Changes to the LSC History Core discussion

History Curriculum Team
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In the past few weeks, the History curriculum team has had extended discussions concerning the issues of adding:

Mexican American History I  2327
Mexican American History II  2328
African American History I  2381
African American History II  2382

We understand that adding these courses to the core would mean that these courses would enable students to substitute 2327 or 2381 for U S History 1301 and 2328 or 2382 for History 1302. They are listed as possible substitutes by the ACGM.

This is not an easy decision. And our concerns are many. The following is a summation of many personal conversations about these concerns.

Concerns about transfer- we are concerned that some of the Texas Public Colleges and Universities may not accept these courses as substitutes- thus adding an additional burden of further lower level courses at their selected transfer college, for students who select these new courses instead of History 1301 and History 1302.

The History Curriculum team has investigated this concern through a variety of channels.

We have Valerie Jones’ summation of how the courses should work- from a meeting with Faculty Senate Presidents. -We can add these courses to the core, and they are supposed to transfer to any Texas state university. It should work seamlessly because these courses are coded in the same manner as 1301 and 1302. If the transfer courses are checked by computer there should be no issue at all and that is how most colleges do things now. However, if it is checked by hand- then the first few students may have to appeal to that college. Meaning if you’re in charge of looking to see American History, and that is what
you have always seen- then you see Mexican American history- you may not know that is acceptable the first time you see it. But the THECB- these courses are in the core and acceptable as such. African American History is newer and not all colleges have it as part of their core but as you can see it is coded the same. Dr. Jones said it is the 060 that the computers look for.

A transfer discussion Valerie Jones conducted with the 4- year colleges that our students are most likely to transfer too has also been attached. It is not entirely positive, but it is also not entirely hopeless.

THECB core transfer communications have also been investigated. Here is a link to the THECB Education Code- it is very long. https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/ED/htm/ED.61.htm#61.821

"A student shall receive academic credit for each of the courses transferred and may not be required to take additional core curriculum courses at the receiving institution unless the board has approved a larger core curriculum at the institution."

We have also done some of our own investigations of colleges that already accept these new courses as core and colleges that do not- or do not yet.

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Texas A&M does not even list Mexican American history in their core at all.
https://core.tamu.edu/?_ga=2.14297655.1481351381.1604345785-1044647644.1594651612

UH does not list and AA courses in its core requirements, but does list Latin/x course.
http://publications.uh.edu/content.php?catoid=36&navoid=13119#american_history

SHSU required six hours of U.S. History and allows up to six hours of World History in their Language, Philosophy and Culture component area. I do not see MA or AA anywhere.

http://catalog.shsu.edu/undergraduate/academic-policies-procedures/degree-requirements-academic-guidelines/core-curriculum/

The History Curriculum team has also included an advisory to the advisors and transfer agents that this may become an issue for students in the application.
The History Curriculum team also notes that there are several other two-year colleges already offering these courses. Austin Community College is offering all the classes as core as seen above. San Jacinto Community College is offering both Mexican American History courses as core, but it does not the same for African American History. The same is true for Dallas Community College. Houston Community College offers all of these courses as American history core courses.

https://www.hccs.edu/finder/general---academic-core/

https://www1.dcccd.edu/catalog/coursedescriptions/detail.cfm?loc=econ&course=HIST

https://publications.sanjac.edu/courses-az/hist/

https://www.hccs.edu/programs/areas-of-study/liberal-arts-humanities--education/history/

It is the expectation that the issue of transfer to become less and less a problem.

Concerns about Enrollment

Will these classes make? Will there be a demand for these classes? Will students think these courses stigmatize them?

Offering these classes and putting them on the same level as other history classes will hopefully remove any issues that might make the student feel stigmatized and the history curriculum is not interested in speculating about the variety of peoples who might wish to take this class.

The demand currently for these courses at Lone Star College is not high because they would be considered as electives. Most students are not looking to take history courses as electives; however, Cy Fair offered and made a Mexican American I course in Fall 2019.

When these courses are considered as core as they either are core or are required for field of study-these classes are offered at San Jacinto College, Houston Community College, and at Dallas Community College. See the attached document.

We cannot know whether our student body will take these courses, but it is possible that they might.

Concerns about Equivalency

Are these courses equivalent to the United States History I and United States History II?

The ACMG provided by the state declares these courses to be equivalent. This document is attached as well. All of the course descriptions in discussion specifically say that they may be acceptable as substitutes.
Will they be learning the important content that students would learn in the U S History 1301 and 1302 courses?

The THECB had a variety of discussions about this at a recent meeting and Kimberlee Ball just happened to be a representative of community college at the Board meeting. There was a conversation about the content covered in these course- most particularly in the discussion about Mexican American history classes. The discussion was not necessarily conclusive, though it was brought up that high schools will now be offering this course and it would be beneficial to have teachers trained to teach it. Meeting notes are linked here.


Regardless they are now listed in the ACGM as possible substitutions for 1301 and 1302.

But our question is- is the state right?

The most questionable courses are the courses for Mexican American histories and these courses have much more detailed Student Learning Outcomes that align these courses to the important events covered in U S history courses.

If a student were to take Mex American history I and US history II, they will miss the Civil War and Reconstruction.

But the SLOs are not topic specific and if the courses are meeting the SLOs then it really is a lesser concern. We allow a lot of leeway in what is discussed in American history. It is up to the discretion of the faculty member. And history classes give them a perspective about history.

Should we recommend students who take 2327 also take 2328 to avoid the possibility of never learning about the Civil War?