



30 May 2014

Dear Dean Manderscheid,

This letter is to register my strong support for “ODYSSEUS IN THE OCULUS RIFT,” a team teaching proposal by Art Professor Ken Rinaldo and Classics Professor Tom Hawkins numbered Art/Tech 5194 = Classics 5194.

Art and Technology already enjoys a history of teaching interdisciplinary coursework that typically reaches or exceeds enrollment caps and adds innovative curriculum to our Department of Art program. This last spring, for example, Professor Amy Youngs (Art) co-taught an Art and Color course with Molecular Genetics Professor Iris Meier.

The new course proposal by Professors Rinaldo and Hawkins enhances the spectrum of current Department of Art offerings and effectively addresses the educational and research missions of both the Art and Classics programs. It is also a good fit for our elective offerings in Art.

The course will examine ways in which new media objects both rely on and break from older cultural forms and classic languages to create new narratives and forms to address relations between the viewer, space, illusion and reality. How, for instance, do the classic conventions of linear narrative and rectangular framing of older media impact emergent possibilities and mobile viewpoints surrounding the display of virtual media and interactive technologies?

As Art and Technology and Classics have combined majors in excess of 100 students, we feel confident our students will greet this new course offering with enthusiasm.

Thank you for considering this proposal and for your ongoing support for innovative teaching in the College of Arts and Sciences.

*Michael Mercil*

Michael Mercil  
Interim Chair, Associate Professor