TO Core Curriculum Office – Faculty Senate Office
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MS 1125

FROM: The Department of Architecture Academic Affairs Committee
Department of Architecture
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MS 3137

DATE: September 10, 2013

RE: ARCH 345 – History of Building Technology

The Department of Architecture is requesting that ARCH 345 – The History of Building Technology – be approved as satisfying American History Core curriculum. At the September 2, 2013 Core Curriculum Committee meeting, the course was unanimously approved on the consent agenda, only to be brought up for review an hour later and tabled for further discussion at the October meeting.

The Department of Architecture Academic Affairs Committee would like to clarify its rationale for bringing the ARCH 345 course forward for certification in the American History core component category. We believe the qualifications of the instructor and the content of the course to be exemplary and within the spirit of the American History component area. This course is taught by Shelley Holliday, a structural engineer with years of professional experience. She is well versed in contemporary and historical factors that have impacted technology and built environments over the years. This course does present and considers interactions among individuals, communities, states, the nation and the world that address contributions to the development of the United States and its global role in the world with respect to building technology.

There is no doubt that courses satisfying the American History core curriculum component category have traditionally been housed only in History Departments. While Texas Tech does offer a course in Woman’s Studies 3323 (History of Women in America) satisfying the American History core, it is unique. The course is also cross listed with History 3323 and is taught by an instructor ad locked to the History Department. However, we see no compelling reason for continuing this trend.

The Department of Architecture Academic Affairs committee believes Colleges outside of the History Department are capable of offering credible, rigorous coursework specific to their discipline within the spirit of the American History core component category.
Texas A&M encourages multi and cross disciplinary perspectives. There is no doubt other Colleges are represented in the History offerings. We note that numerous courses in the History Department are tailored to other Colleges at Texas A&M: HIST 359 (American Environmental History), HIST 363 (History of Science in America), HIST 364 (History of Technology and Engineering in America), HIST 360 (History of Energy in America), HIST 362 (History of Science), HIST 361 (Technology and Engineering in Western Civilization), HIST 446 (Aerospace History), HIST 470 (American Business History). In addition, the THECB website lists the following History courses as satisfying Social and Behavioral Science core curriculum component: HIST 455 (History of the American City), HIST 335 (Socio horticulture). This committee does find it curious that while the Department of History can cross into multiple core curriculum component areas (American History / Language, Culture and Philosophy/Social and Behavioral Science), to date no other College has been able to offer courses in the American History core curriculum component area.

Given projected increased enrollments at Texas A&M, along with University funding tied more directly than ever to mandated target enrollments and, we see no compelling reason why all American History courses must be taught by the Department of History. To do begins to privilege one Department by providing an ensured enrollment of more than 100,000 students a year (assuming a total TAMU enrollment of 50,000 + who are required to take two required American History courses).

More importantly, the Department of Architecture does not wish to provide its students with a core curriculum housed solely in the Department of Architecture. We celebrate the diversity ensured by having our students attend classes in other Departments. We wish to offer this ARCH 345 class as a large class that would attract students throughout the University, while allowing them to study American History from another perspective.

Thank you for your continued work on the Core curriculum committee and for the consideration you have given this course.
against him unless he has been advised of their content and the names of the persons who made them, and has been given the opportunity to rebut unfavorable inferences that might otherwise be drawn; and

(6) to have all findings made at the hearing be final, subject only to his right to appeal to the president and the governing board of the institution.

Added by Acts 1973, 63rd Leg., p. 87, ch. 51, Sec. 6, eff. Aug. 27, 1973.

Sec. 51.244. PENALTIES. A person who violates Section 51.239, 51.241, or 51.242 of this code is guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction is subject to a fine of not more than $500 or imprisonment in the county jail for not more than six months, or both.

Added by Acts 1973, 63rd Leg., p. 87, ch. 51, Sec. 6, eff. Aug. 27, 1973.

SUBCHAPTER F. REQUIRED AND ELECTIVE COURSES

Sec. 51.301. GOVERNMENT OR POLITICAL SCIENCE. (a) Every college and university receiving state support or state aid from public funds shall give a course of instruction in government or political science which includes consideration of the Constitution of the United States and the constitutions of the states, with special emphasis on that of Texas. This course shall have a credit value of not less than six semester hours or its equivalent. Except as provided by Subsection (c), a college or university receiving state support or state aid from public funds may not grant a baccalaureate degree or a lesser degree or academic certificate to any person unless the person has credit for such a course. The college or university may determine that a student has satisfied this requirement in whole or in part on the basis of credit granted to the student by the college or university for a substantially equivalent course completed at another accredited college or university or on the basis of the student's successful completion of an advanced standing examination administered on the
conditions and under the circumstances common for the college or university's advanced standing examinations. The college or university may grant as much as three semester hours of credit or its equivalent toward satisfaction of this requirement for substantially equivalent work completed by the student in the program of an approved senior R.O.T.C. unit.

(b) The requirement of Subsection (a) that the required course must include special emphasis on the Texas Constitution does not apply to a degree granted on completion of an academic program offered by a medical and dental unit, as that term is defined by Section 61.003, to a student who is a member of the armed forces of the United States, including the reserves or national guard, if:

(1) the program is operated by the medical and dental unit under contract with the United States Army;

(2) the program requires less than two years of residency in this state; and

(3) the principal participants in the program are military personnel stationed outside this state.

(c) The governing board of a general academic teaching institution that offers a joint baccalaureate degree program under a contract with a foreign college or university may exempt a student enrolled in the joint degree program from the course requirement prescribed by Subsection (a) if the student:

(1) enrolled in the foreign college or university before enrolling in the joint degree program or is otherwise considered to be primarily a student of the foreign college or university; and

(2) successfully completes the American Way course described by Subsection (d) at the institution the student attends or, with the approval of that institution, at another general academic teaching institution that offers the course.

(d) The American Way course authorized by Subsection (c)(2) must be designed to provide a foreign student with a familiarity and understanding of United States government and civic life and their sources, development, and character. The course must concentrate on important texts, including the United States Constitution and the Declaration of Independence, on the works and contributions of
influential authors, political and cultural leaders, and other important figures, and on important events and developments in United States history. The course must cover important developments in human and civil rights, including the civil rights movement and the history of women's rights. The course must cover the history and development of the State of Texas and its place in United States history and culture. The course must consist of four semester credit hours, with one semester credit hour in practicum activities intended to provide the student with experience in the three branches of government through participation at the federal, state, or local level. The course may not be taken for course credit by a student other than a student described by Subsection (c).

(e) In this section, "general academic teaching institution" has the meaning assigned by Section 61.003.
Amended by:
Acts 2007, 80th Leg., R.S., Ch. 539, Sec. 1, eff. June 16, 2007.

Sec. 51.302. AMERICAN OR TEXAS HISTORY. (a) In this section, "general academic teaching institution" has the meaning assigned by Section 61.003.

(b) Except as provided by Subsection (c), a college or university receiving state support or state aid from public funds may not grant a baccalaureate degree or a lesser degree or academic certificate to any person unless the person has credit for six semester hours or its equivalent in American History. A student is entitled to submit as much as three semester hours of credit or its equivalent in Texas History in partial satisfaction of this requirement. The college or university may determine that a student has satisfied this requirement in whole or part on the basis of credit granted to the student by the college or university for a substantially equivalent course completed at another accredited college or university, or on the basis of the student's successful completion of an advanced standing examination administered on the
conditions and under the circumstances common for the college or university's advanced standing examinations. The college or university may grant as much as three semester hours of credit or its equivalent toward satisfaction of this requirement for substantially equivalent work completed by a student in the program of an approved senior R.O.T.C. unit.

(c) The governing board of a general academic teaching institution that offers a joint baccalaureate degree program under a contract with a foreign college or university may exempt a student enrolled in the joint degree program from the course requirement prescribed by Subsection (b) if the student:

(1) enrolled in the foreign college or university before enrolling in the joint degree program or is otherwise considered to be primarily a student of the foreign college or university; and

(2) successfully completes the American Way course described by Section 51.301(d) at the institution the student attends or, with the approval of that institution, at another general academic teaching institution that offers the course.


Amended by:


Sec. 51.303. ELECTIVE COURSES IN DACTYLOLOGY. (a) In this section, "dactylology" means the art of communicating ideas by signs made with the fingers, as in the manual alphabets of deaf-mutes.

(b) Any state college or university offering a fully accredited program for teachers of the deaf may offer a three-hour elective course in dactylology.

(c) American Sign Language is recognized as a language, and any state institute of higher education may offer an elective course in American Sign Language. A student is entitled to count credit received for a course in American Sign Language toward