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 251** (Introduction to Philosophy) includes study, discussion, and written argument concerning different accounts of the good life for human beings, theories of value, theories of knowledge and belief, theories of culture and society, theories of the beautiful, and the process of philosophical inquiry into these subjects. It meets every element of the foundational component area directly and by means of discussion and a variety of readings invites a deep, diverse, and closely examined study of each.

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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):**

**PHIL 251** develops critical thinking both in the effort to interpret the arguments and ideas of others and in the effort to build and defend the student's own ideas. Strategies used to develop critical thinking include readings, class discussion, 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 251** develops communication in the interpretation of difficult texts and images, and the effort to understand and express philosophical ideas and arguments. Readings, lecture, discussion and writing assignments are strategies for this objective. Evaluation will be based upon exams reflecting the student's ability to understand ideas from written texts and from class discussion and upon essays in which students develop and present their ideas.

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

**PHIL 251** develops social responsibility through the examination of the good life, which includes questions about the fundamental structure of society and its justification. Strategies used to develop social responsibility include readings, class discussion, and written assignments. Evaluation will be based upon examinations and written assignments.

**Personal Responsibility (to include the ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making):**
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PHIL 251 develops personal responsibility through the study of human will, the good life, and moral value. Strategies used to develop personal responsibility include readings, class discussion, and written assignments. Evaluation will be based upon examinations 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.