|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| To: | College Curriculum Committee |
| From: | Meg Toth, Faculty Coordinator, Film Studies Minor |
| CC: | Film Studies Minor Steering Committee: Michael Grabowski, Evelyn Scaramella, & Sarah Scott |
| Date: | 27 September 2013 |
| Re: | Proposal for Film Studies Minor |
|  |  |

**Film Studies Minor**

**Description & Rationale**

The Film Studies minor is a 15-credit interdisciplinary course of study that focuses on the history, analysis, and production of the medium of film. The minor is grounded in the principle that cinema itself has always been an interdisciplinary art form, borrowing from the traditions of theater, music, written narrative, photography, and—more recently—televisual and digital technologies. Students in the minor are encouraged to study the history and application of these related arts while also learning about the distinctive elements of cinematic aesthetics. At the same time, film is a form of cultural expression that holds the power to shape our understanding of the societies we live in, engaging such diverse subjects as history, politics, religion, and social identities. Several courses, therefore, ask students to make connections between the films we watch and the world we occupy. The minor is organized so that students will gain a broad understanding of the evolution of film as an artistic medium while also having the opportunity to study various genres, modes of production, social issues, and philosophical approaches in depth. Students will also be able to take advantage of the multiple and unique opportunities to access film screenings and archives that our location in New York City provides.

The minor brings together, in a valuable and systematic way, multiple existing courses across six departments: Fine Arts, Communication, English, Modern Languages & Literatures, Philosophy, and Religious Studies. The Chairs of these departments have shown their support for and commitment to the film studies minor by recommending the courses listed below, which are taught on a regular basis. Several Chairs also have stated that special topics courses—e.g., The Bible and Film (Religious Studies) or New York Latino Literature and Film (Modern Languages & Literatures)—and courses taught less regularly will be added to the list below on a semester-by-semester basis. Most of these courses are already being assessed by individual professors and departments. Once the program has been in place for three years, the Steering Committee will assess the efficacy of the minor as a whole.

Regarding the Provost’s Spreadsheet for Calculating Margin on New Programs, the data requested is either unavailable or inapplicable. This program is a minor that enrolls primarily students from the School of Arts. Also, because all of these courses are already staffed—taught by tenured, tenure-track, full-time faculty, and one regular adjunct (Fine Arts)—the film minor should require no additional funding for hiring. (No faculty will teach exclusively in the program.) While no relevant market research data exists regarding enrollment, all indications suggest that this will be a healthy program. Students have consistently expressed their interest in this course of study. Moreover, the popularity of both the existing courses and the new MC Film Society, which currently has over eighty members, suggests that participation in the film studies minor will be vigorous.

**Requirements**

Students are required to take Introduction to Film Studies (ENGL255) and *either* Types of Film Experience (ENGL256) *or* Film Narrative (ENGL385). Beyond that, students must take 9 more credits of approved courses. No more than two courses from a single department (excepting the English department) will count towards the minor.

**List of Approved Courses**

Fine Arts

ART212 Art of Digital Photography

ART380 Digital Video Art: Editing and Production

ART390 Digital Audio Recording and Editing

Communication

COMM308 Studio Television Production [requires Chair’s permission]

COMM316 Scriptwriting

COMM340 Media Criticism

English

ENGL255 Introduction to Film Studies

ENGL256 Types of Film Experience

ENGL385 Film Narrative

Modern Languages & Literatures

FREN303 French Culture through Film

ITAL303 Italian Culture through Film

SPAN303 Spanish Culture through Film

Philosophy

PHIL228 Philosophy and Film

Religious Studies

RELS376 Religion and the Media