**Proposal From Sarah Patterson, Associate Professor of Theological Studies**

**March 4, 2014**

The proposed Race and Ethnic Studies minor does not simply re-package the courses offered under the “Other Cultures” LADR requirement, though some of those courses do appear on the list. Rather, the classes listed below that would contribute toward the minor offer a critical lens to thinking about how race is a social construct/ category. They also will enable students to investigate how race and ethnicity have been understood as significant categories in a number of historical and cultural locations.

 **Rationale:**

1. To demonstrate Hanover College’s commitment to the study of diversity. This will be especially important to indicate to prospective students and their families that we take the critical study of race seriously.

2. To consolidate the course offerings we have in which a student can do historical and comparative studies in the construction of race and ethnicity.

3. A number of Liberal Arts colleges have Race and Ethnic Studies departments and/or majors and minors to consolidate the courses offered on this topic. Having a minor with such a designation would not discourage interested students from taking courses on such topics, but rather encourage them. Such a minor would indicate to potential graduate schools and employers a student’s interest in and readiness for global citizenship.

**Committee:** ???

**Contributing Faculty:**

Aguilar-Monsalve, Buchman, Buckwalter, Criado, Dollmeyer, Hadley, Kirkland, Patterson, Reyes, Ryle, Santa Cruz, Smith, Thornton, Williams, Wu, Zullo.

**Minor:**

The Race and Ethnic Studies minor is an interdisciplinary minor that allows students to explore race and ethnic categories and identities on a global level. Courses in the minor may investigate relationships between and within racial and ethnic groups as well as explore the way race and ethnicity are constructed in different historical and cultural locations. Students will be encouraged to ask: How do different cultures today understand race and ethnicity? How have these categories been understood historically? How have these categories been used to mark difference and create social hierarchies? Finally, how do the categories of race and ethnicity intersect with other topics such as gender, sexuality, class, and religion?

This interdisciplinary minor requires 5 of the following courses. At least four of the five courses must be at the 200-level or above, with no more than two courses in any single discipline.

ANTH 238: Middle East: Peoples and Cultures

ANTH 242: Northern and Western Africa: Peoples and Cultures

ANTH 311: The World of Islam

ANTH 316: Comparative Spiritual Traditions

ANTH 424: Theory in Anthropology

EDU 230: Instruction for Diverse Learners

ENG 325: African American Literature

FRE 161: Francophone Multiculturalism

HIS 325: The Holocaust

HIS 349: Nazi Germany

HIS 365: History of the Middle East

PLS 219: Middle Eastern Politics

SOC 318: Race and Ethnic Relations

SOC 327 Sociology of Children and Youth

SOC 3XX: Race, Gender, Sexuality

SPA 219: Intermediate Spanish II: “Hispanics” in the U.S.

SPA: 231 Spanish American Culture and Civilization

SPA: 439 Clash of Cultures