MINOR CURRICULAR CHANGE FORM
(Submit original and one copy)

Consult the Educational Policies and Procedures Manual for specific instructions for completing form.

1. ENTER COURSE PREFIX AND NUMBER.  HORT 509

2. CHECK PROPOSED CHANGES.
   ✓ Course description (Enter full description below, underlining added words and striking through deleted words.)
   □ Special Topics Title change
   □ Permanent Title change (former title __________________________)  
   □ Reduction of Credit (former credit ______ )
   □ Prerequisite change (former prerequisite ________________________ )
   □ Drop Non-Service Course

   (Note: if crosslisted course, all chairs and deans must approve changes)

3. COMPLETE CHANGES TO COURSE INFORMATION.

   HORT 509 Seminar
   course prefix course no. title
   
   S E M I N A R
   title abbreviation (12 characters including spaces)
   
   1 credit NA lect-lab ratio prerequisite

   Description (20 words or less) May be repeated for credit; cumulative maximum 4 12 hours.
   Continuous enrollment required for regularly enrolled graduate students in Horticulture. Recent developments in horticulture. S, F grading.

   Effective term and year Spring 2012

   GIVE REASONS FOR EACH REQUEST. (Attach additional paper if necessary.)
   Increase "cumulative maximum 4 hours" to "cumulative maximum 12 hours" because graduate students in Horticulture are required to be enrolled in HORT 509 every semester that they are regularly enrolled in the Horticulture graduate program at WSU. (see attached justification)

5. SIGN AND DATE APPROVALS.
   Chair/ date 8/26/11   Dean/ date 9/11
   Chair (if crosslisted)  Dean (if crosslisted)       Catalog Editor/ date


Contact person:  N.R. Knowles  Contact phone number:  335-3451

4/11
GIVE REASONS FOR EACH REQUEST

The Horticulture Graduate Program requires that all M.S. and Ph.D. Horticulture graduate students be enrolled in and attend Seminar, HORT 509 (1 credit, S/F)*. HORT 509 is intended to keep graduate students informed of recent research developments in horticultural science and aspects of the global horticultural industry through presentations by faculty, visiting scientists, and industry leaders. HORT 509 is also intended to expose all Horticulture graduate students to the proposed research and final research outcomes of their peers in the Horticulture Graduate Program. (All Horticulture graduate students are also required to present a research proposal seminar and a pre-thesis defense seminar under graded course HORT 510, Graduate Seminar.)

The current cumulative maximum of 4 hours, established in 1981 (see attachment), is insufficient for Ph.D. students to be enrolled in HORT 509 throughout their graduate careers at WSU. In one scenario, one of our M.S. Horticulture students who continues for their Ph.D. degree in Horticulture may need to enroll in 2-3 hours of HORT 509 during their M.S. program and another 6-8 hours of HORT 509 during their Ph.D. program. Since HORT 509 is required every semester, except when graduate students are enrolled in HORT 510, we do not allow HORT 509 to be used on our students' Program of Study.

While other graduate programs at WSU have similar cumulative maximum hours (i.e. 4 hours) for their graduate seminar courses, others allow many more cumulative hours, e.g. MBioS 579 with 10 hours maximum. In addition, many graduate seminar courses in the sciences have no cumulative maximum hours, i.e. AS 500, Biol 500, ChE 598, CropS 510, Entom, 593, NATRS 595, PIP 515, and SoilS 501. The allowance for a greater number of maximum credit hours for seminar courses in the sciences is essential so that young scientists can learn about the latest research and technologies in their field and to encourage them to form a habit of regular seminar attendance throughout their careers.

Based on the specific academic requirements for Horticulture graduate students, the goal of seminar attendance in the sciences, and the existence of other WSU graduate seminar courses with no cumulative maximum hours, the Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture requests that "...cumulative maximum 4 hours." be revised to "...cumulative maximum 12 hours." be added to the course description for HORT 509.

* From Handbook for Horticulture Graduate Students, August 2011 (pp. 10-11):

All graduate students are expected to attend all Horticulture Seminars, including those scheduled outside of the regular seminar series, whenever they have no class conflicts. Students residing at off-campus locations are expected to participate in the Horticulture seminars via distance delivery technology and to attend seminars given at their respective stations whenever possible. While working toward a graduate degree in Horticulture, students are required to register for Hort 509 or Hort 510 every Fall and Spring semester that they don't have a course conflict. Most often students will register for Hort 509, graded P/F. During the
semesters in which a graduate student will be presenting a seminar, they should register for Hort 510 (Graduate Seminar), which is graded, instead of Hort 509. The schedule of graduate seminars can be found at this website.

Both M.S. and Ph.D. candidates are required to present two seminars in Hort 510 during their Horticulture graduate program. The intent of this requirement is to: 1) provide experience in presenting research seminars in particular and in public speaking generally, 2) encourage prompt consideration and development of a research topic, and 3) provide opportunities to inform Horticulture faculty, staff, and graduate students of their research activities.

The first seminar presentation, which will be graded and presented as part of Hort 510, will provide an overview of the student's proposed research project. Normally, this first seminar includes a problem statement and research justification, a review of related scientific work, and a summary of proposed research or project methodology. If the student's research emphasis changes from the topic presented, the student will not be required to present a new seminar.

M.S. Students: must present their first seminar before the end of their second semester at WSU.

Ph.D. Students: must present their first seminar before the end of their third semester at WSU.

The second seminar presentation, which will be graded and presented as part of Hort 510, will summarize their research project's results and implications. It should be presented near the time of their final thesis/dissertation defense, including just prior to their final defense exam, during the regularly scheduled seminar time, or at an appropriate time before the final exam. Students must schedule this final Hort 510 seminar through the Academic Coordinator. No more than two final defense seminars will be scheduled on the same day, and none may be scheduled concurrently.

Students normally register for their second credit of Hort 510 during the final semester of their graduate program in Horticulture. If they are unable to complete the thesis during the semester in which they have registered for Hort 510, they should still present their seminar as scheduled. Students should not request a grade of Incomplete (I) unless circumstances beyond their control, such as illness, occur. If a student presents a seminar more than a month before their final defense, the student's Major Advisor and Faculty Advisory Committee will determine whether the student should present an additional seminar at the beginning of the defense exam.