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?

- Framed by field trips to museums and private collections, the course explores the aesthetic intersection of literature (poetry, fiction, nonfiction) and the visual (painting, collage, sculpture, installation art, architecture, and furniture) arts. This intersection occurs through various modes of *ekphrasis* (from the Greek *ek* ("out") and *phrasein* ("speak")), which museum critic Barbara Fischer calls "a form of critical mediation," an invitation for museumgoers to contemplate how they understand the world through both words and things. Course themes include the politics of silence, poetics of erasure, aesthetics of *bricolage*, and intimacy of still lives. Ultimately, the students in this course will not only learn to appreciate the fine and decorative arts through first hand museum-going experiences, but they will have the opportunity to experiment with various aesthetic techniques and collaboratively construct a group manifesto that articulates their own unique vision of the cultural value of the arts.

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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):

*Critical Thinking Skills (CTS):* The course will enhance critical thinking skills through consistent reading and class discussion of key ideas in texts which explore the relationship between literature and other arts. The evaluation of critical thinking skills will be based on exams and class participation and may include written work. Exams will be designed to allow students to demonstrate their ability to evaluate and synthesize key ideas from the assigned reading. Class room discussion will focus on helping students better understand the nuances and complexities of the connection between literature and other arts.

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

*Communication Skills (CS):* The course enhances communication skills through small and large group discussion of ideas, issues, questions, and themes central to course reading and viewing. The course will help students learn how to develop a greater understanding of the relationship between literature and other arts that may involve guided writing assignments in which they will receive feedback, exams in which students will be expected to
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effectively convey key ideas from the course succinctly and clearly, and class room discussion in which students will learn how to express questions and thoughts about the subtleties of each text and object under examination.

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

The course will enhance students’ ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal. Students will be expected to work on collaborative group projects in which they will they have to experiment with an array of aesthetic techniques and frame a statement articulating the cultural value of the arts. Each group will be graded on creativity, organization, and coherence.

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

The course enhances social responsibility by providing students with a cross cultural understanding of how history, region, and broader social forces have shaped the differing interpretations of the connection between literature and other arts. The evaluation of social responsibility will be based upon an end-of-the-semester short writing assignment in which students will be asked to reflect upon how their knowledge of literature and other arts has changed in light of the new information that they now possess. Students will be expected to demonstrate how key insights from the course have helped broaden their understanding of the way history, culture, and philosophical outlooks have shaped the intricate relationships that exist between literature and other arts.

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