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?

ARTS 149, Art History Survey I, introduces painting, sculpture, architecture, illuminated manuscripts, textiles and sacred and decorative objects produced around the world during the period between the prehistoric era and the 14th century, and broadly focuses on general themes and practices in the visual arts.

The rich variety of cultural expression during this period, including works of painting, sculpture, architecture, illuminated manuscripts, textiles and sacred and decorative objects, will be used to address the understanding and interpretation of art. This course will emphasize the historical and social contexts of human-made objects: their historical setting, and ritual or religious significance, as well as the maker, user and patron associated with these works of art. It will encourage the student to develop skills related to looking at works of art, exploring the ideas of understanding, interpreting, and explaining works of art in the multiple contexts in which they were created.

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):

Learning Outcomes:

- Recognize and understand major artistic works, artists, methods and theories, and be able to assess the qualities of works of art and architecture.
- Develop the basic vocabulary and visual literacy necessary to describe works of art and architecture.
- Visually analyze and communicate relationships, individually and in small groups, between formal elements (style and medium) in works of art within various religious, political, social contexts in the chronology of human history.
- Apply critical thinking to the thematic and/or ideological traditions of western and non-western works of art and architecture.
- Compare and contrast works of art in order to elucidate the means through which they articulate meaning.
- Clearly express ideas related to course content through reflective writing and researched presentations.
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Assessment:
- The students' ability to grasp concepts, analyze, evaluate, and make assessments about the course's subject matter will be assessed through 4 exams and essay questions.
- Honors students will also be evaluated on a written paper analyzing a work of art.
- Through group projects, students will be assessed on their ability to examine, analyze, and summarize influences chronologically and across historical and cultural boundaries.

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

Learning Outcomes:
- Visually analyze and communicate relationships, individually and in small groups, between formal elements (style and medium) in works of art within various religious, political, social contexts, and in the chronology of human history.
- Compare and contrast works of art in order to elucidate the means through which they articulate meaning.
- Clearly express ideas related to course content through reflective writing and researched presentations.

Assessment:
- The students' ability to grasp concepts, analyze, evaluate, and make assessments about the course's subject matter will be assessed through 4 exams and essay questions.
- Honors students will also be evaluated on a written paper analyzing a work of art and its relationship to relevant cultural, religious, and historical traditions.
- Students, organized in small groups, will be responsible for visual, verbal, and written communication relating to the development of topics to be identified during the semester.

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

Learning Outcomes:
- Develop the basic vocabulary and visual literacy necessary to describe works of art and architecture.
- Apply critical thinking to the thematic and/or ideological traditions of western and non-western works of art and architecture.
- Clearly express ideas related to course content through reflective writing and researched presentations.
- Work cooperatively to identify and communicate the associations between works of art across cultures and chronologically.

Assessment:
- Students will be randomly assigned to groups of five students and that these groups will develop their own Facebook page. The randomness promotes social diversity and social responsibility by meeting students from other departments, with other interests and ethnic backgrounds.
- Students in the groups will complete 4 assignments, two individual and two group, which will be posted on their group Facebook page. Each group will choose a name and will be linked to one other group, also chosen at random. One assignment will involve commenting on the sister team's assignments on their Facebook page. Assignments will focus on works with significant
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cross cultural, historical and religious significance. Each group member will be accessed based on the number, quality, and relevance of their Face Book entries.

- Students will be assessed on their critiques of another group project, requiring the examination and analysis from other points of view.
- Students will be evaluated on their ability to compare, assess and reconcile unique points of view through the development of team projects.

Social Responsibility (to include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities):

Learning Outcomes:

- Understand the importance of visual culture in everyday life - within a historical context and in our modern culture.
- Work cooperatively to identify and communicate the associations between works of art across cultures and chronologically.

Assessment:

- Students will be assessed on their knowledge of works of art, themes, artists, patrons and the cultural, historical, religious and social contexts in which they were made through 4 exams and essays.
- Students will be assessed, through team projects, their ability to analyze and categorize the influences of works of art, artists, styles and themes across cultures and societies chronologically and relate findings to current cultures.

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