DATE: November 3, 2014

TO: Viviana Vladutescu, Chair

College Council Curriculum Committee

FROM: Curriculum Subcommittee

Maura Smale (Chair), Alexander Aptekar, Niloufar Haque

RE: Final Report for Proposal 14-14 ARTH 2101 Special Topics: Healing the Body

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**COURSE TITLE AND NUMBER:** 14-14 ARTH 2101 Special Topics: Healing the Body

**CREDIT HOURS:** 3credits;3 class hours

**PREREQUISITES:** ENG 1101 English Composition I

**CATALOG DESCRIPTION:**

This interdisciplinary course examines the visual culture of medicine, including how images help shape medical knowledge, artistic representations of the healthy and ailing body, and the emergence and increasing dependence on visual technologies. The lecture course consists of three modules that present the socio-historical context of medicine in relation to the body, disease and illness, and treatment and healing. Students acquire skills to better analyze images, and examine variables in cultural values that underlie medical practice across history.

**RATIONALE:**

Major transformations in healthcare, especially after enactment of the Affordable Care Act, make it critical for both consumers and providers to “see” disease, healing and overall aspects of health through both historical and contemporary perspectives of medicine to better understand how visual images affect care. With the participation of the School of Arts and Sciences and School of Professional Studies, City Tech has the faculty expertise to offer a unique, interdisciplinary undergraduate course in the visual culture of medicine. The combination of faculty in the liberal arts and sciences and allied health professions will give students diverse perspectives on medicine that range from historical interpretations to the assessments of practicing professionals. This course will attract students from a variety of disciplines who have an interest in art history, history, science, and medicine, and are looking for a relevant interdisciplinary elective or seek to fulfill a common core requirement in Individual and Society.

**Strengths**

This interdisciplinary course was designed by faculty in Art History, Dental Hygiene, and Nursing, and was designed to draw on each of the proposers’ disciplinary knowledge. Its subject matter – the visual culture of medicine – should be of interest to students in multiple degree programs at City Tech. In addition, as a Special Topics interdisciplinary course, ARTH 2101 is designed as a framework to be adapted by faculty in other departments who wish to address the visual culture of medicine from their own disciplinary perspectives.

The Interdisciplinary Committee has reviewed and approved the course, and the course can be used by Baccalaureate students to fulfill the requirement for one interdisciplinary course under the College Option. The proposers have also applied for the course to be included under the Flexible Core in the Individual and Society area.

**Weaknesses**

None

**Issues and Concerns Discussed**

The subcommittee and Provost’s office made a few small suggestions for changes to the course proposal, including elaborating on the evaluation methods for one learning outcome, and changing the wording of the course description and other text in the proposal. All of the suggested changes were implemented by the proposers.

The subcommittee and Provost’s office also expressed a concern that the course workload, including required readings, is perhaps somewhat high. Discussion with the course proposers clarified their willingness to adjust the workload based on students’ experiences in the course, and to incorporate in-class reading groups to accommodate particularly challenging texts.

**Subcommittee Activities**

The subcommittee met to review the proposal on October 16th, and sent the proposers suggestions for small modifications. The proposers revised the course proposal in advance of the meeting on October 30th with the subcommittee, proposers, Humanities Department Chair Ann Delikan, Dean David Smith, Associate Provost Pam Brown, Provost Bonne August, and Kim Cardascia. Changes discussed at that meeting were implemented in the final proposal.