

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT ASHEVILLE
FACULTY SENATE

Senate Document Number 8013S

Date of Senate Approval 4/11/13

Statement of Faculty Senate Action:

APC Document 71: Add new courses, ARTH 303, 306, and 420 to Art History

Effective Date: Fall 2013

1. Add: On page 80, new course, ARTH 303, History of (American Studio) Craft:

303 History of American Studio Craft (4)

This survey course utilizes our unique location in WNC to examine the history of American studio craft beginning in the late 19th century and ending towards the end of the 20th century. Readings and discussion will evaluate craft artists, the creative process, and organizations and educational institutions, placing them within a context of social and historical events. The main objective is to introduce students to an understanding of craft and the changes that occurred in the field over the 20th century in the United States. Subjects include the Arts and Crafts movement, architecture and the studio media areas of wood, glass, clay, metals and fibers. See department chair.

2. Add: On page 80, new course, ARTH 306, From Animation & Graphic Novels to Cartoons & Comix:

306 From Animation & Graphic Novels to Cartoons & Comix (4)

Students will read and discuss a diverse selection of works that combine the spoken or written word, and image crossing between two disciplines: animation/cartoons and graphic novels/comic books/comix. The emphasis is on forms of narrative in sequential art that have led to the appearance of the new forms and developments. Prerequisite: 4 hours of 300-400 level ARTH classes. See department chair.

3. Add: On page 82, new course, ARTH 420, Museum Studies:

420 Museum Studies (4)

Introduces students to the history of museums, museum exhibition and collecting practices, and debates concerning the philosophical nature of museums. While discussing the past, this course will also examine current issues in the museum profession and challenges facing museums in the twenty-first century. Trips to area museums, exposure to professionals and scholars, and hands-on experiences enable students to learn techniques of object handling, archival research, and interpretive label and catalogue writing. Prerequisite: 8 hours of 300-400 level ARTH classes. See department chair.

Impact: The reorganization of our curriculum into a more streamlined model (4 credit hour rather than 3 credit hour course model with a resulting reduction in the number of courses required for the major) will have a positive impact on our ability to deliver the curriculum with the faculty that we have and to use our current classrooms efficiently. We have given careful consideration to faculty coverage of the classes without the need for additional positions or adjuncts.

Rationale: Shifting from a 3 credit hour to a 4 credit hour model should improve the quality of instruction we offer our students. The new 4 credit hour course model will considerably enhance the classroom experience for students by adding breadth and depth to course content as well as more opportunities for engaged learning.

The proposed course, ARTH 303, has already been taught three times as ARTH 373 Special Topics, initially by a staff member from the Center for Craft, Creativity, and Design and most recently by Brent Skidmore, a tenure-track faculty member. The course will continue to be integrated into the curriculum and taught by Skidmore. ARTH 303 will be part of the Department of Art's developing concentration in Craft Studies. Given our unique positioning, in one of the most recognized craft centers of the US, the proposed course change to 4 credit hours will allow more time for students to make visits to regional makers' studios, sites of historical significance including key settlement schools, and area museums and craft organizations. With this model, time can also be allotted for hands-on experience with craft media. Currently, hands-on experiences are not included and trips are very rare and limited in scope.

The proposed course, ARTH 306, has been taught twice as ARTH 460: Issues in Art History: From Animation & Graphic Novels to Cartoons & Comix. This course demonstrates the integrated history of sequential art from animation and cartoons to comics, graphic novels, and comix. This course is packed full of information and there is not enough time to show more than one animation or cartoon in each area and period. The proposed course change to 4 credit hours will allow for more animation and cartoons to be viewed and critiqued in class, increasing both student knowledge and understanding of areas/periods.

The proposed course, ARTH 420, has already been taught twice as ARTH 460: Issues in Art History: Museum Studies and will be integrated on a continual basis into the Art History course schedule. ARTH 420 provides opportunities for students to develop real world skills applicable for museum professions. In addition, it fulfills requirements for writing and information literacy intensives. The proposed course change to 4 credit hours will allow more time for students to make site visits to area museums, converse with area museum professionals, and even volunteer for museum events. Currently, those opportunities are limited to one or two instances a semester. The additional hour will also allow for more small group work on assignments and peer review editing of exhibition catalogues (written and designed by students in the course).

Adding the proposed additional contact hour in each of these courses will allow students to participate more in essential classroom exercises including lectures, assignments, and in-class critique. In addition, the material covered will be increased and will be taught in greater depth. The proposed changes will enrich student experience while supporting a sustainable curriculum.