To: The Committee on Education Programs

From: Jennifer Fay, Director of the Program in Film Studies

Subject: Changing the requirement for the Honors Option in Film Studies

Date: April 16, 2014

Requirement change Rationale.

The Film Studies Steering Committee has voted unanimously to change the requirement for the Honors Option. Currently honors students must take a graduate seminar in the Fall in addition to a three-credit hour 299a (Senior Honors Research). We have found that the graduate course requirement does not effectively prepare students for this significant project. First, there have been very few film-related graduate seminars from which students may choose. Second, many of our students elect to carry out creative or practice-based projects in screenwriting, 16mm filmmaking, and experimental non-narrative projects. This graduate requirement was put into place before we had a slate of undergraduate film production courses. All of our students would be better served by working with their advisors to find the most appropriate classes to take during the senior year, and then undertaking the three-credit hour 299a in the Fall semester with a faculty member best able to mentor them in the appropriate reading, watching, and skill acquisition needed for the project. In the Spring semester, students will then sign up for 299b (Senior Honors Thesis) for three credit hours, as stated in the catalog.

Below is a list of the Steering Committee Members. There were 8 votes in favor and 0 opposed at the meeting on April 10, 2014.

Jennifer Fay (Film Studies and English, Director of Program in Film Studies)
Jonathan Rattner (Film Studies and Art)
Claire Sisco King (Communication Studies and Film Studies)
Andrea Mirabile (Italian and Film Studies)
Jim McFarland (German and Film Studies)
Lutz Koepnick (German and Film Studies)
Paul Young (English and Film Studies)
Helen Shin (English)
Honors Program
The Honors Program in Cinema and Media Arts offers excelling students the opportunity to pursue their interests at a higher level. For admission to the Honors Program, students must have and maintain until graduation an overall grade point average of 3.3 and an average of 3.5 in courses counting toward the major. The student must submit an application to the program director outlining the thesis topic. In addition to completing the major requirements listed above, students must take one graduate level class related to film and media studies for at least 3 credit hours, to be approved by the program director. During the senior year the student is required to register for Cinema and Media Arts 299a (3 credit hours) and 299b (3 credit hours) in order to complete the thesis. An oral examination on the thesis and its area is to be completed during the final semester of undergraduate study.

Revised Catalog Copy
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To: A&S Faculty Council  
From: Prasad Polavarapu, Chair, Committee on Educational Programs (CEP)  
Ref: Changes to the Honors program in Cinema and Media Arts

Dear Jonathan,

The Committee on Educational Programs (CEP) discussed the proposal submitted by Professor Jennifer Fay, for changes to the Honors program in Cinema and Media Arts, at its meeting on April 22, 2014. The committee approved the proposal with minor revisions, with a vote of 5-0 and one member absent. Professor Fay has now incorporated the revisions into the proposal.

The revised proposal is attached to this email.

Best,

Prasad

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