Creative Experience

I. Description of Purpose and Content
In their emphasis on both theory and practice, courses in Creative Experience encourage students to invoke imagination and intuition as well as critical thinking and analysis. In these courses, students will give creative form to their ideas through an active, experiential engagement with the artistic process informed by critical analysis and self-reflection. The creative project should engage students in the creation of artifacts or performances that call for individual and/or collaborative expression that can be shared with others in coherent and meaningful ways.

II. Learning Outcomes
Students will:
• Be able to use imagination and informed intuition as part of the creative process.
• Demonstrate appropriate skills for the making of a creative work.
• Know and apply critical methodologies necessary to evaluate art and art making, including their own.
• Know the social, historical and cultural context as well as the role that artists play in shaping culture.
• Value the rigorous and often collaborative nature of creative work.
• Value the diversity of creative expression across and within cultures.

III. Defining Characteristics
To be considered for this category, a course must integrate creative expression and critical thinking. More specifically it will:
• Require students to express themselves creatively and critically.
• Provide students with the guidance and information necessary for the production of a creative artifact and/or performance.
• Provide students with the critical tools necessary for analyzing, evaluating and giving creative expression to ideas.
• Engage students in observation, focused concentration, and imaginative exploration as part of the creative process.
• Require practice and revision as part of the creative process.
• Emphasize skill development shaped by an understanding of artistic standards.
• Require students to share their work with others.
• Require students to comment critically and thoughtfully on their own work as well as the work of their classmates.

The creative component may include several smaller projects spread out across the semester or it may consist of a major final project. Creative projects may include but are not limited to photography, film, sculpture, drawing, painting, dance, musical composition, screenplays, creative/dramatic writing, theater or any combination of the above. The critical thinking component may include but is not limited to weekly critical reflections on the materials studied in class, critical reflections on the creative work presented in class, short essays, longer seminar papers, exams, quizzes or any combination of the above. The integration of the creative and the critical should evidence an understanding of the skills involved in art making as well as the standards used to evaluate similar artifacts and/or performances. The creative component should account for a minimum of 30% of the course work; the critical component should account for a minimum of 30% of the course work.