Texas A&M University

Core Curriculum

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

Foundational Component Area: Communication

In the box below, describe how this course meets the Foundational Component Area description for Communication. Courses in this category focus on developing ideas and expressing them clearly, considering the effect of the message, fostering understanding, and building the skills needed to communicate persuasively. Courses involve the command of oral, aural, written, and visual literacy skills that enable people to exchange messages appropriate to the subject, occasion, and audience.

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?

The course addresses the Foundational Component Area in the following four ways:

This course introduces students to the principles of rhetoric and provides them with foundational writing skills essential for the completion of researched, persuasive writing for a variety of audiences, particularly the academic community. Reading assignments focus on analysis of rhetorical modes. Writing assignments focus on development of personal responsibility, awareness of audience, purpose, style, and proper use of grammar, syntax and mechanics. English 104 emphasizes academic writing as an activity for the clear expression of ideas, awareness of the effects of messages and the fostering of understanding. The sequence of assignments offers extensive practice in critical thinking, library research, analysis of researched sources, supporting claims, and the use of persuasive appeals. The sequence also offers extensive practice in drafting, revising, and editing researched persuasive essays that support a clear thesis statement with relevant evidence.

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):

CTS: The course will enhance critical thinking skills through regular reading, class discussion, and writing assignments focused on key ideas about persuasive discourse. The evaluation of critical thinking skills will be based on written work, exams, oral presentations, and/or participation in class discussions.

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

CS: The course promotes communication skills through small and large group discussion of major ideas, issues, and questions central to course readings through regular practice in persuasive forms of writing. The evaluation of communication skills will be based on written work, exams, oral presentations, and/or participation during class discussions, individually and/or in teemed groups.

Teamwork (to include the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal):
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T: The course enhances the ability to work in teams by providing students with regular opportunities in and out of class to collaborate with classmates on relevant projects employing written skills, oral presentation skills, and classroom tasks. The evaluation of teamwork ability will be based on participation in collaborative learning projects making interactive, cooperative use of differing points of view in course readings, writing assignments, and oral presentational skills to support a shared purpose or goal.

Personal Responsibility (to include the ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making):

PR: The course teaches personal responsibility by enhancing students’ understanding of how to use sources ethically while composing a persuasive argument or answer to an essay question; the course teaches personal responsibility by regular practice in teams and group discussion about ideas and issues. The evaluation of personal responsibility will be based on assignments in which students are expected ethically to cite another person’s work in composing an oral presentation and/or written research essay.

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