Subject: University Core Curriculum Plan

Subject Librarian Liaison: Edward Kownslar

Section I: Program Description

The University core curriculum is a 45-semester-hour program of study that is required of undergraduates to provide them with a foundation for further study and learning. Students will be involved with core curriculum course work through the junior year. (Undergraduate transfer students have several ways of fulfilling the core curriculum requirement. For details, please see “General Education Requirement” in the section entitled “Undergraduate Programs.”)

Each course in the core curriculum has been reviewed and approved on the basis of its potential to contribute to the achievement of the following core goals:
1. To introduce students to the content and methods of a broad range of disciplines (e.g., natural sciences, social sciences, fine arts);
2. To help students develop intellectual skills (including reading, writing, speaking, listening, mathematical competency, and critical thinking) which are essential for learning in various disciplines, and for continued learning in life outside of the University;
3. To provide four perspectives: a) the individual in relation to the larger society and the world, with emphasis on understanding contrasting views; b) the principles and ethics that govern human interaction in society and the production of goods and services; c) the phenomena of the physical world and the relationship of the individual and society to it; d) the relationships among abstract quantities.
4. To help students recognize connections between different disciplines and perspectives. Achieving the goals listed above prepares students for academic work in the majors, enables them to develop their own goals, values and perspectives, and helps them become reflective, productive citizens.

(Source: 2009-2010 Undergraduate Catalog)
Section II: Collection Levels

The library allocates funds for materials that support studying issues that are taught and discussed in the UCCP classes. The subjects can cover a variety of subjects and topics (social, political, historical, religious, etc.) and can vary each year. Also, these materials are purchased in different formats (books, DVDs) and genres (films, television series, documentaries, etc). The UCCP faculty liaison purchases these materials based on suggestions from faculty members who teach in the University Core Curriculum Program, as well as the instructors in the First Year Writing Program. All materials are one-time purchases; the UCCP funds are not designated for subscriptions.

The library adheres to library collection standards set by the State Higher Education Coordinating Board (http://www.thecb.state.tx.us/), the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (http://www.sacs.org/) and other accreditation agencies.

Section III: Preferred Collection Formats and Languages

Preferred Collection Format(s): Print format for monographs and DVD format for media materials

Language: English is the language of collection.

Section IV: Noteworthy Publishers:

Depending on the subject, the publishers can vary. Documentaries on DVD are often available from PBS Video, Discover Channel, and National Geographic Explorer.

Section V: Weeding Policy

(Including Frequency of Collection Assessment):

All materials purchased with UCCP funds are cataloged and integrated with the regular collections; there is no designated collection for UCCP materials. Therefore, materials purchased with UCCP funds are examined and weeded when the subject into which they are integrated is scheduled to be examined and weeded. Most of the materials are classified in the “D”, “E”, “H” or “P” call number areas.
Section VI: Gift Policy:

The library will accept donations of materials (monographs, periodicals, etc.) in this subject area. All donors are encouraged to fill out, and sign, a form with the Technical Services Department when the library accepts those materials. If the donor allows the library to keep all donated materials, then the library has the discretion about whether to integrate those materials into the collections or use them in another capacity, such as: (1) Donating those titles to another library; (2) Including them in the annual book sale; or (3) Recycling the materials if no other parties or organizations can use the materials. However, the donor can also specify on the form that they would like all donated materials returned to them if the library cannot add those materials to the collections.

The library will add gift books to the collections only if they support the curriculum and student research in the University Core Curriculum Program.

The Library will generally add print periodical titles to its collections under the following conditions: (1) The library already has a current subscription to that title; (2) The library has determined that there is adequate room for older print volumes of that title; (3) The library does not own those titles but they fit the subject’s selection criteria.

Revised by E. Kownslar, 8/3/2009.

Approved by Library Director, 8/15/2009.