To be adopted:

Proposed Changes to Art Department Major:

**PRESENT:**

Major Requirements

The major requirements for the B.A. in Art are as follows:

1. Lower-division requirements (24/26 units)
   a) ART 006/MCS 006 and ART 008 (must be taken during first year of residency in the department)
   b) Three additional lower-division Art courses: ART 001, ART 002, ART 003, ART 004/MCS 004, ART 005, ART 009, ART 065, ART 066
   c) One of the following Art History courses: AHS 008, AHS 017A, AHS 017B, AHS 017C, or AHS 021/URST 021, AHS 023

2. Upper-division requirements (48/49 units)
   a) ART 160
   b) One of the following Art History courses: AHS 135, AHS 136/MCS 137, AHS 176/MCS 176, AHS 175, AHS 179, AHS 180, AHS 181, AHS 182, AHS 184/URST 184, AHS 185/URST 185, AHS 186, AHS 188, AHS 189E-Z or any other upper-division Art History course that covers the period 1945 to present
   c) ART 180
   d) A minimum of 32 additional units of upper-division Art course work

**PROPOSED:**

Major Requirements

The major requirements for the B.A. in Art are as follows:

1. Lower-division requirements (28/30 units)
   a) ART 006/MCS 006
   b) Four additional lower-division Art courses: ART 001, ART 002, ART 003, ART 004/MCS 004, ART 005, ART 009, ART 065, ART 066
   c) Two of the following courses: AHS 008, AHS 017A, AHS 017B, AHS 017C, AHS 020/MCS 023 or AHS 021/URST 021, AHS 023, PHIL 001, PHIL 007 (courses may be used to satisfy breadth requirements)

2. Upper-division requirements (36/37 units)
   a) ART 160
   b) One of the following Art History courses: AHS 115, AHS 135, AHS 136/MCS 137, AHS 175, AHS 176/MCS 176, AHS 178, AHS 179, AHS 180, AHS 181, AHS 182, AHS 184/URST 184, AHS 185/URST 185, AHS 186, AHS 187, AHS 188, AHS 189E-Z or any other upper-division Art History course that covers the period 1945 to present
   c) ART 180
   d) A minimum of 20 additional units of upper-division Art course work
   e) ART 133 Art Workshop (must pass with C+ or
c) ART 195 (Senior Thesis) or ART 185 (Senior Thesis Seminar)

To fulfill ART 195 or ART 185, students must complete a preliminary review of work with a formal presentation of a thesis project to a faculty committee two quarters prior to actual enrollment in ART 195 or ART 185. Students graduating in Spring must take ART 185. Students graduating in Fall or Winter must take ART 195 to fulfill their senior thesis requirement. Students will be assigned a faculty thesis advisor by week three of the term in which their preliminary review takes place. Students enroll in ART 195 or ART 185 during their final term before graduating.

A maximum of 12 upper-division transfer units of established equivalency in Art courses is accepted for credit. Equivalent transfer units in lower-division studio art course work and lower- and upper-division Art History course work is also accepted for credit toward the major in the respective lower- or upper-division category.

A minimum of 36 units of Art must be taken in residence (UCR Department of Art) to fulfill this major.

**JUSTIFICATION:**

The Art Department is a small department with only 8.5 FTE’s. Over the last five years the number of majors in the Department of Art has increased from 24 to approx. 260 with no increase in the size of the faculty. We have reached the limit of our resources. Our current curriculum requires close mentoring/supervision of our students’ artistic progress culminating in the Senior Thesis review. Recently, the department was notified by our Dean that it can expect a significant and possible total, reduction of lecturers for next year. Lecturers currently teach one-third of the courses offered in the department. The increase in majors, coupled with the reduction of a significant number of courses that can be taught, results in majors being unable to fulfill the current department requirements in a reasonable time frame. Even with our current allotment of funds for lecturers it is difficult for our students to get the number of courses required for graduation. Thus, we will be unable to provide this kind of one on one education in the future and propose curriculum changes. The department has checked that all courses included on this proposal are current active courses. Significant changes include Lower and Upper Division deletions and additions; change in the thesis and review process; and the major total units.

Lower division changes from section (a) to (b). This includes the deletion of the statement “Must be taken during first year of residency in the department,” section (a). With as many restraints that students are enduring with enrollment, the department no longer wants to require specific time constraints on course requirements. Additionally, ART 008: Current Topics in Contemporary Art is a lower division course taught primarily by a hired lecturer. The department feels that this course is no longer needed within the curriculum because faculty teach topics in contemporary art through the current requirements of; ART
006: Intro to Contemporary Critical Issues in Art, ART 160: Intermediate Art Theory, and ART 180: Contemporary Issues and Practice. By removing this course it leaves room for more studio based courses (b); hence, the increase from three to four additional lower division courses in Art studio. By increasing the units in this category majors will be able to get more background or basis for upper division course work. Also, by requiring students to complete an additional lower division course in Studio, majors are able to meet prerequisites of more upper division courses giving them a greater chance to get into intermediate courses.

Other lower division changes include the change in courses within section (c). To better describe this area to majors the department would like to delete the Art History specific statement, so that it reads more general. By generalizing this statement we are able to increase the required 4 units to 8 units and make the following additions; adding AHS 020/MCS 023: Introduction to Media Art, Philosophy 001: Introduction to Philosophy and Philosophy 007: Critical Thinking, in order to create a larger list of required lower division courses within the requirements listed under (c). Furthermore, in support of section (c) changes and Philosophy additions we feel that creating visual art is a form of cultural expression. In an academic setting such as a university, this enterprise is necessarily academic and social. This means that art students have an obligation to understand basic art historical concepts and movements so that they can make informed and intelligent work, contributing to a long important history. This is why we currently require that students take some Art History courses. However, most art historical movement and theory has a basis in a more fundamental and broad inquiry, namely a philosophical one. The major branches of philosophy: metaphysics, epistemology, ethics, logic form the basis of western thought. To, at the very least, understand the basic and major (unanswerable) questions that philosophy raises is crucial knowledge for one to be an active producer of cultural artifacts and information. "What is the nature of reality? What is the nature of knowledge? How should I act in society?" Much of the joy and fulfillment of making art involves intentionally creating more problems than can be solved. This is in perfect harmony with a philosophical approach. Also, many of the issues raised in philosophy act as catalysts and motivation for artists. A large part of university art curriculum involves group critiques. These critiques are not professor run monologues. They are think tanks, where open ended discussion, debate, brainstorming, argumentation, free association, and the clear articulation of one's intentions are paramount. Critical thinking, or the general ability and desire to be inquisitive are the fundamentals of philosophy, and essential to being a successful artist within a university setting.

Differences to the Upper Division curriculum include the addition of the following Art History courses within area (b); these courses include AHS 115, 178, and 187. These upper division AHS courses influence general ability within a modern/contemporary subject matter and should be included in these curriculum changes. More changes include the decrease of 32 upper division units in Art course work, as shown in area (d) of the upper division section. Increased majors play a role in this decision to lower the amount of units required to 20 units. With the increase of majors and the lack of upper division course offerings, students are not able to complete the core requirements in a timely manner. Often students will complete the department review process and need additional upper division Art courses to complete for graduation. Lastly, the current thesis process requires each graduating senior to be involved in a yearlong thesis project with an individual faculty advisor and to go through two reviews (Preliminary and Final Review) with a faculty committee. In pass years these reviews were scheduled one four to six hour day outside of teaching hours; in more recent quarter’s faculty are spending two eight hour days critiquing student reviews. Furthermore, in the years to come if it is required for our faculty to all teach one additional course; with roughly 260 majors this thesis and review process is no longer feasible. Thus, we have added the requirement of the ART 133: Art Workshop as a substitute for the Art 185 yearlong thesis process. Our department feels this will be a more manageable curriculum for both students and faculty, as we will be able to eliminate the student/faculty assignments and allow one faculty person to mentor and guide a group of students in the form of a course to their success.
The last changes include the unit totals that majors are required to take for completion as Art Studio majors. Among the units include an increase to lower division required units form 24/26 to 28/30 (the unit ratio is because our department offers the choice of some 5 unit courses). For the Upper Division required units; they will decrease from 48/49 to 36/37 units. To simplify, we are proposing that we decrease the overall required units form 72/75 to 64/67 units; hence, only an 8 unit or two course reduction form our current curriculum. This is due to the concern that students already are not able to complete in a timely manner because of lack of class offerings and/or classroom size. By lowering the amount of units that students need to complete this degree the department feels it will decrease or possibly eliminate the current enrollment issues we are having among our majors.

**APPROVALS:**

Approved by the Faculty of the Department of Art: March 14, 2011
Approved by the Executive Committee of the College of Humanities: 4/20/11
Approved by the Committee on Educational Policy: 4/27/11