

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT ASHEVILLE
FACULTY SENATE

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Statement of Faculty Senate Action:

APC Document 5 (ARTS)

Change to ARTS 310 description and credit hours

Effective Date: Fall 2016

1. Delete: On page 84, the entry for **ARTS 310:**

310 Arts and Ideas (3)

Arts and Ideas is an interdisciplinary course that introduces a student to the creative process using a number of artistic disciplines including dance, drama, film and video, music, poetry and the visual arts. This class can include a mixture of readings of essays, artworks, attendance at outside performances and events, lectures, classroom presentations and performances, informal discussion and development of written responses. Each section will have a specific topic that will serve as the focus of the semester. Prerequisite: 60 earned hours (junior standing). Fall and Spring.

Add: On page 84, new description for **ARTS 310:**

310 Arts and Ideas (3-4)

Arts and Ideas is an interdisciplinary course that introduces a student to the creative process using a number of artistic disciplines such as dance, drama, film and video, literature, music, new media and the visual arts. This class can include a mixture of readings, examination of artworks, attendance at outside performances and events, lectures, classroom presentations and performances, informal discussion and development of written responses. Some sections of this course may also utilize class contact hours for the process of making and presenting art. Each section will have a specific topic that will serve as the focus of the semester. May be repeated three times as content varies. Prerequisite: 30 earned hours (sophomore standing). Fall and Spring.

Impact: No new resources will be required. By offering a 4 credit course option for ARTS 310 (similar to how the LA 178 is offered as a 3-4 credit course), this will help balance faculty teaching loads for those in departments with 4-credit curriculum. This option for a 4 credit course will also provide more contact hours for those faculty who are teaching topics that require more hands-on studio class time. There are more than 80 different kinds of ARTS courses offered across the campus that could satisfy the LAC Arts requirement, and although we do not foresee that offering the option to repeat ARTS 310 would create a resource issue, we will certainly monitor this over the next couple years to make sure that we still have enough sections of ARTS classes offered on the campus to serve our students' needs.

Rationale:

The 4 Credit Course Development Rationale - Now that many departments are moving to a 4 credit model curriculum, many of the Liberal Arts Core classes have needed to provide options for faculty to contribute 4 credit classes, as well as 3 credit classes in order to support balanced faculty teaching loads. Last year all LA 178 courses were changed to 3-4 credit course model, and we believe that the ARTS 310 courses should do the same. Additionally, some ARTS course faculty have requested more contact hours to support their studio-oriented class content. Up until now the Arts and Ideas program has supported these faculty by offering special topics classes of either a supplemental 1 credit (171) lab class, or a 4 credit (374) course. However, this has often confused our students on campus, and many of these courses tend not to fill. Even though the LAC Arts & Ideas requirement is titled the Arts Requirement, many faculty and students still refer to this requirement by its historical origins of the "Arts 310 requirement." By making these accommodations within the existing ARTS 310 class we hope this will provide our faculty with the 4 credit model they need while also maintaining the core ARTS 310 class that students and faculty find most familiar.

The Change in Prerequisite - Initially the historical ARTS 310 course was an arts survey course with a shared text among all sections. It was taught similarly to the historical Humanities courses and ARTS 310 was designed as a course to be taken after students had completed HUM 124 and 214, and often taken at the same time as HUM 324. Between 2006 and 2007 the Arts and Ideas program changed and offered an ARTS 310 variable topic course, where faculty could teach from their own expertise within various arts topics, while also instilling the value of the arts, which is central to the Arts and Ideas course mission. Additionally, with the creation of the ILS general curriculum, the Arts Requirement was designed such that courses could be offered either within Arts and Ideas with an ARTS prefix, or courses could be offered within departments and designated with an ARTS prefix before their title. This allowed for many more faculty to offer ARTS classes while still teaching within their home department. This movement helped the Arts and Ideas program more than double its course offerings, with a growth from 18 ARTS 310 sections per semester to now averaging 45 sections per semester of Arts courses from ARTS 310 and from departments throughout the campus. The courses offered from various departments have course numbers that range from the 100- to 400-levels, and course credit hours that range from 1 to 4.

There is no longer a specific timing for students to fulfill their Arts requirement, nor is there a specific number of credits assigned to one course. With all of this in mind, it is no longer necessary, nor consistent with Arts course practices across the campus, to require a 60-credit prerequisite for ARTS 310. A 30-credit prerequisite is recommended so that freshmen are not taking this 300 level class.

Option to Repeat the Course - Many UNC Asheville departments now offer courses that provide rotating topics, or variable content. These courses offer students the opportunity for further study in areas of interest, elective options, and the opportunity to learn from various faculty in the same field of interest. Arts and Ideas is long overdue to make this change as well, considering that ARTS 310 has been a variable topic course since 2007.

Additionally, many study abroad programs are electing to offer an Arts course as one of their classes during a student's study abroad experience. The study of the arts while traveling abroad is an excellent way for students to learn about a culture while touring their museums, public art, and festivals. They read the writings of local authors, traverse through their landscape architecture, and tour buildings with unique architectural features. Often, students have already taken ARTS 310 on the UNC Asheville campus, and cannot take the ARTS 310 course offered in their study abroad program. We have worked around this conflict over the years by encouraging study abroad programs to offer ARTS 373 courses instead, but often this is confusing to our students and some faculty, who still understand the Arts Requirement as an "ARTS 310 requirement" and they don't see how the 373 course will fulfill their LAC Arts Requirement.

By allowing students to take ARTS 310 up to three times, it provides a much more interdisciplinary opportunity for students to study the arts, and opens up opportunities for our students to take ARTS courses while studying abroad, developing elective areas of study within the arts, and learning about the arts from various faculty and their respective disciplines.