Foundational Component Area: Creative Arts

In the box below, describe how this course meets the Foundational Component Area description 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.

The proposed course must contain all elements of the Foundational Component Area. How does the proposed course specifically address the Foundational Component Area definition above?

FILM /ENGL 251: Film is not only entertainment, it is an art form which has developed for over 100 years and which has dramatically impacted society. Like the film medium itself, the study of motion pictures has a long and diverse tradition, and this course will introduce students to the methods of film analysis. The focus of the class will be to gain an understanding of the various ways movies as artistic visual products create meaning and are embedded within a social context. Students will examine the elements of film form, including narrative structure, camera techniques, editing, sound, lighting, mise-en-scène, and acting; students will investigate how these elements come together to create film aesthetics and the production of meaning. Students will explore the social contexts of film production, including film’s relation to other artistic movements and the importance of industrial systems and national cinemas in the creation of certain kinds of movies. The class will also pay close attention to the concept of genre and the evolution of genre within social contexts. While the focus will be narrative fiction films, the class will also dip into documentary and experimental cinema, since these are also significant art forms.

Core Objectives

Describe how the proposed course develops the required core objectives below by indicating how each learning objective will be addressed, what specific strategies will be used for each objective and how student learning of each objective will be evaluated.

The proposed course is required to contain each element of the Core Objective.

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

The course will enhance critical thinking skills through the formal analysis of cinematic texts and the reading of texts relating to film aesthetics. The evaluation of critical thinking skills will be based on written work, a midterm exam and class participation. Written work and the midterm exam will be essay-based and will require students to evaluate and synthesize key ideas from the course reading and from film clips.

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

The course enhances communication skills through small and large group discussion of ideas, issues, questions, and themes central to film analysis and appreciation. Communication skills will be evaluated through written, oral, and audio-visual creative work. Each form of communication will carry criteria particular to its nature.
Texas A&M University

Core Curriculum

Initial Request for a Course Addition to the Fall 2014 Core Curriculum

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

The course will enhance students’ ability to consider different points of view and to integrate the ideas of others into a cohesive work product. The course will enhance students’ ability to consider different points of view and to work collaboratively with others to create a team project. Each student in a team will have a particular role and students will be required to document individual contributions to the team project. The project will consist of a short narrative film demonstrating elements of film form.

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

The course enhances social responsibility by helping students to make a connection between film as an artistic medium and film as a medium of social and cultural change, film as a documenter of history, and film as an active participant in social transformation. The evaluation of social responsibility will be based upon a final essay in which students conduct an extended analysis of a film. In addition to a formal analysis, students will be required to assess the social, cultural, and historical significance of the film text in question.

Please be aware that instructors should be prepared to submit samples/examples of student work as part of the future course recertification process.