as an integral part of any society, and will help me to grasp the historical rifts in Judaism and Islam.

Confucius: This course was devoted to taking an intense look at the surviving teachings of Confucius and modern interpretations of them. What I found to be most amazing about Confucius, was the influence which his teachings exerted on a society for thousands of years. Of all my classes, this one was the best example as to how a set of teachings can effect a society.

Beginning Fiction Writing: Unlike almost every other student in this class, I had never tried my hand at creative writing before the course began. James Yaffe taught me many things about writing, most importantly to ground my characters in real backgrounds and to write about things which I know. The facts that I intend to do a creative writing thesis, and that for my topic I will be examining modern Israel, are largely the results of his influence. On the advice of Dean Nelson-Cisneros, I sought out Professor Yaffe's consent to incorporate fiction into my major, and he not only gave it to me, but was extremely encouraging as well.

Advanced Fiction Workshop: This class was as different from Professor Yaffe's class as two fiction courses could be, but was equally helpful in developing my writing. In here I learned how to revise. Up until that point I would go back through my writing and touch-up, but Steve Pett taught me how to turn a decent piece into a good one into a great one. These two fiction classes are the only two creative writing courses required of someone who wants to graduate on the English Department's new Creative Writing Track.

Great Lakes Jerusalem Program: The courses I am going to take while in Israel which I wish to apply to this major are as follows: Zionism, Israeli Society, Historical Geography, Palestinian Society, and Current Issues and Conflict Resolution. Those courses are the equivalent to three units of credit, and make up three quarters of the course load from the Israel program. In addition to these courses, I will be spending time at Neve-Shalom, a school for peace in the South of Israel.

Thesis: I am currently signed up to complete my thesis as an extended format course over blocks 5-8 of 1995. This course is the equivalent of one half a credit. As I mentioned earlier, the thesis will be geared toward capturing the current situation in Israel, specifically revolving around the perspectives of several individuals. Aside from that, I do not think I can say too much more about it at this time, since it will be contingent on my experiences in Israel.