

THTR113 : Community Theater for Social Change

General Information

Author:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Jeanette FarrSparfeld, Tobin
Course Code (CB01) :	THTR113
Course Title (CB02) :	Community Theater for Social Change
Department:	T ART
Proposal Start:	Fall 2025
TOP Code (CB03) :	(1007.00) Dramatic Arts
CIP Code:	(50.0501) Drama and Dramatics/Theatre Arts, General.
SAM Code (CB09) :	Non-Occupational
Distance Education Approved:	No
Will this course be taught asynchronously?:	No
Course Control Number (CB00) :	CCC000645711
Curriculum Committee Approval Date:	10/09/2024
Board of Trustees Approval Date:	12/17/2024
Last Cyclical Review Date:	04/10/2024
Course Description and Course Note:	THTR 113 explores community-based theater for social change as it has existed in various times and spaces. Students will learn the ways in which theater has played a central role in social change and revolutionary movements. Emphasis is placed on transforming passive audience members into active, dramatic participants. Students spend time analyzing performances and methods, later exploring personal injustices and creating original, flash theater pieces to speak to these injustices.
Justification:	Coding/Category Change Content Change
Academic Career:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Credit
Mode of Delivery:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">In-Person
Author:	No value
Course Family:	Directing, Playwriting, Management

Academic Senate Discipline

Primary Discipline:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Theater Arts
Alternate Discipline:	No value
Alternate Discipline:	No value

Course Development

Basic Skill Status (CB08)

Course is not a basic skills course.

Allow Students to Gain Credit by Exam/Challenge

Course Special Class Status (CB13)

Course is not a special class.

Pre-Collegiate Level (CB21)

Not applicable.

Grading Basis

- Grade with Pass / No-Pass Option

Course Support Course Status (CB26)

Course is not a support course

General Education and C-ID

General Education Status (CB25)

Not Applicable

Transferability

Transferable to both UC and CSU

Transferability Status

Approved

Cal-GETC

Area 3A: Arts

Area 3B: Humanities

Area

Arts

Humanities

Status

Pending

Pending

Approval Date

No value

No value

Comparable Course

No Comparable Course defined.

Units and Hours

Summary

Minimum Credit Units (CB07) 3

Maximum Credit Units (CB06) 3

Total Course In-Class (Contact Hours) 54

Total Course Out-of-Class Hours 108

Total Student Learning Hours 162

Credit / Non-Credit Options

Course Type (CB04)

Credit - Degree Applicable

Noncredit Course Category (CB22)

Credit Course.

Noncredit Special Characteristics

No Value

Course Classification Code (CB11)

Credit Course.

Variable Credit Course

Funding Agency Category (CB23)

Not Applicable.

Cooperative Work Experience Education Status (CB10)

Weekly Student Hours

	In Class	Out of Class
Lecture Hours	3	6
Laboratory Hours	0	0
Studio Hours	0	0

Course Student Hours

Course Duration (Weeks)	18
Hours per unit divisor	54

Course In-Class (Contact) Hours

Lecture	54
Laboratory	0
Studio	0
Total	54

Course Out-of-Class Hours

Lecture	108
Laboratory	0
Studio	0
Total	108

Time Commitment Notes for Students

Students will need to devote time to analyzing texts, as well as creating texts and rehearsing for very brief flash theater scenes.

Units and Hours - Weekly Specialty Hours

Activity Name	Type	In Class	Out of Class
No Value	No Value	No Value	No Value

Pre-requisites, Co-requisites, Anti-requisites and Advisories

Prerequisite

Prerequisite: None.

Entry Standards

Entry Standards	Description
No value	No value

Course Limitations

Cross Listed or Equivalent Course

Description

No value

No value

Specifications

Methods of Instruction

Methods of Instruction

Collaborative Learning

Methods of Instruction

Discussion

Methods of Instruction

Guest Speakers

Methods of Instruction

Lecture

Methods of Instruction

Multimedia

Methods of Instruction

Presentations

Out of Class Assignments

- Writing assignment that may include journal entries, reading responses, personal narratives, monologues or scenes
- Preparation for presentations and group projects
- Research activities including gathering and evaluating material from a variety of sources

Methods of Evaluation

Rationale

Exam/Quiz/Test

To assess understanding of theater terms and context for social justice minded theater

Activity (answering journal prompt, group activity)

To allow time for reflection on studied works as well as personal injustices students see in their daily lives

Presentation (group or individual)

Students can create their own piece of justice minded theater to be presented as a piece of flash theater in traditionally non-theatrical spaces

Writing Assignment

Students can write analytically about studied works, injustices they pushed back against and their efficacy

Textbook Rationale

Much of what this class will cover stems from Boal's Theatre of the Oppressed and his Games for Actors and Non-Actors. Listed is the most recent edition of his Games for Actors and Non-Actors. Other texts look at examples of this type of theater in practice. While circumstances continue to change, the approach of this type of theater remains constant.

These are all classic texts with respect to this course's subject matter.

Textbooks

Author	Title	Publisher	Date	ISBN
Boal, Augusto	Games for Actors and Non-Actors	Routledge	2002	0415267080
Campbell, Ali	Theatre of the Oppressed in Practice Today	Methuen Drama	2019	1350031410
Diamond, David	Theatre for Living: The Art and Science of Community-based Dialogue	Trafford	2008	978-1-42512-458-8
Boon, Richard and Jane Plastow	Theatre and Empowerment: Community Drama on the World Stage	Cambridge	2004	0521817293
Kuftinec, Sonja	Staging America: Cornerstone and Community-Based Theater	Southern Illinois University Press	2003	0809324962
Cohen-Cruz, Jan	Engaging Performance: Theatre as Call and Response	Routledge	2010	0415472148
Fisek, Emine	Theatre & community	Macmillan Education	2019	9781352006445

Other Instructional Materials (i.e. OER, handouts)

No Value

Materials Fee

No value

Learning Outcomes and Objectives

Course Objectives

Analyze works of community-based theater in relation to cultural and historical significance.

Demonstrate an awareness of basic theatrical elements including dialogue, monologue and improvisation.

Contextualize dramatic work in response to current, personal and societal injustices.

Examine Paulo Freire's theory of education.

Evaluate ways in which the techniques from Augusto Boal's "Theater of the Oppressed" can be used in working with social issues.

Evaluate how theater and performance may function as historical memory and help societies heal from the experiences of cultural violence, crisis, and trauma.

SLOs

Critique historically relevant works of justice-centered theater and the impact they had on inciting change. Expected Outcome Performance: 70.0

Identify justice issues that currently impact students. Expected Outcome Performance: 70.0

Compose, develop, direct and perform pieces of flash theater that respond to current justice issues in an effort to incite change. Expected Outcome Performance: 70.0

Explain the role of theatre as a tool for social change in a historical perspective. Expected Outcome Performance: 70.0

Additional SLO Information

Does this proposal include revisions that might improve student attainment of course learning outcomes?

No

Is this proposal submitted in response to learning outcomes assessment data?

No

If yes was selected in either of the above questions for learning outcomes, explain and attach evidence of discussions about learning outcomes.

No Value

SLO Evidence

No Value

Course Content

Lecture Content

Theatre of the Oppressed (6 hours)

- How Theatre of the oppressed differs from standard theatre
- Theater as conflict resolution
- Community building aspects of theater
- Theater as therapy
- Theater as an agent of liberation and/or freedom
- Opposition to government legislation
- Major branches

Theater-inspired Movement (10 hours)

- May include Teatro Campesino, The Living Theater or San Francisco Mime Troupe
- Inclusion of dramatic works covering multiple identities (race, language, age, socioeconomic status, cultures, abilities, etc.).
- Provide historical/cultural context
- Injustices groups faced
- Techniques used
- Videos/documentation of performances
- Scholarly responses to performances

Theater Games for Actors and Non-Actors (10 hours)

- Improvisation
- Devised Theater
- Conflict activities/resolution
- Solidarity with the audience
- Making the audience active participants

Research contemporary justice issues (6 hours)

- Basic research skills to learn more about core issues
- Monologues of issues that are personal to students

Writing process toward developing pieces of justice-minded flash theater (10 hours)

- Brainstorming
- Drafting
- Workshopping
- Revision

Rehearsal of Flash pieces (10 hours)

- Establishing roles
- Direction
- Collaboration
- Technical Elements
- Props
- Costumes

Performance (2 hours)

- Choosing site on campus for flash scenes
- perform on campus in non-traditional theater site

Total hours: 54

Additional Information

Is this course proposed for GCC Major or General Education Graduation requirement? If yes, indicate which requirement in the two areas provided below.

Yes

GCC Major Requirements

No Value

GCC General Education Graduation Requirements

Arts, Foreign Language, Literature, and Philosophy

Repeatability

Not Repeatable

Justification (if repeatable was chosen above)

No Value

Resources**Did you contact your departmental library liaison?**

Yes

If yes, who is your departmental library liaison?

Adina Lerner (Technology & Aviation, Visual & Performing Arts)

Did you contact the DEIA liaison?

Yes

Were there any DEIA changes made to this outline?

Yes

If yes, in what areas were these changes made:

- Course Description
- Course Content

Will any additional resources be needed for this course? (Click all that apply)

- No

If additional resources are needed, add a brief description and cost in the box provided.

No Value