Texas A&M University
Core Curriculum Cover Sheet

Initial Request for a course to be considered for the Fall 2016 Core Curriculum

1. This request is submitted by (department name): COMMUNICATION

2. Course prefix and number: COMM/RELS 257

3. Texas Common Course Number: N/A

4. Complete course title: COMMUNICATION, RELIGION, ARTS

5. Semester credit hours: 3

6. This request is for consideration in the following Foundational Component Area:
   - [ ] Communication
   - [ ] Mathematics
   - [x] Creative Arts
   - [ ] Life and Physical Sciences
   - [ ] History
   - [ ] Government/Political Science
   - [ ] Language, Philosophy and Culture
   - [ ] Social and Behavioral Sciences

7. This course should also be considered for International and Cultural Diversity (ICD) designation:
   - [ ] Yes
   - [x] No

8. How frequently will the class be offered? Each Fall and each Spring

9. Number of class sections per semester: 1-2

10. Number of students per semester: 42-145 (depends on size of room we can get)

11. Historic annual enrollment for the last three years: New course

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This completed form must be attached to a course syllabus that sufficiently and specifically details the appropriate core objectives through multiple lectures, outside activities, assignments, etc. Representative from department submitting request should be in attendance when considered by the Core Curriculum Council.

13. Submitted by: Jessica Havens by 10-10-16
   Course Instructor
   Date
   
   Approvals:

14. Department Head

15. College Dean/Designee

See form instructions for submission/approval process.
1. Describe how this course meets the requirement for Creative Arts. Courses in this category focus on appreciation and analysis of creative artifacts and works of human imagination. Courses involve the synthesis and interpretation of artistic expression and enable critical, creative, and innovative communication about works of art.

COMM/RELS 257: Communication, Religion, and the Arts offers a broad survey of art in the context of media and religion in a variety of media and across cultures. In this course students learn about the power of media as a communicative force of social transformation, and how it continues to shape the ways we know and understand the world around us. A historical overview of art and communication theory, and aesthetics provides students with the theoretical foundation necessary to interpret and analyze the communicative influence of religious forms of art. Through visual assignments and open critique format, students will learn how to analyze visual arguments and become more effective visual communicators.

Core Objectives

2. Critical thinking (to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation, and synthesis of information)

LEARNING OUTCOMES
- Interpret and analyze works of art through a variety of theoretical lenses.
- Articulate arguments through visual forms of communication.
- Discuss religion from a secular academic perspective.

HOW ADDRESSED
Students will read scholarly work in these areas and will participate in extensive class discussions following lecture on these topics. Students will be introduced to the concept of communicative argument and messaging through visual means.

ASSESSMENT
- The student’s ability to analyze and synthesize material from the course will be assessed through a midterm, final exam (both include short answer and essay format), and an analysis essay.
- The student’s ability to think creatively will be assessed through four visual assignments in which they respond to a prompt using the ideas from the course in order to create a visual artifact (image, film, poster, zine, etc) through which they articulate an argument.

3. Communication (to include effective development, interpretation, and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication):

LEARNING OUTCOME
- Effectively articulate arguments through written, oral, and visual communication.

HOW ADDRESSED
Students will read, write, provide exemplars of visual communication, and speak regarding the intersection of communication, media, and visual art.

ASSESSMENT
- Students will be assessed on their ability to articulate clear arguments using visual communication through the four visual assignments and a final project.
- Students will be evaluated on their ability to write a reflective and critical analysis paper on their final project. This paper will also be an assessment of the student's ability to articulate and relate their own work to the theories learned in class.
- Students will be assessed on their ability to communicate orally through a presentation of their final project to the rest of the class.

4. Teamwork (to include the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal):

LEARNING OUTCOMES
- Solve problems within a group to achieve a final goal.
- Develop the secular vocabulary in common to assess and critique works of religious art across cultures using multiple theoretical frameworks.

HOW ADDRESSED
Students will mediate their reflections, examples and arguments through group collaboration to produce products described here in.

ASSESSMENT
- Students will be put in groups of 2-5 (these groups will be randomized and changed for each major group assignment). For each assignment students will be prompted to create an argument, story, reflection, etc. using image in a variety of formats and media. These assignments will allow the student to participate in a visual exercise related to the course content.
- Students will be assessed on ability to provide constructive critique to their fellow students work in a way that reflects investment and engagement of others ideas and arguments as well as reflects mastery of understanding of course concepts.

5. Social Responsibility (to include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities):

LEARNING OUTCOMES
- Analyze and compare works of art from both Western and non-Western cultures.
- Develop the vocabulary to discuss religion in the context of art from multiple religious perspectives.
- Identify and critique forms of art and visual culture that reify normative ways of seeing.
HOW ADDRESSED
Students will compare western-normative depictions of the communication of religion through art with non-western normative depictions of the communication of religion through art in a variety of group and individual tasks.

ASSESSMENT
• Students will be evaluated on their ability to analyze art from across history and cultures through a mid-term, final exam, and participation in class discussions.

• They will be assessed on their ability to critique and identify normative ways of seeing and the impact it has on the world around them through the four visual assignments in which they relate course content to their own experiences through the creation of a visual artifact.

• Participation points will be evaluated in part by the student’s ability to critique and compare works of art as well as their fellow student’s work in a manner that is respectful and constructive.