Common Course  
A&S Core Curriculum

I. Course Title: Thinking and Writing

II. Credit Hours: 3

III. Course Level: 1000

IV. Department or Departments responsible for teaching course: English

V. Proposed Description: A course designed to help students develop the rhetorical knowledge and practical habits of successful college writers.

VI. Core Curriculum Objectives:

Clear writing is crucial to success in many disciplines. This course will help students develop skills necessary for the completion of an academic degree and also essential for personal and professional life beyond Baylor. Thinking and Writing aims to do the following:

1. Develop skills that will enable students to write effective, error-free prose.
2. Teach students how to assess rhetorical situations and use the concepts of purpose, audience, context, and genre to write for a variety of situations.
3. Equip students with different methods of invention to generate ideas, claims, supporting details, and evidence.
4. Develop students’ critical reading and critical thinking skills by analyzing effective expository writing. Additionally, students will compose, analyze, and revise their own expository writing, and peer review their classmates’ writing. This will include exposing students to descriptive and normative modes of ethical reasoning in writing.
5. Teach students expository structures used to respond, explain, analyze, evaluate, problem-solve, and argue.
6. Reinforce the process used to write effective prose—planning, drafting, revising, and editing. Students will use this process to compose a minimum of six expository essays.

VII. Justification:

1. A&S Core Curriculum Vision Part II, B: “As rational beings, students require the intellectual rigor, integrity, and acumen necessary for the pursuit of truth.”
2. A&S Core Curriculum Vision Part II, B: “Students will develop the skill of critical reasoning in many ways, including problem-solving, composing essays, and writing lab
reports. In doing so, the core curriculum will encourage students to cultivate patience and intellectual humility in the search for truth.”

3. A&S Core Curriculum Vision Part II, D: “Students will develop critical language for discussing art and literature, as well as skills for articulating their informed response to such works.”