Proposed Common Courses and Distribution Lists

Common Courses:

1. CE 10XX: Cultural Events Experience
   Attendance at two College of Arts and Sciences-approved quality cultural events in either Art, Music, Theatre, Film, or other Literary/World Cultures events.

2. Chapel
   Baylor students gather to worship together, to engage important issues of our day, and to be inspired by speakers, artists, academicians, and leaders from every vocation.

3. CIV 31XX: Civic Engagement Seminar
   Working with the appropriate department, students will learn about, and become actively involved in civic enterprises by volunteering their services within the greater Waco community.

4. ENG 1302: Thinking and Writing
   A course designed to help students develop the rhetorical knowledge and practical habits of successful college writers.

5. ENG 23XX: Literary Interpretation
   This course will equip students to analyze and appreciate literary works in English from a range of genres, such as poetry, drama, prose fiction, and sophisticated non-fiction prose.

6. HIS 13XX: US History in Global Perspective
   An introduction to the history of the United States within a global context from 1776 to the present, the course examines the ways a distinctly American society developed within larger patterns of world history.

7. PHI 13XX: Introduction to Critical Thinking
   An Introduction to a variety of useful strategies for thinking well, for avoiding common errors in reasoning, and for composing and evaluating deductive and non-deductive arguments. The emphasis will be on acquiring proficiency in identifying, interpreting, (re)-constructing and evaluating both categorical and non-categorical arguments.

8. PSC 13XX: The U.S. Constitution, Its Interpretation, and the American Political Experience
   A study of the philosophic and historical background, development and content of the United States Constitution, and its interpretation by the Supreme Court in a complex and ever-changing multi-ethnic, multi-racial and multi-religious society.

9. REL 1310: Christian Scriptures
   An introduction to the Old and New Testaments (their contents, historical backgrounds, and major themes) and to appropriate strategies for interpretation of the Bible.

10. REL 1350: Christian Heritage
    An introduction to Christian life and thought, from the early church to the present, through an examination of great texts with an emphasis on Christian doctrine, ethics, witness and institutions.
Distribution Lists:

1. Contemporary Social Issues - 9 credits proposed
Insights gained through the study of contemporary social issues take on a critical significance at a time when the world’s population is increasing rapidly and diverse societies and cultures are coming into closer contact and in some cases, with intensifying conflict.

2. Creativity-Fine Arts and Performing Arts - 3 credits proposed
Courses approved to fulfill the creativity requirement will focus on “doing” art or examining “how art is ‘done’”/the creative process.

3. Critical Thinking - 3 credits proposed
Effective problem solving and good decision-making require competent techniques, attention to evidence, and resistance to bias and distraction. While all fundamental forms of critical thinking share many features, a very important one is a disciplined capacity to ask good questions. And asking the right sort of questions may prompt better decision-making, better problem solving, and better arguments and evaluation of arguments.

4. Foreign Language Acquisition - 12-14 credits proposed
Since Baylor’s Mission is to “educate men and women for worldwide leadership and service,” it is essential that graduates be able to demonstrate proficiency in a second language at the intermediate level.

5. Foundations of the Modern World - 3 credits proposed
To understand the issues facing citizens of the modern world, our students must understand the origins of peoples, civilizations, nations, cultures, and religions. A pervasive modern bias against the distant past holds that modernity can dispense with its roots. Students will find that many of the issues facing contemporary humanity have a perennial aspect. Understanding the nature of such issues across cultures and time will foster a longer and broader perspective on events, such that students can respond wisely to the challenges facing our modern world.

6. History - 6 credits proposed
Students will understand the broad trajectories of national and world history and their role in the development of contemporary world systems while gaining understanding of and empathy for people, past or present, from other societies, races, genders, ethnicities, cultures, and socio-economic statuses.

7. Quantitative Reasoning - 3 credits proposed
Quantitative thinking fosters appreciation of the intelligibility of creation, refines critical thinking skills, enables deeper understanding of certain aspects of the world in which we live, and enables more lucid communication of those aspects.

8. Research Writing - 3 credits proposed
Building on the knowledge and skills developed in English 1302, students will learn and practice writing and research skills integral to academic, civic, professional or technical pursuits.

9. Scientific Method I: course with laboratory experience - 4 credits proposed
Focused on the core concepts of scientific literacy and that integrates scientific methods and examples of data-driven decision making into lecture. Employs laboratory with physical objects or simulated (virtual) exercises which allow problem-based or inquiry-based learning in the laboratory.

10. Scientific Method II: Grand Challenges of Science - 3 credits proposed
Must address issues related to at least 3 of the “grand challenge” areas listed: History and Philosophy of Science, Origins: Universe/solar system, atmosphere, hydrosphere, biosphere, geosphere, Evolution/Extinction, Climate Change/Anthropocene, Natural Resources: Utilization and Conservation, Key issues in Global Health, Ethical issues in Science/Medicine.