Addition to Core Curriculum

The Core Curriculum Oversight Subcommittee of the Academic Affairs Committee recommends that the following course be added to the Visual and Performing Arts category of the Core Curriculum.

English 312. Shakespeare. (3-0). Credit 3. Advanced analysis of selected works of Shakespeare, emphasizing language, dramatic theory, criticism, and scholarship. Prerequisite: 3 credits of literature at 200-level or above.

The CCOS notes that as the Visual and Performing Arts category of the core curriculum evolves at Texas A&M University, more definitive guidelines must be developed that are acceptable to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. We therefore asked the College of Liberal Arts for justification of their request that would help us in their development. The course was approved based on the following justification provided by Dr. Margaret Ezell, professor of English:

"This course addresses the performance and visual aspects of Shakespeare's plays from both historical and contemporary perspectives. The beginning section of the course was devoted to investigating the ways in which the physical nature of the Elizabethan stage affected the writing of Shakespeare's plays; the class read accounts of contemporary theatre goers' experiences viewing plays in an Elizabethan theatre and the requirements the stage placed on the actors and and dramatist. We also watched documentary films on the recent reconstruction of the Globe Theatre and modern actors' responses to that acting space. As you will notice in the required text section, we are also exploring the ways in which film makers have used Shakespeare; the class read Kenneth Branagh's screenplay version of "Hamlet," viewed his production of it, and also explored the ways in which other film actors and directors--Olivier, Williamson, and Gibson--have interpreted key scenes and how the film versions are related. We will be following the same procedure with Branagh's film of "Much Ado About Nothing" and comparing it to 19th century stage adaption of it. These classes are indicated on the syllabus as "Viewing" days and are conducted in the Library's Media center."

CCOS/AA, March 28, 2000
Approved by the Faculty Senate on April 10, 2000