Interdisciplinary Major Proposal: Art History and Philosophy

I have always been exposed to art of all kinds, painting, drawing, music, and dance. When I was young, my family took me to museums and exhibits; most of the time, I groaned and complained and found the experience rather boring. However, several experiences I have had while at Hendrix changed my mind and peaked an interest in art history and philosophy. While taking Western Art History Survey One, I found myself researching not only art history, but philosophy as well. Slowly, I began to realize the important impact art has on philosophy, religion, law, and history as a whole. Furthermore, I began to understand that philosophy, religion, law, and historical events have had a profound impact on art. The interweaving of these elements made me realize that an Interdisciplinary Studies degree combining Philosophy and Art History, coupled with my Studio Art Major, would be the perfect combination to pursue my passion for art, philosophy, and art history, strengthen my candidacy for graduate school, and enhance my opportunities concerning my potential career path.

I am particularly interested in the effect philosophy has had on artwork; therefore, I have focused my Interdisciplinary Studies Major to classes relevant to this topic. I will take multiple courses in art history and combine these classes with courses in the philosophy department. For instance, Introduction to Philosophical Questioning covered the some of the most important philosophers throughout history including, Plato, Aristotle, Socrates, Kant and John-Paul Sartre. Furthermore, Nineteenth Century Philosophy will cover Hegel and the reactions to his system in Marx, Mill, the American Pragmatists, and Nietzsche. This will go hand in hand with the Nineteenth Century Art History course, which will discuss the developments in European art during the nineteenth century. Aesthetics and Contemporary Art will further my studies concerning the impact of philosophy on contemporary art. Furthermore, I have researched

colleges in Arkansas and found that the University of Arkansas at Little Rock will be offering a summer class that is relevant to this area of study. This course is entitled Ancient History and Thought and is offered in the History department. It will cover social, intellectual, and cultural history of ancient Mesopotamian, Egyptian, Greek, and Roman civilizations.

Capstone Experience:

Because of the focus of classes I have taken concerning artwork, philosophy, and literature of the nineteenth century, I will complete an Independent Study, in the Spring of my senior year, with Dr. Miller, in which I will write a research paper discussing the effects of changes in philosophy on artwork through the nineteenth century. This independent study, combined with an oral presentation, to be given in front of my committee, will constitute my grade for the capstone experience.

Major Requirements:

- 1. ARTS 100 Freehand Drawing (Spring 2007)
- 2. ENGL 256 Major Nineteenth Century American Authors (Fall 2007)
- 3. ARTH 170 Western Art History Survey I (Fall 2008)
- 4. ARTH 171 Western Art History Survey II (Spring 2009)
- 5. ARTH 331 Renaissance and Baroque Art History (Spring 2009)
- 6. ARTH 332 Nineteenth Century Art History (Fall 2009)
- 7. PHIL 110 Introduction to Philosophical Questioning (Spring 2008)
- 8. PHIL 289 Aesthetics and Contemporary Art (Spring 2010)
- 9. PHIL 300 Nineteenth Century Philosophy (Fall 2009)
- 10. PHIL 295 Seventeenth and Eighteenth Century Philosophy (Spring 2010)
- 11. ARTH 499 Independent Study: Capstone (Spring 2010)

UALR:

12. HIST 3301 Ancient History/Thought (Summer 2009)

Current Status: Junior

Faculty committee:

Dr. Miller (Interdisciplinary Studies Committee Chair)

Dr. Falls - Corbitt 1 and Cutor Dr. Ablondi