

COLORADO COLLEGE - OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR

APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION TO THE MAJOR IN LIBERAL ARTS & SCIENCES

I wish to major in Liberal Arts & Sciences. I understand that my courses of study within this major must be supported and approved by two faculty sponsors from two different departments, one of whom is my principal sponsor and academic adviser. The project or thesis must be evaluated by both faculty sponsors. However, the Principal Sponsor/Adviser works closely with the student in conceptualizing and completing the thesis and turns in the final grade. The Associate Sponsor acts as a reader of the final draft of the thesis and recommends a final grade to the Principal Sponsor. The approval of the Dean's Advisory Committee is necessary for final acceptance of my plan of study within the major. In addition, I understand that, to make changes in the approved plan, I must have the agreement of each faculty sponsor. A letter in support of the proposed changes should be sent by the Principal Sponsor to the Assistant Dean of the College and the Registrar.

(Please submit 7 copies of this application and your Liberal Arts & Sciences proposal to the Advisory Committee no later than the second semester of your sophomore year. The Advisory Committee will not consider your application until the completed proposal - including faculty recommendations - has been received.)

Name (Please Print) JC ID Number 20

Worner Box none Student Signature [Signature]

Current number of units earned 15 Expected graduation date 5/98

Address [Street] City [City] State [State] Zip 04843

Principal Sponsor/Adviser Donna Arrink Dept Drama

Associate Sponsor Carl Reed Dept Art

Associate Sponsor James Yaffe Dept English

Description of the field of concentration (TITLE) Communicative Arts with emphasis on writing, photography & film

This form must be signed by two faculty members from different Departments who are full-time or adjunct faculty members who will be here (to the best of their knowledge) while the student is completing the major. Sponsors should also forward their letter of recommendation once they have signed this form. Return this form to the Office of the Associate Dean of the College, along with a description of the major and the required courses (including a description of the thesis topic). The Associate Dean will notify both student and sponsors of acceptance or rejection of the proposal, and the outline of the proposed major will be approved by both sponsors and sent to the Registrar. (Any change of adviser must be approved by the Dean's Advisory Committee, upon submission of a letter from the adviser.)

Principal Faculty Sponsor [Signature]

Associate Faculty Sponsor [Signature]

To the Sponsors: Your signature indicates approval of the proposed major. Please comment on this proposal in a brief letter to the Advisory Committee under separate cover. Please indicate your familiarity with the student's past academic performance and comment on his/her ability to carry out a program which requires an unusual amount of independence and responsibility. The Principal Faculty Sponsor/Adviser agrees to be the student's academic adviser and to work closely with the student in composing the major, conceptualizing, revising and completing the thesis.

LIST OF REQUIRED COURSES FOR PROPOSED LIBERAL ARTS & SCIENCES MAJOR

(Note: only between 9 and 14 units can be counted for the major and only two courses at the 100 level may be required in the major. All other courses must be above the 100 level.)

Required courses already taken: with statement as to how courses relate to major.

Included

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Required courses to be taken: with statement as to how courses relate to major.

Included

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Courses completed which are complimentary to the proposed major but not required:

Included \_\_\_\_\_

(Be sure to list General Studies GS 400-401 if you plan to get credit for your thesis.)

Total number of units to be counted toward the major: 14

*Other Requirements:* The student should explain why the proposed goals of the major cannot be achieved through a departmental major or through outside courses taken in addition to the requirement of a departmental major. In addition, the application should be accompanied by a typewritten description of the concentration (major) proposed, that is, a rationale demonstrating the cohesiveness of the proposed program of courses, a listing of the courses completed and to be completed, and a narrative statement for each course indicating how each required course relates to the proposed major as described. Please indicate the content of your proposed thesis including a discussion of objectives and methods.

Associate Dean of the College \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

Please sign below if you give the Committee permission to share your name with other student's pursuing a Liberal Arts and Sciences major. The Committee would like to encourage more networking and support among students electing this option for the major.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature Date

**NOTE:** This completed application must be in the Associate Dean of the College's office by 5:00 p.m., the second Friday of the block in order to be considered at that block's meeting. The Dean's Advisory Committee meets during the 3rd week of each block.

Permanent  
Reserve

Liberal Arts Sciences Major  
Communicative Arts: History, Theory and Practice  
April 5 96

Principal Faculty Sponsor: Donna Arnink- Drama,  
Associate Faculty Sponsors: Carl Reed- Art, James Yaffe- English.

Note: Associate Sponsor James Yaffe has yet to work with me in an academic context and hasn't written a recommendation, but has agreed to work closely with me in the writing component of my designed Liberal Arts and Sciences Major .

## Proposal

At the end of my senior year in high school I designed an independent photo-journalistic research project studying the westernization of Japanese culture. Each morning I would wake up and enter the fast paced world of Tokyo with my camera and my journal to capture the world as it happened. Every day offered another insight into Japan's identity conflict between ancient customs and the increasing presence of western values. I was a photographer by day and a journalist by night. These two roles were separate in practice but alike in theory and purpose. One couldn't survive without the other. I could record each day with a hundred pages but without the correlating pictures from my adventures in the streets, the meanings and power of those words wouldn't survive the flight home. The two modes of documentation fed and resonated off of one another.

When I returned from my independent research project and began to edit the photographic and written work, I was overcome with the absolute power I had harnessed in those few weeks. The art of photo-journalism became my passion and it has been this interest that has propelled my academic interests into college.

With its origins in the late nineteenth century, the use of photo-journalism as a documentary tool has become a communicative norm. There is enormous power to be found in the effective collaboration of language with still or moving pictures. There are examples where this medium has greatly impacted the very world in which we live. The implementation of child labor laws and standard of living laws were initiated by the influential power harnessed by photo-journalism.

My academic career and personal goals all revolve around writing and image documentation. This is the direction I want to carry through college and into the rest of my life. When I leave the Colorado College I will gauge the value of my educational experience by how well the four years have prepared me for this field of work. In anticipation of this I have chosen to design an educational experience that will effectively meet the needs of my short term and long term goals.

This proposed *Communicative Arts Major* aims to investigate the communicative powers of writing and image documentation (which includes photography and film). Each of the fourteen units reinforces the interdisciplinary focus of the major. Writing is the most important component of the major, followed by photography, film, exploratory media and then lighting. These classes will give me the skills I will need to complete an ambitious senior thesis with success and then continue into my career with better preparation. With its rigorous interdisciplinary depth and breadth, this major provides an academic experience that is equally demanding but yet unlike any other departmental major at the Colorado College.

If I am given the opportunity to complete this major, my passion and focus at this college will yield extraordinary work incomparable to that which I could produce in any other departmental major. Each unit

that comprises the *Communicative Arts Major* has been carefully chosen and is extremely valuable to my overall college experience.

**Explanation why the proposed goals of the major cannot be achieved through a departmental major or through outside courses taken in addition to the requirement of a departmental major:**

The goals of my proposed LAS major are deeply rooted in the arts of documentation and the interdependent relationship between the written and the visual. To be an Art Major would mean the exclusion of writing and to be a English Major would mean the exclusion of the visual arts. The interdisciplinary nature of this focused goal forces the fusion of different departments.

The Art major involves thirteen units distributed among art studio, and art history (plus four units of language classes). Many of the art studio courses such as studies in drawing, painting and sculpture are inapplicable to my focus. If I were to pursue this traditional major every block until I graduate would be filled with major requirements and I consequently would not be able to take a single writing class. Since writing and the visual arts are the co-dependent components of my focus, the Art Major doesn't provide me with best possible educational experience.

I chose not to be a English Major with a creative writing track because I am equally interested in the visual arts as they relate to writing. The English Major would give me a foundation in a traditional degree but I feel that it would exclude the primary visual component of my interdisciplinary understanding of the communicative arts. The major would require twelve of my thirteen open units and would not allow for the visual arts. In order for my educational experience to accommodate my interdisciplinary educational interests its absolutely necessary to give significant attention to both the interdependent components of my educational priorities.

My academic interest is firm, focused and committed. The exclusion or replacement of any one component would decrease the educational value of my time at the Colorado College.

**Indication of senior thesis or project of designed major and discussion of objectives and methods:**

The thesis and project planed for my senior year will draw on the historical, theoretical and practical context of film, writing and photography. The project will be the culmination of my academic achievements and will represent the entirety of my knowledge and interest. The interdisciplinary Liberal Arts and Sciences major I have designed will provide the opportunity to investigate and answer several questions: through history, how have written and visual elements been used together to document or illustrate cultural insights, what social impacts have these had, and how can I pull from this historical context

and apply it to my own investigations of written and visual theory and practice? I will incorporate considerations which will give me a broader understanding of the history and theory of the communicative arts. This should strengthen my practical application of these studies.

I plan on using my independent study to investigate a component of a foreign culture. This investigation will enable me to gather the photographs, video footage and written information from the field so my senior thesis time will be opened up for the crucial organizing and editing of the material.

My senior thesis/project will take two forms- a multi-media presentation and a photo-journalistic essay. The first form will be an influential performance for an audience. It will incorporate spoken texts and live recordings of conversations as well as projected photographs and video. Each element will enhance the next in hopes of creating an experience more powerful than just a written essay or a display of photographs. My communicative skills in writing and the visual arts will fuse into a powerful performances of documentation. The photo-journalistic essay will serve as the long-term documentation of my research. Since the previous presentational form I have described will be dependent on the cueing of the visual and audio elements, this second form of documentation will be necessary to preserve my research.

The following courses are of particular interest to me and have been chosen for their historical, theoretical and practical value. The practical component of these courses is meant to develop my skills in writing, film and photography so I will have these sources to pull from in my attempt to communicate personal ideas of high integrity.

#### **Required courses already taken:**

##### **AS 110 Exploratory Media: Video, Performance and Installation (2 units)**

-Structured around workshops with nationally known visiting artists, this nine till five class offers an intensive investigation of the history, theory and practice of new media. The weekly projects that conclude each workshop offer insight as well as practice in the skill of combining different elements together while keeping a strong communicative focus. The class investigates how various forms of media resonate off one another when combined successfully.

##### **DR 307 Lighting Design**

-The course introduces history, theory and practice of lighting design. Close attention is given to the feelings and moods evoked by the use of different lighting techniques. The principles behind this course strengthen and re-enforce the relation between photography and light. Both filmmaking and photography are essentially painting with light and this class has been designed to give the student the tools necessary for this type of painting.

## **Required courses to be taken:**

### **HS 215 Film History & Theory**

-Film in its historical and theoretical dimensions, from its beginning to its present. Film theory: the nature of the medium and its theorists." This course will give me the historical and theoretical background of the film genre.

### **AS 217 Intermediate Photography**

-Photography as an expressive medium. Development of existing skills in seeing, photographing and printing. History, theory and practice come together as a basis for more complete control of the medium as a communicative tool. Also an exploration of the possibilities and limitations of the medium as reflected in writings from contemporary critics and theoreticians.

### **EN 283 Beginning Fiction Writing (2 units)**

-A practice in writing prose fiction. This course offers one of the most intensive writing experiences the school offers. Fast paced demands and class room critiques will help the development of my writing skill and confidence.

### **EN 309 Advanced Fiction Workshop**

-Writing workshop for experienced writers, with focus on issues of craft in fiction. This course will polish and reinforce the demanding skill of writing prose fiction.

### **GS 312 Advanced Independent Video Production**

-This intensive video production course will build off of my fundamental skills in video production and focus on the documentary genre of video production. This advanced course offers the opportunity to develop directing skills and to learn how to "realize" a story in terms of mood, pacing, camera technique, and techniques for working in the demanding documentary context.

### **AS 317 Advanced Photography**

-A portfolio development course for the photographer with emphasis on documentary photography and thought. Rigorous pursuit of individual vision stressed. An intensive research into history, theory and practice of photographic documentation. This course will polish the documentary skill key in the focus of my major. The professor, nationally renown photographer Stuart Klipper is very interested in the nature of images when combined with text and plans on extending this interest into the format of the class.

### **DR 400 Writing for Performance**

-Practice in writing for performance in varied media. This course with its strong emphasis on the step by step process of developing a rough script into a final performance will allow me to strengthen my

"vision" of what a personal documentary film or video will look like before the first steps of shooting take place. The evolution from a written sentence to a performed one will be explored as we look into the nature of performed prose.

### **GS 320 Independent Study**

-"Supervised.. In-field investigations in areas of interest to the students that are interdisciplinary in nature and cross divisional lines with in the college." I will use this unit in conjunction with vacation time to research for over a month in a country of interest in hopes of documenting a component of the foreign culture. The investigation will feed the work of my senior thesis units. It will enable me to hit the ground running as I enter those crucial two blocks.

### **GS 400 & 401 Senior Thesis 1 & 2**

-These units will be used first to research the history and theory of the interdependent relationship between written and visual elements and second to organize and edit the wide range of information, photo's and video footage gathered during my independent study. The product will take two forms- a multi media performance and a photo-journalistic essay.

\* the colorado college bulletin

Total number of units to be counted toward the major: 14  
(400's - 3 units, 300's - 5 units , 200's - 4 units, 100's - 2 units)

### **Courses completed which are complimentary to the proposed major but not required:**

- GS 112 Basic Filmmaking (pre-requisite)
- DR 108 Basic Elements in Production and Design (pre-requisite)
- AH 112 Introduction to Art History (2 units)
- GS 115 Introduction to Film
- EN 211 Fiction w/ emphasis on writing
- EN 221 Introduction to Poetry
- AS 313 Special Studio Problems: Photography (extended format 1/4 unit)