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?

History of Jazz is a non-technical exploration of America's classical music from earliest recorded blues through the most recent trends. Through synthesis and interpretation of jazz music from an artistic, sociological and historical perspective, this course examines how jazz has broadly expressed and resolved some of the fundamental contradictions and paradoxes of modern life. Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Define the basic musical/structural concepts of jazz including rhythm, harmony, melody, texture and form
- Identify dominant stylistic trends in jazz music written since 1900
- Understand the social, political and geographical influences on jazz
- Respond critically to jazz

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 following critical thinking skills will be assessed through class discussion, group projects, and exams.

- Students will address structural analysis, historical context, and sociopolitical significance through class discussion of listening examples, required readings and lectures.
- Students will present group projects on a variety of topics including jazz history, technology, business, performance and interdisciplinary subjects.
- Students will be required to identify theoretical concepts, historical concepts, artists, compositions and musical styles through exams involving aural and written activity.
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Communication (to include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication):

The following communication skills will be assessed through class discussion, group projects, and exams.

- Students will be required to answer questions during lecture concerning topics discussed in class.
- Students will develop and express communication skills through interaction with peers in their creation and presentation of group projects, making use of visual media to help demonstrate their points.
- Students will effectively communicate their knowledge of aural and written class material on exams.

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 following teamwork skills will be assessed through class discussion, group projects, and exams.

- Students will create, develop and present a successful group project involving audio and visual media and/or live performance.
- Students will be challenged to communicate, explain and expand upon musical and historical concepts through in-class activities.
- Students will develop teamwork skills through group study sessions for exams.

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

The following social responsibility skills will be assessed through class discussion, group projects, and exams.

- Students will interact with faculty and peers in class discussions involving sociopolitical issues as they relate to jazz music.
- Students will examine intercultural relationships in jazz music as a result of its varied international styles and broad global exposure.
- Students will develop their knowledge of civic responsibility through class lectures and ideologica identities as presented in historical videos and jazz compositions.

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