ARTS 1301 – Art Appreciation - Statement of Justification

The Creative Arts component of the new Texas Core Curriculum guidelines stresses the “appreciation and analysis of creative artifacts and works of the human experience.” The HCC ARTS Program is proposing Art Appreciation for inclusion in the new core because we feel it successfully fosters an appreciation for artwork and develops in students the ability to analyze it within the context of global human experience.

Through the study and analysis of artworks students are introduced to visual literacy through media such as drawing, painting, sculpture, architecture, printmaking, textiles, ceramics, metal arts, photography, and digital arts. Using this framework, universal themes are studied within their historical, political, economic, theological, sociological, conceptual, and ethnic contexts.

ARTS 1301 is an art survey course that teaches students through lectures, projects, critiques, field trips, readings, discussions, writing assignments, and other assessments, to interpret the language of visual communication and to understand the creative process as one that represents an evolving synthesis of cultural, personal, and technological influences.

This course should be included in HCC’s New Core Curriculum for the following reasons:

- The intercultural, interdisciplinary, and analytical nature of ARTS 1301, creates an environment where a majority of course activities explore multiple aspects of the Creative Arts Core competencies: Critical Thinking, Communication, Social Responsibility, and Teamwork.

- Through the study of art appreciation students are encouraged to identify their place within culture, develop a curiosity for and empathize with others and recognize their responsibility to not only their local but the global community, placing them on the continuum of human experience.

- Students in ARTS 1301 demonstrate creative problem solving skills as they work to analyze, interpret and evaluate stylistic characteristics of artwork within its broader cultural context. Critical thinking and observation skills are also developed through the creation of hands-on art projects. All of this skill-building assists students in developing an appreciation for the creative process.

- The wide subject matter of art survey courses, like ARTS 1301, allows students to connect with a variety of viewpoints and then exchange their viewpoints with others encouraging direct engagement in art analysis and individualized interest in and appreciation of art.