Feedback Report

UCA Core Council Assessment sub-committee

January 2020

Re: Review of LD Core Diversity Course Offerings

Thank you for providing the information requested by the sub-committee. The assessment sub-committee is diligently reviewing all courses in the Lower Division Core that assess under the Diversity Core Competency in order to assure that our students are receiving a shared, common experience across the university as regards this Core competency. Your participation is greatly appreciated in this endeavor. The sub-committee would like to provide you with this feedback report as an informational item. If you have questions, concerns, or comments please direct those to, Jake Held (jmheld@uca.edu)

**Course Prefix and Number: FILM 2300**

**Course Title: Introduction to Film Appreciation**

**Syllabus**: Any syllabus for a course in the UCA Core must include language indicating the courses relative position within the UCA Core. The boilerplate language can be located here: <http://uca.edu/academicaffairs/publications-information/>

The model course syllabus did have the required Core language.

**Lower Division Core standards:** Does 50% of the course content directly align to the Core outcomes for the goal under with the course assesses? (NB: This is calculated by considering course objectives, readings, lecture/discussion, and assignments as indicated by the course syllabus and provided work.)

FILM 2300 is categorized under Goal C (Creative Works) of the Diversity competency. The outcomes for Goal C are:

* **Theory/Criticism/Technique**: The set of concepts/principles used to create or evaluate creative works.
* **Themes and Ideas**: The concepts expressed in the creative work that are representative of diverse cultures/perspectives.
* **Context**: The personal, social, cultural, and historical influences on the creative work.
* **Reflection**: The articulation of a personal response to the experience of a creative work.

The full rubric can be located here: <http://uca.edu/core/assessment/>

As a lower division Core course, this course ought to provide students with a foundational experience to begin developing the skills indicated by the outcomes under the rubric. In order to provide such an experience it is necessary that students be consistently exposed to these ideas and offered multiple opportunities to develop these skills.

Given the current situation surrounding FILM 2300, as noted in the introductory note, the committee is aware that we are evaluating a course that at the time of submission did not exist but was in the process of being revised. IN fact, we found the introductory letter to be reassuring in terms of understanding of the Core Diversity outcomes and a commitment to address them with integrity in the new iteration of FILM 2300 as it would be developed.

We worked primarily from the model syllabus in evaluating this course, while also considering other materials as submitted to provide a fuller picture of FILM 2300 as a course.

Although we found the statement reassuring, the committee’s primary method for verifying that a given course aligns well to Core outcomes is to review extant course materials, such as quizzes, exams, writing assignments, and so forth to see if these assignments explicitly prompt students to engage with Core outcomes and provide ample opportunity for them to do so. In addition, we review course readings and reading schedules to get a sense of how well course material aligned to these outcomes in integrated into the structure of the course as a whole.

Diversity, as a whole, is defined as a Core competency as: the ability to analyze familiar cultural assumptions in the context of the world’s diverse values, traditions, and belief systems as well as to analyze the major ideas, techniques, and processes that inform creative works within different cultural and historical contexts. Here we note that crucial components of this definition are engaging the world’s diverse systems as well as approaching different cultural and historical frameworks. We saw an indication of doing so in the introductory statement, but the syllabus was less clear how this was done, and since the model syllabus didn’t have assignments affiliated with it, we were unable to see how this was done in practice. However, this is easily rectified. Given that the model syllabus we were provided was for an iteration of the course to be offered in Spring 2020, those materials should now be readily available. Thus, acting on a “trust but verify” model of course evaluation/assessment we are asking that you provide an assurance argument for FILM 2300 demonstrating a commitment to align the course well to the Diversity outcomes under which it is designated.

In order to provide an assurance argument for FILM 2300 we simply ask that you provide the following:

Specific recommendations:

1. Greater that 50% of course content needs to explicitly align to the outcomes under Diversity (Goal C – Creative Works). Use the table in Curriculum Attachment A here:<http://uca.edu/core/forms/> as a guide. For FILM 2300, we are specifically asking for course materials such as copies of assignments, quizzes, tests, writing assignment prompts, and/or detailed syllabus that show alignment to Core outcomes.
2. In order to better understand Core requirements and respond to the sub-committee’s requests it is recommended that the department consult with a member of the sub-committee in regard to this report before, or while, revising its submission. Your college representative on the sub-committee is Laura Niswonger. Of course, Dr. Held, Assistant Provost for Academic Assessment and General Education, is always readily available as well.

Should you choose to submit revised materials for FILM 2300, those materials should be collected into a single pdf file and submitted directly to Jacob Held. The course materials will be evaluated by the UCA Core Council curriculum review sub-committee. The sub-committee will review the materials and make a recommendation to the UCA Core Council as to whether or not they are adequate in addressing the concerns noted above. Should the sub-committee affirm that they are adequate and the Core Council affirm that assessment, no further action will be necessary. Should, however, the sub-committee deem the revised materials to be insufficient and the Core Council affirm this evaluation, or the sub-committee deem the materials sufficient yet the UCA Core Council reject this assessment, the Core Council’s decision will be guiding. In the event of either of these previous two outcomes, you will have one semester to revisit the issues and revise the course materials. The same process will then be followed with the subsequent decision of the Core Council being final.

If you should fail to act on this recommendation by May 15, 2020, FILM 2300 will be placed on probationary status for Fall 2020. If no progress is made in rectifying matters by the close of Fall 2020, FILM 2300 will be removed from the LD Core beginning Spring 2021.

I am happy to assist in anyway that may be of service. So if you have any questions or concerns please contact me at 450-5307 or jmheld@uca.edu