

**SUBFIELD PROPOSAL**  
Committee on Degrees in History and Literature

**Concentrators can propose subfields at the start of their junior fall, junior spring, or senior fall.**

SUBFIELD PROPOSALS SHOULD BE SUBMITTED IN HARD COPY IN THE HISTORY AND LITERATURE OFFICE. CHECK THE WEBSITE FOR THIS SEMESTER'S DEADLINE.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Current tutor's signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
(required)

*Peter Maxo*

Today's date: September 8th, 2016

Class standing: Junior ☒ Senior ☐

Out-of-phase? Yes ☐ No ☒

Field: Latin America

Title of proposed subfield: Global Health in Latin America

List the 2-3 courses you propose to count under your subfield. For each course, please include course number, course title, what semester you took or will take it, and whether it will count as an elective or for a distribution requirement:

1. SOCWORLD 25 - Case Studies in Global Health: Biosocial Perspectives
2. RELIGION 111 - Cultures of Health and Healing: Religion, Medicine, and Global Health
- 3.

**INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING ATTACHMENTS WITH YOUR PROPOSAL:**

- An approximately 300-word definition of your subfield. Explain why you are interested in the subfield, establish its intellectual coherence, and discuss how it relates to your field of study. Make a case why the intellectual interests that the subfield explores cannot be met by coursework within the field. Explain how the courses above constitute your subfield, and describe any future research projects (junior essay and/or senior thesis) that may be informed by the subfield.
- An updated field worksheet that includes courses proposed under the subfield.
- Syllabi for the proposed subfield courses.

**For Committee on Instruction Use:**

Date: 13 Sep 2016 Result: ☒ Accepted ☐ ☐ Returned for revision ☐ ☐ Denied ☐

Comments:

Year: 2018  
Tutor: René Carrasco

### Subfield Proposal

Subfield: Global Health in Latin America

Field: Latin America

#### Courses:

- Societies of the World 25: Case Studies in Global Health, Biosocial Perspectives
- Religion 111: Cultures of Health and Healing: Religion, Medicine, and Global Health

As both a History & Literature concentrator and a pre-med student, I have a deep interest in the intersection of the humanities and the sciences. I feel like these two disciplines intertwine within the biosocial sphere of global health, which is why I am also pursuing a secondary in Global Health and Health Policy. Thus, I hope to incorporate this thematic element into my field of study within Latin America through this subfield. One specific point of convergence I want to explore more deeply, hopefully in my senior thesis, is the religious movement of Liberation Theology that developed during the middle of the 20th century amidst an era of Marxism-fueled reaction against social injustice throughout Latin America. This radical Christian doctrine was based on many of the same principles and ideological frameworks that inform modern global health theory, which is centered on the concepts of equity and social determinants of health.

Furthermore, in order to dissect the intersection of culture and health in this Latin American context, I will need to look outside the current coursework of my field. I will draw upon the theoretical training I received in SOCWORLD 25, a class that applied different frameworks of analysis to case studies in global health, for example, by using social theory to understand colonial legacies of medicine. These interdisciplinary frameworks are highly applicable to the debates and discussions I will engage in throughout this fall while taking RELIGION 111, a course that brings the different arenas of this subfield in direct dialogue with each other through the use of the following text: *In the Company of the Poor*, co-written by global health pioneer Dr. Paul Farmer and Gustavo Gutierrez, one of the founders of Liberation Theology. Moreover, while the rest of my relevant coursework in the field of Latin America will allow me to place my health-related interest in the region's specific historical and literary context, these two courses in my subfield will give me the additional methodological tools and frameworks to explore the theme of global health in Latin America.