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?

Dance Appreciation is a survey of dance focusing on how this human expression has developed worldwide. This course will examine the cultural, social and artistic aspects of dance in numerous societies. Course materials will allow students to explore dance forms through academic writings, performance videos, documentaries, and interviews with choreographers and dancers. Students will analyze these dance forms and discuss the historical, social and political influences that surround their development. Various artistic dance genres will be discussed including their major historical figures and their contributions to the art form. Students will be required to attend live performances of cultural/artistic dance. From some of these performances the students will attend a question and answer session with the artists or interview one of the artists. The students will develop questions to pose to the artists in order to complete the written assignments. Dance recently had a resurgence in popular culture with the creation of a number of popular television shows on dance and social media phenomena. This media portrayal of dance and its artists will be discussed including its influence on the professional world of dance and cultures worldwide.

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):

Students will be asked to view dance works and create personal interpretations of the cultural/artistic nature of the work. Artworks are thought provoking and raise questions in the viewer's mind. Students will share these questions that arise with their peers and have discussion on the analysis of dance works. Art is universal but it is also personal and the students will be asked to evaluate on a universal and personal level. The personal level will include an overall evaluation of the work and trying to identify the elements of the work that lead that evaluation. Students will also use historic critical writings and interviews with artists to add to the process.

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

Students will view, read, write and discuss dance as a cultural/artistic form. Numerous videos and a few live performances will allow the students to experience this performing art from many countries. These performances lead to written assessment of the work and how the work impacts the student. At the live performances the students will discuss the art presented with the artists through question and answer sessions. These questions will be instrumental in the analysis of the performance which will be submitted in written format. Students will form discussion groups and share their thoughts on the works being presented.
Texas A&M University

Core Curriculum

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

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 be broken into discussion groups for each assignment. Each student will view the work and create his/her own interpretation and analysis of the work. The students will then discuss their findings with their group. The goal is to share different points of view and discover how different people are affected differently by the same piece of art. These discussions will be presented with the groups findings focusing on what elements where agreed upon in the work and what elements were not.

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

Dance is embedded in our souls and therefore it is everywhere. Cultural/artistic dance is woven into the historical, social, and political aspects of our world. The world influences art just as art influences the world. This connection is easily seen in the development of artistic movements and cultural events throughout history. Through the course students will be exposed to dance from many cultures and how this dance is a part of the everyday life. These cultures dance to celebrate major events, hold onto traditions, social interaction, religious beliefs and even to honor the dead. Artistic dance is created for many reasons as well. Students will understand the relationship between the external world and the development of the art work. We may all have different experiences throughout our lives but we are all human and share a common thread through the arts.

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