

By: Puente

H.B. No. 1311

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to requiring a course in multicultural or gender studies  
3 in baccalaureate degree programs at public institutions of higher  
4 education.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

6 SECTION 1. Subchapter F, Chapter 51, Education Code, is  
7 amended by adding Section 51.305 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 51.305. MULTICULTURAL OR GENDER STUDIES REQUIREMENT.

9 (a) An institution of higher education as defined by Section 61.003  
10 may not award a baccalaureate degree to a student unless the student  
11 successfully completes at the institution a course of at least  
12 three semester credit hours in multicultural studies or gender  
13 studies approved for that purpose by the Texas Higher Education  
14 Coordinating Board.

15 (b) For purposes of this section:

16 (1) multicultural studies may include a general  
17 examination of multicultural experiences, perspectives, or other  
18 aspects of a pluralistic society, including studies examining  
19 multiple religious traditions, beliefs, or perspectives, or  
20 studies that consider or recognize a broad range of cultural,  
21 ethnic, or religious perspectives or contributions in a specific  
22 topic, field, or discipline; and

23 (2) gender studies may include a general examination  
24 of the roles, history, experiences, or contributions of individuals

1 from the perspective of gender, or similar studies in a specific  
2 topic, field, or discipline, and may include studies focusing on  
3 the significance of gender in any field or discipline.

4 (c) An institution of higher education may determine that a  
5 student has satisfied the requirement of Subsection (a) on the  
6 basis of credit granted to the student by the institution for a  
7 course completed at another public or a private or independent  
8 institution of higher education if the course completed at a public  
9 institution of higher education has been approved for purposes of  
10 this section by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board or if  
11 the course completed at a private or independent institution of  
12 higher education is substantially equivalent to a course approved  
13 for purposes of this section by the coordinating board. The  
14 institution may not allow a student to satisfy that requirement on  
15 the basis of the student's successful completion of an examination  
16 for course credit.

17 (d) This section does not apply to a baccalaureate degree  
18 awarded before September 1, 2007. This subsection expires January  
19 1, 2008.

20 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2005.