

**Fall 2017**  
**Core Curriculum Assessment Report**

of

**Skills 1 – Communication**

from the

**Fine Arts**

Core Curricular Area



submitted by

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on behalf of the

**Fine Arts**

**Core Area Assessment Committee**

## Methods

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### How was student work (artifacts) collected for assessment?

ARHA2305, Introduction to Visual Arts

Each instructor was asked to provide three samples of the formal analysis papers from each section taught.

MUHA2305, Introduction to Music

A random sampling of artifacts from two face to face, and one on-line section were collected as requested from the Instructors

THEA2305, Introduction to Theatre & Dance

Through the use of a number generator, the data collector selected every 4th paper until 30 papers were collected. A number generator ensured that data was collected across multiple classes taught by various instructors.

MCOM 2306 Introduction to Motion Pictures

18 final exams were randomly selected from students who took the exam from one face-to-face section.

### What type of artifacts were collected?

ARHA2305, Introduction to Visual Arts

To assess Skills 1 and 2, a formal analysis paper was collected. Typically, this was an assignment to write about one work of art at the Arkansas Arts Center or UALR Galleries, so each paper was about something different. The rubric for assessment covered the four standards:

- Evaluation of the Arts
- Elements of the Arts
- Process of Making

- Evaluation of Art Works

#### MUHA2305, Introduction to Music

A common essay question from all students in all sections was used. The question was:

- Listen to the example provided in class. In one paragraph of 3-4 sentences, describe the musical elements you heard strongest, and describe how they are used.
- In a second paragraph of 3-4 sentences, identify the style of music this piece represents, and describe the musical clues that helped you identify it.

#### THEA2305, Introduction to Theatre & Dance

Two sections provided production critiques while the other course provided production response questions. All artifacts provided formal analysis of the production The Flick put on by the UA Theatre & Dance Department.

#### MCOM 2306 Introduction to Motion Pictures

The complete final exam had various types of questions:

- Short answers
- Multiple choice
- Short Essay
- Long Essay

For communication skills 1.1 and 1.2, as last year, the two long essay questions were used as the primary artifacts.

### **How were the artifacts sampled for assessment?**

#### ARHA2305, Introduction to Visual Arts

The three samples were to be material from the 2nd, 6th and last student on the class roster of every section (total of 24 question sets and essays). Permission was given to provide the work of an adjacent student on the roster in cases where work was not turned in. One instructor forgot to make copies of papers for one section. One paper copy was incomplete. From the remaining, five were selected at random for assessment.

#### MUHA2305, Introduction to Music

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Through the use of a number generator, the data collector selected every 4th paper until 30 papers were collected. A number generator ensured that data was collected across multiple classes taught by various instructors.

THEA2305, Introduction to Theatre & Dance

40 artifacts were gathered into a single sample pool. Odd-numbered artifacts were assessed, along with artifact #10 and #20. A total of 22 artifacts were assessed.

MCOM 2306 Introduction to Motion Pictures

The "blue books" turned in for the face-to-face class final exams, were collected selections were pulled from them at random. If we had selected from all students enrolled rather than just those who turned in exams, we would have many more in the "Absent" category. The face-to-face class had 36 students, 33 of whom completed the exams. Eighteen exams were randomly pulled from the pile representing 55% of the face-to-face exams.

### **How were the artifacts scored?**

ARHA2305, Introduction to Visual Arts

The two full-time art history faculty evaluated the papers, according to the rubric Evaluation Sheet for Skills 1.1 and 1.2. Both faculty members read and discussed all papers and came to a consensus on the scoring.

MUHA2305, Introduction to Music

One faculty member assessed the essays according to the rubrics developed.

THEA2305, Introduction to Theatre & Dance

Artifacts were scored using the rubric developed by the CAAC – Fine & Performing Arts Committee for Skills 1.

MCOM 2306 Introduction to Motion Pictures

One faculty member assessed the exams according to the rubrics developed for Skills 1 - Communication 1.1 and 1.2.

## **How was reliability in scoring determined and ensured?**

ARHA2305, Introduction to Visual Arts

Two faculty members read and discussed all essay papers.

MUHA2305, Introduction to Music

One faculty member assessed the essays.

THEA2305, Introduction to Theatre & Dance

Two tenured, full-time faculty members teaching in the THEA 2305 track scored the artifacts.

MCOM 2306 Introduction to Motion Pictures

One faculty member assessed the exams consistent with the same methods used for the fall classes. Once scored, scores were also checked against the grades given for the essay questions to ensure consistency.

## Reflection

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### What was learned from the assessment results?

ARHA2305, Introduction to Visual Arts

Of the artifacts assessed there was a wide range – from Novice to Advanced for Skill 1 and for Novice to Proficient for Skill 2. This reveals that there is a wide range of understanding when it comes to organization and the application of content. In the future, we will assess more artifacts, as our samplings were seemingly few this time.

MUHA2305, Introduction to Music

The assessment results indicated that most of the elements rated were consistent with the normal distribution of data. The bell curve was present in most responses, which may support accurate assessments. Few outliers were present.

THEA2305, Introduction to Theatre & Dance

While faculty in the theatre and dance department continue to believe that the production critique is the best artifact for assessing THEA 2305, there is a need for further discussion of the specific prompt for production critiques.

MCOM 2306 Introduction to Motion Pictures

- As noted in the previous assessment, if we were to select from all students rather than just those who turned in exams, we would have a lot more in the "Absent." section If we were to select from all students rather than just those who turned in exams.
- As an intro course, Intro to Motion Pictures attracts many first-year students. Scores for this spring section were generally higher than the scores from the fall Assessment, with more students falling into the “advanced” category. The assumption here is that spring first year students already have a semester of college under their belts and have more experience than a fall class in terms of communicating and writing about ideas, theories and methods at a college level.

## Continuous Improvement

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### What changes will be made based upon the assessment results?

ARHA2305, Introduction to Visual Arts

Instructors will be urged to emphasize organization and what goes into a good formal analysis paper, especially the basic elements of art and principles of design.

MUHA2305, Introduction to Music

There are no recommendations for changes based on the assessment.

THEA2305, Introduction to Theatre & Dance

There will be continued departmental conversation about the most useful artifact to collect for assessment purposes. There will also be faculty conversation about refining and deepening the kinds of information that we seek from students who evaluate production experiences in writing so that we may meet standards reflected in Skills. While we wish to take care in not creating assignments for assessment, we continue believe that the prompt guiding evaluative papers should contain more specificity and guidance. In terms of ensuring reliability in scoring artifacts, we included a second full-time faculty member who teaches in the track.

MCOM 2306 Introduction to Motion Pictures

As noted last semester, there are currently no plans to change the curriculum. However, it was anticipated that enrollment in this course may increase.

## Feedback

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### What changes are recommended for Core assessment?

ARHA2305, and MUHA 2305

There are no recommendations for changes at this time.

THEA2305

In terms of the standards developed by the FAC, our department wonders if assessment of mechanics and style should be incorporated into Skills assessment. This does not seem an area that is covered by the prescribed Outcomes. In addition, because evaluation of works of art is covered by Skills assessment, it seems possible that the FAC could remove Learning Objective 4 from Knowledge 2.2.

MCOM 2306 Introduction to Motion Pictures

There was discussion this past spring of exploring the adoption of Blackboard Outcomes for program assessment, ultimately, it is our hope that we can use Outcomes to streamline the Fine Arts assessment process, but this was not happened yet.



## Comments

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Other comments?

END OF REPORT