Texas A&M University

Core Curriculum

Initial Request for a Course Addition to the Fall 2014 Core Curriculum

Foundational Component Area: Creative Arts

In the box below, describe how this course meets the Foundational Component Area description for Creative Arts. Courses in this category focus on appreciation and analysis of creative artifacts and works of human imagination. Courses involve the synthesis and interpretation of artistic expression and enable critical, creative, and innovative communication about works of art.

The proposed course must contain all elements of the Foundational Component Area. How does the proposed course specifically address the Foundational Component Area definition above?

ANTH/MUSC 324: This is an interdisciplinary course that applies methodologies from ethnomusicology and cultural anthropology. Students will learn how to analyze musical performances from across the globe, to think critically about cultural similarities and differences, to engage in ethical cross-cultural dialogue employing cultural relativity, and to analyze human behavior using techniques used in the sciences.

Core Objectives

Describe how the proposed course develops the required core objectives below by indicating how each learning objective will be addressed, what specific strategies will be used for each objective and how student learning of each objective will be evaluated.

The proposed course is required to contain each element of the Core Objective.

Critical Thinking (to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information):

Through an Observation Report on a musical performance and a Blog Entry reflecting on an experience investigating a culture outside one's own, as well as through written exams, students will compare and contrast how different cultures use music to structure social, cultural, religious, and political belief systems, describe cultural similarities and differences in ways that illustrate nuance and depth of thought, identify and describe musical systems, genres, instruments, and performers, and apply the musical terminology learned in class to empirically document and analyze musical performances. These experiences guide students in synthesizing course concepts in the analysis and evaluation of musical performance in relation to its cultural context.

Communication (to include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication):

Through oral class discussion, students will develop their skills in ethical and responsible cross-cultural communication. Through a written Observation Report, students will apply musical terminology and techniques for the observation of human behavior to analyze a musical performance, and articulate their results. Through a Blog Entry, students will discuss engagement with a culture outside one's own. Analysis techniques applied in all of these activities includes detecting and interpreting non-verbal (i.e., visual) forms of communication.

Teamwork (to include the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal):

Students will work in teams to observe and analyze a musical performance, discuss and consider each other's interpretations of the musical and other performative elements at work, and develop a consensus analysis in a written Observation Report.
Social Responsibility (to include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities):

Through the Observation Report, Blog Entry, written exams, and class discussions, students exercise techniques for ethical and responsible cross-cultural dialogue to develop intercultural competence, apply critical thinking skills to analyze how different cultures use music to structure social, cultural, religious, and political belief systems to develop their knowledge of civic responsibility, and use the knowledge and skills acquired in class to foster greater understanding of and appreciation for local, national, and international diversity to enable them to effectively engage in communities in those scopes.

Please be aware that instructors should be prepared to submit samples/examples of student work as part of the future course recertification process.