

## **Report from Ad Hoc Committee for the Investigation of the Addition of FILM to General Education Category 3a, January 2022**

### Committee Members:

Louise Anderson (MUSC)  
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### Designated Senator:

Thomas Lamey

The Ad Hoc Committee for 'Investigation of the Addition of FILM to General Education Category 3a' fully supports the category of FILM to be added to Salisbury University's general education offerings.

This addition is a much needed update to Salisbury University's general education categories and keeps us in line with other comparable and regional institutions. The committee researched the film general education offerings of other universities and came to the conclusion that Salisbury University is outdated in comparison. For example, UNC-Wilmington, a public institution with 18,000 undergraduate students, has both *Concepts in Film* and *Introduction to Film Study* as general education course offerings in the 'Aesthetic, Interpretative, and Literary Perspectives' category. Also, the flagship institution of the University of Maryland system, UMD-College Park, has numerous and various Cinema and Media studies classes designated as offerings in the 'Distributive Studies' section of their general education program. At the University of Delaware (undergraduate enrollment 19,000), the Film Area is also housed within the English Department, and they have *Introduction to Film* courses listed as general education offerings under the 'Creative Arts and Humanities' category. Finally, at York College in Pennsylvania (undergraduate enrollment 4,400), there are two film courses, *Introduction to Film* and *Film History*, offered in their 'Fine Arts & Humanities' general education category.

Just as Art, Music, Dance, and Theater are in the Humanities Category of general education courses at Salisbury University, Film should be as well. Film is an important medium that, through the use of moving images, communicates ideas, stories, perceptions, feelings, beauty, and/or atmosphere. The skills that students develop through taking FILM general education courses will fulfill the vital General Education learning objectives of: Critical Thinking and Reasoning, Effective Reading, Information Literacy, Oral Communication, Understanding the Human World, Written Communication, Knowledge of the Human Experience, Emerging and Enduring Global Issues, Inclusion and Diversity, Intercultural Competence, and Intellectual Curiosity.

At Salisbury University, the Film Program is well-known nationally and has been in existence for more than 50 years. Currently, Film is in the English Department, and the only classes that the Film Track can offer for general education must have a literature component to them. The sole film class that adheres to these literary constraints is

*English 221: Literature and Film*, and instead of being located in ‘Category 3A: Humanities,’ this class is housed in ‘Category IB, Literature,’ because its focus is primarily on how literary texts are treated, altered, or made new through translation into cinema. By contrast, adding the category of FILM to ‘Category 3A: Humanities,’ would allow the focus to be on the medium of cinema as an artform of great significance in its own right. Literature and film are inherently different disciplines, and film is a better fit for humanities than literature. In fact, to make a clearer distinction in the collective SU campus consciousness between the study of literature and the study of film, the course codes for film classes have been recently switched from “ENGL” to “FILM” in the catalog, all except for *ENGL 221 Literature and Film*.

In conclusion, the Ad Hoc Committee for Investigation of the Addition of FILM to General Education Category 3a is very enthusiastic and supportive for the category of FILM to be added to Salisbury University’s general education offerings. Thank you very much for your time and consideration and please let the committee know if we can answer any questions or concerns from the Faculty Senators.