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

Foundational Component Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

In the box below, describe how this course meets the Foundational Component Area description for Social and Behavioral Sciences. Courses in this category focus on the application of empirical and scientific methods that contribute to the understanding of what makes us human. Courses involve the exploration of behavior and interactions among individuals, groups, institutions, and events, examining their impact on the individual, society, and culture.

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 is designed to examine the socio-cultural forces which influence the American education system, from an historical, philosophical, political, and social perspective. The course will have students analyze differences in race, class, culture, ethnicity, gender, and political power in addition to analyzing issues, problems, and solutions as they relate to providing all children with an equitable and quality education.

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):

The students will demonstrate their critical thinking through their readings by discussing and sharing their ideas concerning historical, ethical, cultural, environmental, or circumstantial settings and present their findings to the class. These projects will be assessed using the AAC&U Value Rubric for Critical Thinking.

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

The students will communicate both orally and written about another cultural activity that is new to them and they participated in this semester. They will demonstrate their knowledge of research through the use of correctly formatted citations from peer reviewed journal articles through writing research papers and oral presentations. These projects will be assessed using the AAC&U Value Rubrics for Civic Engagement, Oral and Written Communication. Student presentations will require the use of visual communication and students will be tested on their mastery of quantitative data by being asked to interpret graphs and charts.

Empirical and Quantitative Skills (to include the manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions):

The students will analyze numerical data in journal articles and during class discussions on the topics that are covered in this course and make informed decisions about how this information impacts multicultural education. They will also be tested on graphs and charts using statistical data studied in the course. They will be assessed using the Quantitative Literacy Value Rubric from AAC&U.
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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):

The students will be engaged in a civic activity by visiting and studying the Holocaust Museum in Houston; finding research on the importance of the preservation of information about an important cultural historical event, and writing a reflective paper on their findings. They will also do a cultural plunge into another culture and write and present about their experience to their peers and professor. This reflective paper will be assessed using the value rubric on social responsibility. These projects will be assessed using the AAC&U Value Rubrics for Civic Engagement, Oral and Written Communication. As a part of the assessment the visual communication requirement of using charts and images to explain your cultural statistics will also be required.

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