Texas A&M University

Core Curriculum

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

Foundational Component Area: Language, Philosophy and Culture

In the box below, describe how this course meets the Foundational Component Area description for Language, Philosophy and Culture. Courses in this category focus on how ideas, values, beliefs, and other aspects of culture express and affect human experience. Courses involve the exploration of ideas that foster aesthetic and intellectual creation in order to understand the human condition across cultures.

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?

**HISP 206** is the study of food, food preparation and consumption in the Hispanic/Spanish-speaking world. Through the study of this aspect of culture, students learn to understand it in its relationship to the culture, time and place. As students study of food, food preparation and consumption, they synthesize and critique through explicit and implicit comparisons and contrasts among various Hispanic contexts and with their own food customs. Given the variety of contexts studied, this course involves different aesthetic, geographical, historical, social and intellectual perspectives on a concern central to the human condition.

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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):**

Students study food, food preparation and consumption in multiple Hispanic contexts, and they are presented with explanations of geographical, social, historical and psychological perspectives on food in the Hispanic world. Synthesis and analysis of multiple practices offer opportunities for critical thinking because they require evaluation of customs and contexts. Inquiry into the context surrounding food offers opportunities for critical thinking because it implies understanding the relationships among the many Hispanic contexts as well a comparison and contrast with the student’s own cultural experiences.

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

The study of the style and content of the foods considered provides exposure to and insights into many different ways in which food communicates geographical, historical, social aspects of a culture. Course learning outcomes involve an understanding and appreciation of various forms in which food speaks about a culture. Other course objectives target students’ effective communication. Students write expositions of specific regional cuisines, and they orally report expository information about Hispanic diets. These outcomes are further targeted by ongoing interpretation of practices related to food and the oral and written expression of ideas about them throughout the course.
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Social Responsibility (to include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities):

This course promotes intercultural competence because students learn to understand, appreciate and evaluate, and to understand food in Hispanic culture(s). The perspectives adopted for the study of food contribute to geographical, historical, and social intercultural competence. The achievement of objectives of cultural/intercultural competence prepares students to more effectively engage glocal society. Glocal -- > “global” in the sense of various world cultures, and “local” in the sense that their own local communities in Texas are increasingly Hispanic.

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

Some of the social and cultural texts studied provide insights into and opportunities for discussion of personal responsibility as it relates to choices about food consumption. At a time when diet is an important topic related to issues of quality of life and personal health, the content of the course relates directly to personal responsibility objectives.

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