

Minor in Creative Work / The Center for Creative Work  
The Honors College at the University of Houston

APPROVED APR 21 2010

Description and Rationale:

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The Minor in Creative Work provides a multidisciplinary *art in context* program that integrates creative projects, critical study, and cultural research. Beginning with our foundation course, *HON 3310: Poetics and Performance*, students explore creativity in classes across the disciplines designed to bridge art, film, literature, theatre, and music with studies of culture, history, language, business, and society.

Though the Creative Work Minor is housed at The Honors College, the participation of non-Honors students is encouraged. The Honors College serves as a hub for academic and creative activities throughout the university. Partnership with various departments, disciplines and programs is at the very heart of the Creative Work Minor.

The Creative Writing Program, the Cynthia Woods Mitchell Center for the Arts, the Moores School of Music, and the School of Theater & Dance are just a few of the many supporters across campus for the Creative Work minor. Professors from various departments including Music, Political Science, and Philosophy have helped to shape this program of study.

Each year the Center for Creative Work ~~will add at least ten new students~~ into the Creative Work Minor. We have offered a version of the capstone course, *Writers and Their Regions*, twice in recent semesters, and have filled it above capacity both times. We will attract students not only from Honors College courses such as The Human Situation, but also from creative writing workshops and other studio arts classes throughout the university. The Creative Work Minor brings together dynamic courses from throughout the curriculum, allowing students to create a unique and compelling minor to accentuate their major area of study.

*HON 3310: Poetics and Performance* serves as the foundation for the Creative Work Minor. Students focus upon a particular study of aesthetics and ethics chosen by the professor and then develop an analytical and critical response, which may include a creative project.

Additional requirements include twelve semester hours from the approved electives list and a 4000 level capstone course, which may be *HON 4310: Writers and Their Regions*, *HON 4320: The City Dionysia*, *IART 4300: Collaboration Among the Arts*, or another 4000 level class approved by the minor program director. Up to six semester hours of approved electives may be satisfied by internship with a local arts organization or by a senior honors thesis with approval of the minor program director.

## Creative Work Minor Program

### Catalog Language

This minor provides a multidisciplinary *art in context* program that integrates creative projects, critical study, and cultural research. The minor also supports access to artistic and creative opportunities both on- and off-campus.

1. Complete 18 hours of courses approved for the Creative Work minor, including:
  - a. One foundation course: HON 3310.
  - b. 12 additional hours, six of which must be advanced, selected from the approved list for the minor.
  - c. One 4000 level capstone course: HON 4310, HON 4320, IART 4300, or another 4000 level course approved by the minor program director.
2. A minimum of 12 hours must be taken in residence.
3. A cumulative GPA of 3.25 is required in courses completed for the minor.
4. Up to six credit hours of approved electives may be satisfied by internship with a local arts organization or by a senior honors thesis with approval of the minor program director.
5. A maximum of 6 semester hours of completed minor coursework may be counted towards a student's major. Note that any course that counts towards a student's major and towards the Core Curriculum cannot also count towards the 18 semester hours required for the minor.

→ UC amendment added to address "double/triple - dipping issue."

## **Courses Approved for the Creative Work Minor**

### **African American Studies**

**AAS 3301: Hip Hop History and Culture** Cr. 3. (3-0). Hip Hop as a cultural phenomena, expression, and experience for African American people.

**AAS 3310: African American Experience through Theatre** Cr. 3. (3-0). Prerequisite: **AAS 2320** or consent of instructor. Critical analysis and issues relevant to contemporary works of African-American playwrights in historical and sociological contexts.

### **Anthropology**

**ANTH 4340: Anthropology Through Literature** Cr. 3. (3-0). Prerequisite: **ANTH 1300** or **2302** or consent of instructor. Discusses a selection of well-known novels as reflections of the cultural contexts of the authors and compares their uses and meanings as cultural documents for modern readers.

**ANTH 4344: Anthropology of Meaning, Myth, and Interpretation** Cr. 3. (3-0). Prerequisite: Six hours of cultural anthropology, or consent of instructor. Human cultural imagination as expressed in myths, world view, art, religion, ritual and play, with emphasis on the necessity of interpretation in human life.

### **Architecture**

**ARCH 3340: Greek and Roman Architecture and Art in the Context of Contemporary Work** Cr. 3. (3-0). Prerequisites: **ARCH 2350** and **ARCH 2351**. Examination of the connection between twentieth and twenty-first century architecture and art and Greek and Roman architecture and art. Students participate in discussions of readings and produce critical essays.

**ARCH 3350: Architecture, Art, and Politics** Cr. 3. (3-0). Prerequisites: ARCH 2350 and 2351. Case studies of the way politics shaped the form and character of 20th Century architecture and art.

## Art History

**ARTH 4311: Artists, Art-Making and Patronage in Medieval Europe** Cr. 3. (3-0). Prerequisites: **ARTH 1380** and **1381**, or consent of instructor. European Arts in the Middle Ages: professional lives of artists, art-making and art patronage.

**ARTH 4375: Theories of Creativity** Cr. 3. (3-0). Prerequisites: **ARTH 1380** and **1381**. Analysis of the arts creative process through studying relevant theories of Freud, Jung, Gardner, and others, and specific examples of creativity among artists in various media.

## Chinese

**CHNS 3350: Chinese Culture Through Films** Cr. 3. (3-0). Prerequisites: **ENGL 1304**. Satisfies three hours requirement for the Minor in Chinese studies. May not apply as foreign language credit. Reading film critics and viewing Chinese films produced in contemporary China within the historical, cultural, thematic, and aesthetic content. Taught in English.

**CHNS 3352: Chinese Culture and Society Through Modern Literature** (formerly CHNS 2352) Cr. 3. (3-0). Prerequisite: **ENGL 1304**. Taught in English. May not apply as foreign language credit. Readings of the most important literary works from the 1919 May 4th Movement to the present.

## Classics

**CLAS 3345: Myth and Performance in Greek Tragedy** Cr. 3. (3-0). Prerequisite: **ENGL 1304**. The reshaping of myths in the tragedies performed in the fifth century BCE and in the plots of available modern productions of those plays. Critical appraisal of text and performance in the respective cultural contexts. Taught in English.

**CLAS 3371: Ancient Comedy and Its Influence** Cr. 3. (3-0). Prerequisite: **ENGL 1304**. Comic drama from its origins in ancient Greece, to its Roman transformation, ending with its Renaissance adaptations. Readings from Aristophanes, Menander, Plautus, Terence, Machiavelli, and Shakespeare. Taught in English.

**CLAS 3380: Epic Masculinity: Ideologies of Manhood in Ancient Epic and Modern Film** Cr. 3. (3-0). Prerequisite: **ENGL 1304**. Ideologies of masculinity in ancient Greek and Roman epic as compared to modern cinema (e.g., Spartacus, Gladiator, and Braveheart). Taught in English.

**CLAS 3381: From Homer to Hollywood: Ancient Greek Themes in the Modern Cinema** Cr. 3. (3-0). Prerequisite: **ENGL 1304**. Examination of the way modern cinema adapts themes from Greek literature and uses them to explore modern conflict. Taught in English.

### Communication

**COMM 4338: The Family in Popular Culture** Cr. 3. (3-0). Prerequisites: **COMM 1333** and **COMM 1301** or consent of instructor. Portrayal of family in popular media, including comics, radio, movies, television, and music, and how those popular images influence the expectations that audiences construct about family life and family relations.

**COMM 4370: Social Aspects of Film** Cr. 3. (3-0). Prerequisite: three advanced hours in communication. An examination of the social context in which films are produced and exhibited including film censorship, audience attitudes and behavior, and content analysis.

### Cultural and Urban Studies

**CUST 4320: Asian American Literature & Identity Issues** Cr. 3. (3-0). Prerequisite: **CUST 2300**. Role of gender, race, ethnicity, sexuality, and other issues. Asian American identity as portrayed through influential literary works. Emphasis on cultural and literary theory and applications, and on generativity of cultural expressions.

### Dance

**DAN 3311: Dance History II** □Cr. 3. (3-0). Prerequisite: consent of instructor. Development of 20th century contemporary dance from Loie Fuller and Isadora Duncan to post-modernism and current trends, within a historical and cultural context.

## Engineering

**ENGI 3301: Technology and Western Culture** (formerly MECE 3301) Cr. 3. (3-0). Prerequisite: junior standing. Open to all students who meet the stated prerequisite. Focuses on technological foundations of northern European culture, eighth century through the industrialization of Europe and America. Reference to technological influences from earlier Mediterranean and oriental civilizations.

## English

**ENGL 4371: Literature and Medicine** Cr. 3. (3-0). Prerequisite: **ENGL 1304** or equivalent. Literature by and about physicians and patients: experiences of illness, aging, death, reconciliation, recovery, healing, pregnancy. Emphasis on ethical questions.

**ENGL 4372: Literature and the Environment** Cr. 3. (3-0). Prerequisite: **ENGL 1304** or equivalent. Literature about nature, the environment, wilderness preservation, environmental justice, and urban nature in the context of current developments in ecocritical theory and criticism.

## French

**FREN 3362: Paris and Berlin** (also **GERM 3362**) Cr. 3. (3-0). Prerequisite: completion of three hours of U.S. history. Cannot apply toward any foreign language requirement or as credit toward a major or minor in French. Cultural, historical, and literary impact of urbanization in nineteenth and twentieth century France and Germany. Taught in English.

**FREN 3364: Writing Holocausts: The Literatures of Genocide** (also **GERM 3364**) Cr. 3. (3-0). Cannot apply toward any foreign language requirement or as credit toward a major or minor in French. Literature and historical context of the destruction of European Jews (1933-1945) with implications for understanding other acts of genocide. Course materials include novels, plays, memoirs, historical documents and films. Taught in English.

## GLBT Studies

**GLBT 2360: Introduction to Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Studies** Cr. 3. (3-0). Prerequisite: ENGL 1304. GLBT people's experiences, social roles, identity formation, and expressions across different cultures and societies, in the arts, religion, history, literature, politics, and the family.

## German

**GERM 3362: Paris and Berlin** (also FREN 3362) Cr. 3. (3-0). Prerequisite: completion of three hours of U.S. history. Cannot apply toward any foreign language requirement or as credit toward a major or minor in French. Cultural, historical, and literary impact of urbanization in nineteenth and twentieth century France and Germany. Taught in English.

**GERM 3364: Writing Holocausts: The Literatures of Genocide** (also FREN 3364) Cr. 3. (3-0). Cannot apply toward foreign language requirement or as credit toward a major or minor in German. Can apply to a major or minor in German area studies. Literature and historical context of the destruction of European Jews (1933-1945) with implications for understanding other acts of genocide. Course materials include novels, plays, memoirs, historical documents and films. Taught in English.

**GERM 3384: Fascism and German Cinema**

## History

**HIST 3309: History through Fiction: Cultural History of the United States, 1900 to Present** Cr. 3. (3-0). Prerequisite: junior standing or consent of instructor. Through sampling process and content analysis, major works of fiction will be examined as sources for historical understanding.

## Interdisciplinary Art

**IART 3300: Introduction to Interdisciplinary Art** Cr. 3. (3-0). Prerequisites: junior standing and completion of Visual and Performing Arts Core, or consent of instructor. History, theory, and forms of interdisciplinary arts practices.

**IART 3395: Selected Topics in Interdisciplinary Arts** Cr. 3. (0-3). Prerequisite: IART 3300, or consent of instructor. Readings and discussion of topics in interdisciplinary arts. May be repeated for credit with topics vary.

## Italian

**ITAL 3305: Italian Culture Through Films** Cr. 3. (3-0). Prerequisites: **ENGL 1304** and **ITAL 2302** or equivalent. May apply to major in Italian Studies, minor in Italian, and minor in Film Studies. Credit for ITAL 3305 may not be applied toward a degree by students who have credit for **ITAL 3306**. Study of selected Italian films with English subtitles within their historical, cultural, and aesthetic context. Taught in English; papers must be written in Italian.

**ITAL 3306: Italian Culture Through Films** Cr. 3. (3-0). Prerequisite: **ENGL 1304**. May not apply to minor in Italian Studies, and minor in Film Studies. Credit for ITAL 3306 may not be applied toward a degree by students who have credit for **ITAL 3305**. Study of selected Italian films with English subtitles within their historical, cultural, and aesthetic context. Taught in English; papers written in English.

**ITAL 3346: Theatre in Italy: Text, Audience, and Performance** Cr. 3. (3-0). Prerequisite: **ENGL 1304**. May apply to major in Italian Studies. Credit for **ITAL 3346** may not be applied toward a degree by students who have credit for **ITAL 3345**. A comprehensive vision of the social and historical context in which Italian theatre developed. Taught in English; papers must be written in English.

## Mexican American Studies

**MAS 3341: Mexican American Experience Through Film** □Cr. 3. (3-0). Prerequisites: six semester credit hours of sophomore-level English. Analyzing the Mexican American experience in the United States through film. Spanish not required. Emphasis on essay writing.

## Music

**MUSI 2361: Music and Culture** Cr. 3. (3-0). Prerequisites: **MUSI 1311** and **ENGL 1304**. An introduction to the traditional musics of selected cultures.

## Philosophy

**PHIL 1361: Philosophy and the Arts** Cr. 3. (3-0). Prerequisite: **ENGL 1303** or equivalent. Introduction to philosophical topics in the visual and performing arts, including criticism, interpretation, moral issues, and cultural contexts.

**PHIL 3361: Philosophy of Art** Cr. 3. (3-0). Prerequisite: three semester hours in philosophy or consent of instructor.

## Political Science

**POLS 2346: The Politics of Greek Theatre** Cr. 3. (3-0). Prerequisites: **POLS 1336** and **1337** or equivalent, or consent of instructor. A study of the influence of Greek comedy and tragedy on the politics of democratic Athens.

### **POLS Politics, Literature, and Film [Jeff Church]**

This course explores a set of questions central to our moral and political lives—what is freedom? Is it a state of mind or a set of institutions? Does freedom involve the absence of restraints or disciplined self-government? Why is freedom good? Is too much freedom a bad thing? Is it too easily taken for granted? In this course, we will assess the answers both philosophers and artists have offered to these questions throughout history, from ancient Greece to contemporary Hollywood. Readings vary, but will likely include the philosophers Plato, Locke, Rousseau, Nietzsche, and the artists Mary Shelley, Herman Melville, Ralph Ellison, John Ford, Spike Lee, the Coen Brothers.

## Psychology

**PSYC 4301: Psychology and the Arts** Cr. 3. (3-0). Prerequisites: **PSYC 1300** and six additional semester hours in PSYC. Explores the arts as source material for understanding those parts of the psyche which are unknown, and how they become known. This course is an open Honors course.

## Religious Studies

**RELS 2310: The Bible and Western Culture I** Cr. 3. (3-0). Prerequisite: **ENGL 1304** or **ENGL 1310**. Bible as a primary document of Western culture, basic to the understanding of the western philosophical, literary, cultural, and scientific tradition. Focus on ideas developed in Hebrew Bible (Old Testament) and their literary, philosophical and political impact.

**RELS 2311: The Bible and Western Culture II** Cr. 3. (3-0). Prerequisite: **ENGL 1304** or **ENGL 1310**. Bible as a primary document of Western culture, basic to the understanding of the western philosophical, literary, cultural, and scientific tradition. Focus on ideas developed in the New Testament and their literary, philosophical and political impact.

## Sociology

**SOC 3370: Popular Music and Society** Cr. 3. (3-0). Prerequisite: **SOC 1300** or consent of instructor. Application of sociological theory and methods to the analysis of post-World War II popular music as a social institution with emphasis on its cultural, technological, organizational, political, and mass media contexts.

## Spanish

**SPAN 3386: Spanish Film** Cr. 3. (3-0). Prerequisites: **SPAN 3301** or **SPAN 3307** and **SPAN 3302** or **SPAN 3308**. Study of major Spanish films in their social, historical, and aesthetic contexts.

## Technology

**TECH 43XX / HON43XX: Creative Scenarios**

## Theater

**THEA 3335: History of the Theatre I** Cr. 3. (3-0). Prerequisites: THEA 2344 and consent of instructor. Survey of theatrical theory and practice from Ancient Greece through the Early Modern Era with special attention paid to cultural, philosophical, and religious contexts.

## Women's Studies

**WOST 2350: Introduction to Women's Studies** Cr. 3. (3-0). Prerequisite: **ENGL 1304** or equivalent. Women's experiences, social roles, and expressions across western and world societies, in the arts, religion, history, literature, science, politics, and the family.

## World Cultures and Literatures

**WCL 2351: World Cultures Through Literature and the Arts** Cr. 3. (3-0). Prerequisite: **ENGL 1304** or the equivalent. Works of literature, painting, film, to explain contemporary global/local developments, conflicts. Cultural areas and topics may vary.

**WCL 2352: World Cinema** Cr. 3. (3-0). Prerequisite: **ENGL 1304**. Major Cinematic works from Latin America, Asia, Middle East, Europe, and Australia in relation to contemporary topics such as globalization and migrations. Cinema as a global art form.