

## APC PROPOSAL: MINOR IN CINEMA STUDIES

### UNDERGRADUATE CURRICULAR PROPOSAL(S) PROCEDURES TO CHANGE 2012-2013 CATALOG (Approved by APC September 1, 2011)

**A joint proposal from the Departments of Communication and Theatre and  
Literature, Journalism, and Modern Languages**

#### ACTION ITEMS/SUBSTANTIVE CHANGES:

I. **Proposal I: To add an interdisciplinary Minor in Cinema Studies**

II. **Rationale:**

**1. How has assessment data informed the proposed change and how recently has your department or school completed a program review? For example, have alumni, outside reviewers, etc., suggested improvements?**

Our students at Point Loma Nazarene University are increasingly surrounded and influenced by visual media throughout their daily lives, so it is incumbent upon our departments, if not our university, to address their need to become visually literate critical viewers. The primary goal of a minor in Cinema Studies would be to strengthen students' skills in film literacy and critical thinking. Creating this minor as interdisciplinary enables students to integrate multiple perspectives and skill sets, from scriptwriting and production to theory and criticism, and situates their development of critical visual literacy within the richness of a liberal arts education. The courses unified within this Minor in Cinema Studies require the sophisticated use of film theory and terminology, analysis of film images and narratives, an ability to understand the inherent relationship between films and the historical moments from which they emerge, the creation of film art, and the evaluation of films, by using higher and lower order thinking and writing skills. Each and every one of these skills may also be examined in the light of a faith-based perspective as a part of a Christian liberal arts education.

Over the past eight years, since students in the Communication and Theatre department have been making films on a regular basis, students across campus have had an intense interest in learning more about film and filmmaking. There has especially been an increasing groundswell of interest from students in communication and theatre, religion, philosophy, art, psychology, business, and LJML. In LJML two new courses were added last year LIT 209: Great Works: Film and LIT 371: World Cinema to specifically address students' growing interest in and need for critical visually literacy.

So while this proposal is not driven by a large body of quantitative assessment data, it is driven by anecdotal assessment data and the popularity of the new and existing courses in film studies. This semester, Dr. James Wicks had approximately 40 students, over the 48 students already registered for LIT 209, who were interested in taking this Great Works: Film course to fulfill their GE requirements. It is responding to an increasing awareness in higher education of the need for students to develop critical visual literacy, and it is motivated to provide students with the opportunity to gain a broader and deeper interdisciplinary understanding of how the motion picture industry, which continues to produce a powerful effect on culture and society, creates films which convey meaning in significant and influential ways.

## **2. What are comparable universities and colleges doing?**

This proposal is based on a model provided by USC's Minor in Cinema-Television which contains two required courses, then a selection of courses students can choose from in the following categories: Critical Studies, Production, Writing, and The Film-Television Industry. See:

<http://www.usc.edu/dept/publications/cat2004/schools/cinema/minors.html>.

Given our university size and values, comparisons with Pepperdine University and Azusa Pacific University are most appropriate for our context. Pepperdine's Humanities and Teacher Education program contains an interdisciplinary Film Studies Minor which also requires two courses, "Introduction to Film Studies, and "A Social Science Perspective on Film" and then allows students to choose three additional courses from a list of ten courses offered by eight (8) different departments. See: <http://seaver.pepperdine.edu/humanities/academics/filmstudies/filmstudiesminor.htm>

APU's Department of Theater, Film, and Television also offers a Critical Studies Minor, which includes five required courses, including titles such as "Christianity and the Creative Process," "History of Broadcasting and Electronic Media," and "Media Criticism and Theory," and then allows students to choose three courses among five options. This minor is not interdisciplinary. See: <http://www.apu.edu/clas/theaterfilmtv/minors/#criticalstudiesminor>.

## **3. Is the change related to stipulations imposed by outside accrediting agencies (addressing standards, etc.)?**

The proposal is not related to stipulations imposed by outside accrediting agencies.

## **4. How does the proposed change relate to the mission of the university?**

As stated in our university's core values, "A willingness to hear and learn from many diverse voices is foundational to a Christian liberal arts education." The Minor in Cinema Studies will enhance and expand the university's mission of hearing and learning from these diverse voices, as they are conveyed through film, by providing students with entry-level knowledge and skills for participating in independent filmmaking, film criticism, or teaching in an age where visual literacy is essential to the interpretation of cultural texts. This program will also add breadth and depth to students' knowledge and understanding of cinema as a medium of expression and shaper of cultural values and society. The courses listed below are presented with the intention of evaluating films in light of our relationship and responsibility to Christ and those in our community.

## **5. How does the change accommodate the department or school's learning outcomes for the major, minor, concentration, etc.? For instance, does the change help balance out the curriculum, or does it fill in a missing gap that would help strengthen the program? Does it add breadth or depth, etc.?**

The change is in line with PLNU's first institutional learning outcome "Members of the PLNU community will display openness to new knowledge and perspectives, think critically, analytically, and creatively, and communicate effectively." As the Program Learning Outcomes (see Section III, below) demonstrate, the Minor in Cinema Studies will make deliberate the university's teaching of film and critical film viewing. Such a program, housed within both the Departments of Communication and Theatre and Literature, Journalism and Modern Languages, in which communication and analysis of cultural texts are central to our academic pursuits, will enable students to examine, consider, and comprehend the ways in which story and ideology are presented in the cultural texts of film across the

curriculum.

The Cinema Studies Minor is also well positioned to welcome the addition and inclusion of film courses across the university which promote diversity and visual literacy.

**6. What impact will it have on the size of the major, minor, etc.?**

The proposed change would create a new minor based on existing courses presently offered at PLNU. It should not have any substantial negative impact on respective major concentrations or minors.

**7. Will the change(s) be sustainable with human and financial resources?**

The changes will be sustainable with current human and financial resources because the proposal does not require staffing changes within respective participating departments, nor does the proposal require course deletions or unit additions for students within respective majors.

**8. State other rationale that you deem appropriate.**

A Cinema Studies Minor will add to the breadth of our student's liberal arts education by combining production and technical filmmaking skills with a cultural studies based approach of the analysis of texts, along with film art and film theory. PLNU students would be able to demonstrate their accomplishments in visual literacy in their liberal arts education and in their future careers as well.

All \_\_\_ 490 courses and new course proposals for the Minor in Cinema Studies undergo the following process in order to be included in the minor: 1) course proposal including syllabus, assigned texts, and rationale 2) joint review by Theatre and Communications and LJML Departments, 3) inform Records of approval or rejection of inclusion in the Minor in Cinema Studies.

**III. Tentative Syllabus/Course Learning Outcomes:**

**Program Description: Minor in Cinema Studies**

This is an interdisciplinary minor in cinema which draws from historical, religious, philosophical, theoretical, and aesthetic perspectives. Students are encouraged to select courses which are based on students' intellectual and professional interests. Students interested in film criticism and/or writing and teaching may take electives in film theory and criticism, while students interested in scriptwriting and production may take courses in those areas. The minor is structured as interdisciplinary in its electives so that students will truly be studying in the liberal arts tradition. All students must take the required courses, and then must select from the elective courses to complete the minor.

**Outcomes: Program Learning Outcomes**

Students who complete the cinema studies minor will be able to:

1. Identify and articulate the relationships among film styles, genres, and techniques.  
(LIT 209, LIT 371, & COM 300, SPA 380)

2. Demonstrate knowledge of the relationship between films and the historical moments from which they emerge. (COM 300, HIS 368, SPA 380)
3. Analyze and interpret the film images and narratives using film theory and terminology. (LIT 209, LIT 371, COM 300)
4. Evaluate films, including from a faith based perspective, by using higher and lower order thinking and writing skills. (COM 300, and COM/LIT courses)
5. Construct film scripts and create films by using film production techniques. (COM 243, COM 175, COM 420, COM 442, COM 443)

**IV. Catalog Copy:** Note the academic minor consists of already-existing courses.

**Catalog Copy (New)**

**REQUIRED & INSTRUCTORS: 8 units**

LIT 209 Great Works in Literature: Film (2) James Wicks; no prerequisite

COM 243 Intro to TV and Film Production (3) Alan Hueth; no prerequisite

COM 300 Narrative and Documentary Film (3) Alan Hueth; no prerequisite

**ELECTIVE COURSES: 9 Elective Units Taken from Three (3) Separate Disciplines**

LIT 371 World Cinema (3)Wicks offered every other year)

HIS 368 Modern China Through Film (4) Kim

SPA 380 Genre/Period Study in Hispanic Literature and Film (3) McConnell

\_\_\_490 Approved Special Studies Course in Film

COM 175 Scriptwriting for Television and Film (3) Hueth

\*COM 442 Field Production (3)Hueth (pre-req: COM 243)

\*COM 443 Studio Production (3)Hueth (pre-req: COM 243)

COM 420 Communication Practicum (indie screenwriting or film production project) (1-2) Hueth (pre-req: COM 175 for screenwriting, and COM 243 for production project)

**Total units required: 17-20**

Minimum number of upper division units: 12 units

Minimum number of units completed in residency: 9 units

Note that 9 units must be distinct and not counted in the major

**\*COM 442 and 443 are presently two (2) unit courses. However, the Dept. of Communication and Theatre are submitting an APC proposal that is requesting that these two courses be raised to three (3) units. This has been approved by their dean. Whether the increases are approved or rejected by APC, these courses will continue in the mix of electives for the Cinema Studies Minor.**

**V. Recorded Department/School Vote:**

LJML VOTE: 14-0 IN FAVOR; 4 Faculty were absent from the meeting in which the vote took place.  
TCS VOTE: 8-0 IN FAVOR

**VI. Library Impact:**

Minimal. The purchase of film theory texts and respective films will be minimal as we already have in our holdings numerous films and relevant texts.

**VII. Technological Impact:**

None. The course will require instruction in a classroom with an overhead projector, screen, and sound system, such as those already so equipped, including such classrooms as Starkey 100, and BAC 102, 103, and 104 in the Bond Academic Center.

**VIII. Final Summary:**

**Total course additions: 0**

**Total course deletions: 0**

**Total unit additions: 0**

**Total unit deletions: 0**

**Rotation of courses or deletion of sections to accommodate additions: 0**

**Staffing impact/increase or decrease: 0**

**Final Check-off List:**

- X The College Dean has been consulted.
- X All affected departments have been contacted and the results are indicated in the proposal.
- X The proposal has been voted on by the department.
- X Appropriate contacts have been made with the library and media services.
- X Staffing impact has been addressed.