Texas A&M University
Core Curriculum
Initial Request for a Course Addition to the Fall 2014 Core Curriculum

Foundational Component Area: American History

In the box below, describe how this course meets the Foundational Component Area description for American History. Courses in this category focus on the consideration of past events and ideas relative to the United States, with the option of including Texas History for a portion of this component area. Courses involve the interaction of individuals, communities, states, the nation, and the world, considering how these interactions have contributed to the development of the United States and its global role.

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?

This course (HIST 230) explores the main events, personalities, and technologies related to American military history from 1609-present. It explores the following themes: How has US military policy changed over time and in what ways has it remained constant? How have the US armed forces evolved and adapted in peace and war? How have Americans tried to balance their need for national security with civilian control of the military? How has the United States begun, waged, and ended its wars? How has the American public's and the armed forces' interpretation of the 'lessons of history' influenced how the US prepares for war?

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):

This course develops the core objective of critical thinking by asking students to interpret and synthesize lecture material and a film related to the main events, personalities, and technologies related to American military history from 1609-present. Students will be asked to discuss how US military policy has changed over time and remained the same and how US armed forces have evolved and adapted in peace and war. Student learning will be evaluated through discussion, quizzes and a midterm and final essay exam.

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

This course develops the core objective of communication by asking students to interpret and discuss information provided in lecture (including visual images and maps), readings, and film. This information relates to topics such as how the American government historically has balanced a need for national security with civilian control of the armed forces and how the United States has begun, waged and concluded wars differently over time. Student learning will be evaluated through discussion, quizzes, a midterm and a final essay exam, all of which include information provided in lecture, readings, and film.

Social Responsibility (to include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities):
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This course will address social responsibility by requiring students to identify (in lectures and reading materials), interpret and synthesize information related to American involvement in civil war (like the American War of Independence and the Civil War) and external war (like the Napoleonic Wars, the Mexican American War, World War I and World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War). Students will be asked to reflect on the role of citizen soldiers versus professional combatants and the complicated division between homefront and battlefield. Student learning will be evaluated through discussion, quizzes, a midterm and a final essay exam, all of which include information provided in lecture, readings, and film.

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

This course will address personal responsibility by requiring students to identify (in lectures and reading materials) and articulate (through exams and quizzes) how the decisions made by individuals, groups and institutions led to shifts in the composition of and control of the American military and subsequent decisions for America to 'go to war.' In discussion, students will be asked to reflect on how they might apply the ethical decision making processes discussed in class to their own contemporary experiences. Student learning will be evaluated through discussion, quizzes, a midterm and a final essay exam, all of which include information provided in lecture, readings, and film.

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