SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS FORMS

New Course Request

Use this form to request a new common or unique course. Consult the system course database through for information about existing courses before submitting this form.

BHSU	College of Liberal Arts/Mathematics & Social Sciences
Institution	**Division/Department**

Pamela Canivean	Click here to enter 12/23/25
Institutional Approval Signature	**Date**

Section 1. Course Title and Description

If the course contains a lecture and laboratory component, identify both the lecture and laboratory numbers (xxx and xxxL) and credit hours associated with each. Provide the complete description as you wish it to appear in the system course database, including pre-requisites, co-requisites, and registration restrictions.

Prefix & No.	Course Title	Credits
HIST 353	Forging the American Nation	3

NOTE: The Enrollment Services Center assigns the short, abbreviated course title that appears on transcripts. The short title is limited to 30 characters (including spaces); meaningful but concise titles are encouraged due to space limitations in the student information system.

Course Description

This course traces the growth of the United States from new republic to global power during the long 19th century. It will explore both the continuities and changes between Antebellum America and the period from Reconstruction through World War I, by seeing the Civil War as both breakpoint and bridge.

NOTE: Course descriptions are short, concise summaries that typically do not exceed 75 words. DO: Address the content of the course and write descriptions using active verbs (e.g., explore, learn, develop, etc.). DO NOT: Repeat the title of the course, layout the syllabus, use pronouns such as "we" and "you," or rely on specialized jargon, vague phrases, or clichés.

Pre-requisites or Co-requisites (add lines as needed)

Prefix & No.	Course Title	Pre-Req/Co-Req?
None		

Registration Restrictions

None

Section 2. Review of Course

2.1. Will this be a unique or common course (*place an "X" in the appropriate box*)?

☒ **Unique Course**

If the request is for a unique course, institutions must review the common course catalog in the system course database to determine if a comparable common course already exists. List the two closest course matches in the common course catalog and provide a brief narrative explaining why the proposed course differs from those listed. If a search of the common course catalog determines an existing common course exists, complete the Authority to Offer an Existing Course Form. Courses requested without an attempt to find comparable courses will not be reviewed.

Prefix & No.	Course Title	Credits
HIST 352	Revolution and Early National United States	3
HIST 360	Antebellum America and the Civil War	3
HIST 363	The United States from 1890-1940	3

Provide explanation of differences between proposed course and existing system catalog courses below:

The above listed courses cover segments of what the proposed HIST 353 would cover, but by being three distinct courses they perpetuate a false discontinuity between these time periods that the propose course would correct. One of the main tenets of historical scholarship is identifying, exploring, and explaining continuity and change over time. By placing the nineteenth century within one thematically-driven course, students can better engage with this crucial tenet of scholarship.

☐ **Common Course** *Indicate universities that are proposing this common course:*

☐ BHSU ☐ DSU ☐ NSU ☐ SDSMT ☐ SDSU ☐ USD

Section 3. Other Course Information

3.1. Are there instructional staffing impacts?

☐ **No.** Replacement of _____

(course prefix, course number, name of course, credits)
*Attach course deletion form

Effective date of deletion: Click here to enter a date.

☒ **No.** Schedule Management, explain below:
The proposed course (HIST 353) will be offered on a rotating basis, roughly every other odd spring semester.

☐ **Yes.** Specify below:

3.2. Existing program(s) in which course will be offered (i.e., any current or pending majors, minors, certificates, etc.):

HIST 353 will be offered as an elective within the BS/BA HIST and BSED HIST programs.

3.3. Proposed instructional method by university *(as defined by AAC Guideline 2.4.3.A)*:
Please provide a brief description of how the course is appropriate for the instructional method, as defined in AAC Guidelines.

Lecture (code R).

3.4. Proposed delivery method by university *(as defined by AAC Guideline 2.4.3.B and 2.4.3.B(A-1))*:

Face-to-face (code B01)

3.5. Term change will be effective:

Fall 2026

3.6. Can students repeat the course for additional credit?
☐ Yes, total credit limit: _____ ☒ No

3.7. Will grade for this course be limited to S/U (pass/fail)?
☐ Yes ☒ No

3.8. Will section enrollment be capped?
☒ Yes, max per section: 30 ☐ No

3.9. Will this course equate (i.e., be considered the same course for degree completion) with any other unique or common courses in the common course system database?

☐ Yes ☒ No
If yes, indicate the course(s) to which the course will equate (add lines as needed):

Prefix & No.	Course Title

3.10. Is this prefix approved for your university?
☒ Yes ☐ No
If no, provide a brief justification below:

Section 4. Department and Course Codes (Completed by University Academic Affairs)

4.1. University Department: School of Mathematics & Social Sciences

4.2. Banner Department Code: BSMS

4.3. Proposed CIP Code: 54.0102

Is this a new CIP code for the university? ☐ Yes ☒ No

NEW COURSE REQUEST
Supporting Justification for On-Campus Review

Dr. Thomas Weyant		10/17/2025
Request Originator	**Signature**	**Date**
Dr. Daluss Siewert		10/17/2025
Department Chair	**Signature**	**Date**
Dr. Amy Fuqua		10/17/2025
School/College Dean	**Signature**	**Date**

1. Provide specific reasons for the proposal of this course and explain how the changes enhance the curriculum.

The proposed course (HIST 353: Forging the American Nation) would offer students a unique exploration of the United States in the nineteenth century that would promote engagement with a core principle of historical study: continuity and change. The existing survey courses (HIST 151 & HIST 152) bifurcate the history of the United States at the Civil War and Reconstruction. The implication is that the Civil War and Reconstruction represent a crucial break point in American history, suggesting that what came before and that which followed deviate substantially. While the Civil War and Reconstruction do represent an important moment of change, they also provide a means by which to identify continuity between antebellum America and the nation entering the Gilded Age and Progressive Era. Encouraging students to identify these continuities, challenges the assumed totality of change and rupture of American history generally connected with the Civil War.

Additionally, for history education majors, a course that focuses in greater depth on the whole of the nineteenth century can have positive ramifications as they study for and take the PRAXIS exam in American history. For students considering further research or entering into public history fields, the proposed course opens avenues of scholarship that could generate research projects with lives that reach beyond their undergraduate studies here at BHSU.

2. Note whether this course is: ☐ Required ☒ Elective

3. In addition to the major/program in which this course is offered, what other majors/programs will be affected by this course?

None

4. If this will be a dual listed course, indicate how the distinction between the two levels will be made.

N/A

5. Desired section size 25-30

6. Provide qualifications of faculty who will teach this course. List name(s), rank(s), and degree(s).

Thomas Weyant, Assistant Professor, Ph.D. History (comprehensive exam field in 19th Century American History)

7. Note whether adequate facilities are available and list any special equipment needed for the course.

Facilities are adequate and no special equipment is required.

8. Note whether adequate library and media support are available for the course.

Library and media support are adequate.

9. Will the new course duplicate courses currently being offered on this campus?
   ☐ Yes ☒ No
   If yes, provide justification.

10. If this course may be offered for variable credit, explain how the amount of credit at each offering is to be determined.

N/A

11. Add any additional comments that will aid in the evaluation of this request.