Form E-1-A for Boston College Core Curriculum Department/Program

Art, Art History and Film Department / FILM STUDIES PROGRAM

1) Have formal learning outcomes for the department’s Core courses been developed? What are they? (What specific sets of skills and knowledge does the department expect students completing its Core courses to have acquired?)

For film the Core history course, these would be the basic objectives:

1. Students will learn methods of critical analysis of film.
2. By reading the history of film movements, students will experience a variety of cinematic styles and techniques in filmmaking.
3. Students will examine a range of historical and socio-political events/situations and become familiar with the ways in which film presents contemporary societal issues.
4. The student will examine and reflect upon ethical issues in cinematic works.
5. By close analysis, students will see and learn various technical usages in the films such as film language, cinematography, editing, and so on.
6. At the core of the film experience is narrative storytelling which the student will grasp in comparing and contrasting various cinematic narratives.
7. Students will learn to craft essays on films throughout the course, avoiding simply reproducing the plot but offering personal reflection and critical analysis.
8. At the conclusion of the course the students will be able see patterns in the layout of Movements and historical eras, for example noting how each movement reflects the socio-political atmosphere of the time and is often a reaction to an earlier cinematic trends.

2) Where are these learning outcomes published? Be specific. (Where are the department’s expected learning outcomes for its Core courses accessible: on the web, in the catalog, or in your department handouts?)

These outcomes are listed in each syllabus and kept on file normally in the department office, placed on Canvas, and distributed to the students.

3) Other than GPA, what data/evidence is used to determine whether students have achieved the stated outcomes for the Core requirement? (What evidence and analytical approaches do you use to assess which of the student learning outcomes have been achieved more or less well?)
Pre-Covid, Seniors had an exit interview with a film faculty member to determine what knowledge of film was mastered in history and production. It will be continued next year.

4) Who interprets the evidence? What is the process? (Who in the department is responsible for interpreting the data and making recommendations for curriculum or assignment changes if appropriate? When does this occur?)

The Director of Film Studies will meet with the interviewing faculty to discuss the results of the interviews and determine if adjustments should be made in the curriculum.

5) What were the assessment results and what changes have been made as a result of using this data/evidence? (What were the major assessment findings? Have there been any recent changes to your curriculum or program? How did the assessment data contribute to those changes? 6) Date of the most recent program review. (Your latest comprehensive departmental self-study and external review.)

Last academic year the focus of Assessment was on Screenwriting with the 4 courses that were offered. Unfortunately, the faculty member could not teach two of the courses for this upcoming year, but plans are being made to restore at least the Screenwriting course. This year the focus will be an assessment of film history.

John J. Michalczyk
Director, Film Studies Program
June 19, 2023