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?

We consider the philosophical aspects of the phenomenon of film, both as artistic expression and as technology. As part of this consideration, we introduce students to the appreciation of film aesthetics and techniques and to the philosophical and artistic analysis of films as dramatic works, works of imagination, social commentary, cultural products, and self-expression on the part of directors and actors. We synthesize all parts of the phenomenon of film by asking what film can do that literature cannot, what the philosophical difference is between a moving visual image and a word, how different parts of the tradition of film can quote and comment on each other. We demand that our students criticize films with care and come up with their own creative analyses of films and their philosophical resonances. We encourage innovation by requiring students to make their own short films and to assess each other's work in this regard.

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):

Students will create and refine their judgements of films and the film medium through the production of their own innovative written film criticism. They will inquire into the history of film and into expressive devices characteristic of the film medium, and will then analyze their own reactions and writings, as well as the reactions and writings of others in the course. They will then put into practice what they have learned by synthesizing all their experiences in the course together into the production of their own film artifacts, and by submitting those artifacts to the judgement of the instructor and of fellow students.

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

We require students, by producing films as well as written papers and oral evaluations of each other’s work, to engage films and their philosophies in all three media involved in this Core Objective. In these various ways, they will develop original ideas, interpret films and critical writing about films, and express themselves both for the instructor and for their peers.

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

Core Curriculum

Initial Request for a Course Addition to the Fall 2016 Core Curriculum

When students produce films and evaluate each other's films and written work, they will work as teams and develop a shared and collegial work ethic in which their own intuitions about excellence will be juxtaposed with the intuitions of others.

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

Here the choice of films to be shown will of course include international films from Europe and Asia, viewed as individual products, but also as expressions of the cultures that produced them; films that raise challenging social issues, both in the United States and abroad; and films about tensions and harmonizations between individuals and the communities in which they were nurtured. Films produced by students will be required to deal with challenging social responsibilities on their part, locally as well as nationally and internationally.

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