***Fine Arts Expression and Analysis***

**Definition**

“As a field, art uses a mode of thought oriented primarily toward making choices and arrangements among a few or many sets of materials to create something new or to produce a unique version of a work. It is focused on creation from nothing or from the basis of such things as… designs, musical scores, scripts, and so forth.” (Council of Arts Accrediting Associations, *Achievement and Quality: Higher Education in the Arts*, 2007). Fine arts expression would therefore involve the creation of work in this vein, and fine arts analysis would involve the analysis of such work in relation to the specific cultural, historical, and theoretical contexts in which it was created, and in which it currently exists.

Courses seeking the Fine Arts Expression and Analysis outcome should provide evidence of at least one of the following:

1. Exploration of the expressive languages and contexts of visual art, music, or theater with the goal of creating original creative work or performance
2. Exploration the expressive languages and contexts of visual art, music, or theater with the goal of producing analytical work.

**Rationale and Intent**

The arts must be emphasized in today’s college curriculum. The disciplines of music, theater, and visual arts develop critical thinking and analysis skills around forms of expression that impact our daily lives and carry vital social, historical, and cultural meanings. In addition, the Fitchburg State University mission states that “As a community resource, we provide leadership and support for the…cultural needs of North Central Massachusetts and the Commonwealth.” Developing the creative potential of our students is crucial to building a competitive future, and essential to productive contribution to society.

**Goal**

Fitchburg State University students will: Articulate, by engaging with art, music, or theater, an understanding of the expressive languages and the technical craft they employ, and interpret their meaning and value, either through the creation or performance of works in art, music, or theater, or through an analysis of their relation to specific cultural, historical, and theoretical contexts.

**Potential Course Objectives**

The objectives below are recommended as models for general education course syllabi. The list is not meant to be complete. Faculty should feel free to adopt these as course objectives, or they may develop their own.

* Analyze or creatively employ visual, musical, or theatrical language as a means for the effective communication of ideas, feelings, and beliefs
* Understand expressive works as resulting from a network of artistic choices, and demonstrate an ability to describe and/or employ creative processes with greater sophistication
* Compare and contrast works in terms of their theoretical principles, form, meaning, and relation to cultural context, and draw conclusions about the relationship between the different underlying artistic ideas and beliefs that are revealed through the analysis of works of visual art, theater, or music
* Understand how to identify and use a range of visual art/music/theater historical approaches in the analysis of works (for example, approaches influenced by social history, formalism, psychoanalysis, or feminism)
* Express one’s own response to particular works of visual art, music, or theater in a way that is thoughtful and informed, and demonstrates an understanding of the deep structure of these works