

**Core Curriculum  
Course Proposal Cover Sheet**

**Department:** Fine Arts

**College:** Liberal & Fine Arts

**Department Head:** Teresa Davidian

**Course Prefix & Number:** THEA 404

**Course Title:** Theatre and Criticism

**Course Description:** A study of the philosophy of aesthetics in theatre and the arts. From the works of various philosophers, directors and actors beginning with Aristotle to contemporary writers.

**Please select the THECB Foundational Component Area for which this course is being submitted. (*Please select only one*)**

**Creative Arts**

# CREATIVE ARTS

## FOUNDATIONAL COMPONENT AREA JUSTIFICATION FORM

Rationale: Please provide a rationale for the course which explains how the course being proposed fits into this component based on the component's description. For your convenience, the overall description and rationale for this component are included below.

Creative Arts (from THECB Chapter 4: 4.28)

- Courses in this category focus on the appreciation and analysis of creative artifacts and works of the human imagination.
- Courses involve the synthesis and interpretation of artistic expression and enable critical, creative, and innovative communication about works of art.

The following four Core Objectives must be addressed in each course approved to fulfill this category requirement: Critical Thinking Skills, Communication Skills, Teamwork and Social Responsibility.

- Critical Thinking Skills: to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information;
- Communication Skills: to include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication;
- Teamwork: to include the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal.
- Social Responsibility: to include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.

### **Rationale for Inclusion in this Category:**

***THEA 404: Theory and Criticism*** is an upper-level general education course that emphasizes Critical Thinking, Communication, Teamwork, and Social Responsibility. Theory and Criticism should remain a part of Tarleton's core offerings since it offers students a more challenging option as their arts core requirement. It also serves Tarleton students since it can help them to fulfill the required 45 upper-level hours needed for graduation. Though this class may not be the right choice for all students, having the option for a rigorous, writing-intensive class and meeting diverse degree options optimizes Tarleton's ability to provide excellence for our students.

**STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOME ALIGNMENT FORM**  
**Creative Arts**

**Course Prefix/Number:** THEA 404

**Course Title:** Dramatic Theory and Criticism

**Core Objective: Critical Thinking** CT1: Students will evaluate evidence in analysis, interpretation or arguments

Course SLO(s): Students analyze theatrical performances and scripts from a variety of historical viewpoints.

Learning Activities: Class lecture and attendance of live theater performances.

Means of Assessment: Essay, tests with embedded questions, and a major written exercise covering a student-selected play and how theorists have viewed the work. Common rubric with two graders will be used to grade all written work; rubric criteria will include items pertaining to writing style and vocabulary.

**Core Objective: Critical Thinking** CT2: Students will synthesize varied components of information to form a rational conclusion.

Course SLO(s): Students explain historical importance of particular plays and how they influence modern theatrical theory.

Learning Activities: Student class presentations and lectures.

Means of Assessment: Students give presentations that compare and contrast various forms of live theater. A major term paper will address the synthesis of modern drama and historical movements. Two different rubrics will be used, one to grade presentations and the other for the term paper. Rubric criteria for the term paper will include items pertaining to writing style and vocabulary.

**Core Objective: Communication** C1: Students will express ideas in written, visual or oral forms to a range of diverse audiences in multiple settings.

Course SLO(s): Students will express themselves effectively in written papers on the societal importance of theater to our modern society

Learning Activities: Students attend live theatrical events and class lectures, and practice essay-writing exercises.

Means of Assessment: Written papers that emphasize the ability of theater to communicate complex ideas. Common rubric with two graders will be used to grade written papers; rubric criteria will include items pertaining to writing style and vocabulary.

**Core Objective: Teamwork** TW1: Students will work in coordination to complete specific tasks.

Course SLO(s): Students work together to understand the cooperative nature of theater and how it is often needed to achieve a given outcome.

Learning Activities: Two graded group projects that encourage the students to explore at least two contrasting theatrical forms.

Means of Assessment: Common rubric with two graders will be used to grade presentations about the group project.

**Core Objective: Social Responsibility** SR1: Students will demonstrate an understanding of different cultural perspectives

Course SLO(s): Students discuss theater from a variety of cultural and social norms and how theater is a reflection of the society that produces the theater.

Learning Activities: Students will experience theatrical performances that reflect a particular culture and share it with the class.

Means of Assessment: Short written exercise that emphasizes the diversity inherent in theatrical productions and embedded questions in essay tests. Common rubric with two graders will be used to grade written exercise and essay tests.

As department head, I will ensure that all faculty that teach this course are aware of the requirements that these core objectives and learning strategies be incorporated into the above referenced course. This action is taken so that Tarleton State University will be in compliance with Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board foundational component area and core objective requirements for the General Education Core Curriculum.

Signature     Teresa Davidian    

We, the undersigned faculty, support the proposed changes to this course and agree to incorporate them into our section of the above referenced course. This action is taken so that Tarleton State University will be in compliance with Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board foundational component area and core objective requirements for the General Education Core Curriculum.

*(Signed document should be kept in department office, listing names below on the electronic document implies acceptance)*

Mark Holtorf

Carol Stavish

Prudence Wehnert-Skinner