College of Arts and Sciences (April 6, 2017)

College of Arts and Sciences

Non-expedited undergraduate curriculum addition.

U.S. Multicultural Overlay

Purpose: To educate students on the historical and contemporary inequities related to race and ethnicities that are currently considered as non-white in the United States.

U.S. Multicultural Overlay Criteria

All four criteria must be met in a one-semester course.

1. Courses that fulfill the overlay requirement will have a preponderance of their content on race and/or ethnicities that are perceived as non-white.

2. Courses that fulfill the overlay requirement will promote awareness of the structural nature of inequities in relation to race and ethnicity within contemporary U.S. culture.

3. Courses that fulfill the overlay requirement will incorporate readings and academic research on historically marginalized communities and structural inequities within the United States. These readings will include writings and/or research by people from these communities and backgrounds. Discipline-specific exceptions will be considered with input from faculty in the discipline.

4. Courses that fulfill the overlay requirement will assess student understanding of structural inequities within the United States through reflective analyses incorporating written, statistical, and/or oral methods.

ANTH 513, 605, 615, 710
ENGL 285, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 655
GWSS 105, 321, 325, 345, 350
HIST 537, 539
MC 612
PHILO 380, 525
PSYCH 556, 557
SOCIO 463, 541, 545, 570, 647
SPAN 560

Select topics courses may fulfill the overlay pending content approval:
AMETH 560, ENGL 395, HIST 533, GWSS 300, 500

RATIONALE: Given the historical and contemporary inequities experienced by races and ethnicities that are currently considered as non-white in the U.S., it is vital for our students to engage with these issues. Therefore, the Arts & Sciences Diversity Committee is proposing that the College of Arts and Sciences incorporate a 3-credit hour course requirement, “U.S. Multicultural Overlay,” into the College of Arts and Sciences basic requirements.
While the existing International Overlay addresses global issues, the purpose of the U.S. Multicultural Overlay differs in that it will focus on "how social, political, economic and historical issues impact race and/or ethnic relations" within the United States which is a framework of The Tilford Group. Courses that fulfill the multicultural overlay requirement must have a primary focus on race and/or ethnicities that are considered as non-white. However, the content may also intersect with analyses of gender, sexual orientation, language, culture, religion, mental and physical ability, age, socio-economic status, citizenship status, and immigration status.

The U.S. Multicultural Overlay provides a focused list of courses that address the structural nature of inequities in relation to race and ethnicity within contemporary U.S. culture. These courses would simultaneously fulfill the current K-State 8 requirement for "Human Diversity in the U.S."

This proposal is strongly supported by the Interim Dean of Arts and Sciences, the Arts and Sciences Diversity Committee, the Student Senate, and the Diversity 2025 Committee. It represents two years of work by multiple subcommittees and includes research into diversity requirements at our peer institutions. There is consensus from the majority of Arts and Sciences department heads that the U.S. Multicultural Overlay is ready to move forward. The program name has evolved over the past two years based on student and faculty input. Students will be contacted annually to take an assessment survey that is developed by the committee. This program evaluation will continue for a minimum of three years as the program matures.

This overlay can be easily recognized by DARS and will not change the required number of hours for degree completion. It will apply to entering first year students beginning fall 2017. Currently, 49 existing courses from multiple departments will satisfy the overlay. Over half of these courses have no prerequisite. Within these courses, sufficient seating is available to accommodate timely progression to degree. Students may satisfy the overlay at the same time as they satisfy basic requirements in the humanities or social sciences categories. Approved courses must fulfill all four learning outcomes in a one-semester class. An initial list of approved courses is included below. The Arts & Sciences Diversity Committee will assess and approve additional courses as submitted by departments. Courses will be reviewed once per semester, according to the criteria checklist. Appeals are permitted.

1 The K-State Tilford Group is a research and development "think tank" consisting of interdisciplinary faculty, administrators, staff and students who work together to develop a multicultural curriculum model that facilitates the total student experience
http://tilford.k-state.edu/mission-project-outcomes.html
http://tilford.k-state.edu/history-development/index.html
http://tilford.k-state.edu/resources/multicultural-competency-development.html

IMPACT: Impact of the U.S. Multicultural Overlay throughout the College has been carefully considered and support for the overlay is strong (see details below). Over the past two years, all twenty-four Arts and Sciences department heads received notification of the development of the U.S. Multicultural Overlay. Appendix D: Curriculum Form, stating rationale and criteria was submitted for consideration and feedback. Additionally, Open Option, Interdisciplinary Life Science, Physical Science, Humanities and Social Science, and Pre-Health programs received the same information. The Arts and Sciences Diversity Committee, which has representation from most departments, examined departmental feedback following the initial submission and significantly revised the overlay to address the primary concerns. The U.S. Multicultural Overlay was submitted again in its current form to all department heads February 2017.

The College of Arts and Sciences Diversity Committee received the return of twenty-one Impact Forms for the overlay proposal. The majority fully supported the initiative. Twenty department heads had no objection. One department head neither objected nor endorsed the proposal. Three departments did not respond to the request for an impact statement, though there was no objection from these departments at the Department Heads meeting in February 2017 or at the Faculty meeting April 6, 2017. Open Option and Pre-Health programs, Life Science, Physical Science, Humanities, and Social Sciences majors fully supported the proposal. At the general Arts & Sciences Faculty meeting April 6, 2017, of forty-nine votes, forty-seven voted yes, two voted no and six voted yes by proxy.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Fall 2017