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.

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

THAR 280 History of the Theatre I focuses on the ways in which theatre has reflected and affected society throughout history. Students in the course will analyze theatre as a window into the conscience of a specific society, recognizing theatre as an expression of the human imagination, and engaging in critical discourse about its interpretation.

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):

Students will demonstrate their understanding of course material through tests given over the semester. Tests will require students to analyze historical facts and evaluate the significance of specific theatrical movements in history with direct parallels to the values and beliefs of a specific culture. Students will be evaluated based on test scores.

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

Students will regularly engage in discussions over course material. Students will be called upon to express their understanding of course material and to discuss the value of intellectual creation and the evolution of the human experience over the course of history. Students will attend a live theatre production and submit an essay in which they interpret the oral and visual content of the production assess their actual experience with their expectations based on their understanding of the course material. Students will be evaluated based on their individual participation and the overall effectiveness of course essays.

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

Students will further their appreciation for theatre as a collaborative means of both global and communal expression by attending a live theatre production over the course of the semester. The production will give students the opportunity to engage in a shared ephemeral experience that encourages artistic exploration while directly reinforcing information from the course. Students will be evaluated based on their physical attendance and intellectual response to the production.
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**Personal Responsibility (to include the ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making):**

Students will reflect on and discuss theatre as a form of personal, often controversial, expression; and judge the merit of personal expression in comparison with its possible social and political ramifications. Students will debate the role of censorship in performance; specifically arguing the ethics of religious and governmental censorship in performative arts. Students will be evaluated based on their understanding of personal responsibility.

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