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.

How does the proposed course specifically address the Foundational Component Area definition above?

Students will experience live and taped theatrical productions, and gain a deeper appreciation of the process through discussions of the production elements, the social and political ramifications, and the artistic design behind the plays. Discussions, group projects, and lectures cover not only Western theatrical practices, but the global traditions and contemporary innovations that influence the art form. Students synthesize their knowledge and use their imagination to create group projects together, read and discuss selections from plays, and write critical essays.

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.

Critical Thinking (to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information):

THAR 101 addresses critical thinking by requiring students to discuss and critique different theatrical practices, historic and contemporary movements in theatre, and ways in which theatre has reflected and affected society. The ability to identify production elements, differentiate between performance spaces and describe dramatic structure are building blocks for successful discussions and critiques. Evaluated by participation in obligatory discussions, the writing of a critical essay, quizzes, and exams.

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

THAR 101 addresses communication with required weekly discussions. Students use their textbooks in addition to outside research to respond to the topics in both oral and written form. Three graded group project assignments require students to interpret the knowledge they have acquired in conjunction with research, to draw connections, and create a written, oral, and visual presentation online.

Teamwork (to include the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal):

THAR 101 addresses teamwork by requiring students to work in smaller groups on assignments that analyze theatrical diversity, recognize and appreciate theatre as a form of personal and social communication. Group projects are evaluated based on 3 assignments throughout the semester, which require research and blogging.

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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THAR 101 addresses both early and contemporary global theatrical movements. Students judge the merit of personal artistic expression in the face of social and political ramifications. Students attend a live theatre production and are given guidelines for audience etiquette in a social setting. Students are evaluated on their synthesis of this information via quizzes, exams, discussions and group projects.

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