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?

PHIL 111 (Contemporary Moral Issues) includes study discussion and written argument about the nature of the person, justice, society, and animals; about the values that different people associate with each of these; about the beliefs about value and about the nature of these entities; about cultural factors that influence each debate and about the place of each in human society and personal life. The course explores a variety of ideas and demands that students come to understand, express, evaluate and develop different conceptions of the person as a moral being.

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):

PHIL 111 develops critical thinking both in the effort to interpret the arguments and ideas of others and in the effort build and defend the student’s own ideas. Strategies used to develop critical thinking include readings, class discussion, in-class assignments, and written assignments. Evaluation will be based upon examinations and written assignments.

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

PHIL 111 develops communication in the interpretation of difficult texts and images, and the effort to understand and express ideas about morality. Reading, lecture, discussion, and writing assignments are strategies for this objective. Evaluation will be based upon examinations, graded in class assignments, and written assignments.

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

PHIL 111 develops social responsibility through an examination of pressing moral debates in society today, which include questions about one’s own and other societies, civil law, and international issues. Strategies used to develop social responsibility include readings, class discussion, lecture, and writing assignments. Evaluation will be based upon examinations, graded in class assignments, and written assignments.

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


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PHIL 111 develops personal responsibility through a close examination of pressing moral issues that affect society today. Strategies used to develop personal responsibility include readings, class discussions, lecture, and writing assignments. Evaluation will be based upon examinations, graded in class assignments, and written assignments.

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