

11 May 2020

To: Faculty Senate

From: Geoffrey Duh, Chair of Academic Requirements Committee

Re: Non-COTA courses used for Fine and Performing Arts (FPA) credits

This memo proposes the inclusion of several PSU film courses offered outside the College of the Arts (COTA) to be used as Fine & Performing Arts (FPA) credits for degree requirements. The list of courses is attached at the end of the memo.

FPA credits are required for students to complete a BA degree and some programs at PSU. FPA courses are currently defined as any course with a subject code/pre-fix that comes from COTA, which include the FILM courses. There are some 'film' courses coming from other colleges. COTA routinely allows their FILM majors to substitute and count these courses in the major. COTA reviewed these courses and verified that these 'film' courses meet the Fine & Performing Arts objectives and learning outcomes. They request to have these courses counted as the Fine & Performing Arts credits.

ARC supports the idea of allowing non-COTA courses that are approved by COTA to be used as FPA credits. All courses in the approved list that are currently in the Social Science Distribution would remain there, but can be counted as FPA credits for degree requirement.

ARC received a dozen student petitions per year, requesting that these courses meet their FPA requirements. COTA Pathway advisors always support these requests and ARC approves them. Most often, these students are double majors (not COTA majors) who have greatly exceeded PSU's credit requirements and who are out of financial aid. Students correctly assert that the classes are identified in a Film major and feature "film" in their titles, logically indicating that these are FPA courses. Further, many COTA courses are restricted to COTA majors, which creates access/scheduling challenges for students with non-COTA majors. By allowing these courses to be used as FPA credits, we can remove some of the barriers for students to complete their BA degrees and reduce the advising and administrative load.

This proposal is collaboratively developed by:

- Mark Berrettini, Director, School of Film
- Cindy Bacchar, Registrar
- Pam Wagner, DARS
- Nick Matlick, Degree Requirements
- Becki Ingersoll, ACS
- All Pathway Advising Directors

- LCM Pathway Advisors Shayna Snyder and Roxanne James
- WLL and English department chairs

COTA approved courses that can be used as FPA credits for degree requirements:

- AR 399 Special Studies - ARABIC CINEMA
- BST 353U African Women in Film
- BST 356U Cuban Film: Politics and Culture
- BST 363U African Cinema and African Cultures
- BST 425 Black Cinema: the 1970s
- BST 426 Contemporary African American Cinema
- COMM 362 Bollywood: Communicating Contemporary South Asia through Cinema
- DANE 361U Danish Films from Dreyer to Dogmer
- ENG 305U Topics in Film
- ENG 335U Topics in Literature and Film
- ENG 435 Advanced Topics in Film and Media
- FR 105 French Film
- FR 305 Topics in French Film
- GER 399 Special Studies - HISTORY OF GERMAN FILM
- GER 399 Special Studies - NEW GERMAN CINEMA
- GER 410 Selected Topics - MODERN GERMAN FILM
- HEB 399 Special Studies - ISRAELI CINEMA
- HST 497 Film and History
- JPN 361U Japanese Literature Through Film
- KOR 399 Special Studies - INTRO KOREAN CLTR/SOC FILM
- MGRK 361 Modern Greece Through Film
- PS 317U Film and Politics
- RUS 331U Russian Film Topics
- SOC 454 Sociology through Film
- SPAN 430 Major Topics: Ibero-American Film
- SPAN 436 Major Topics: Latin American Multiple Genres
- USP 314U The City in Film
- WR 416 Screenwriting
- WS 309 Disney: Gender, Race, and Empire