

Form E-1-A for Boston College Core Curriculum: 2019

Department/Program: Theatre Department

1) Have formal learning outcomes for the department's Core courses been developed? What are they? (What specific sets of skills and knowledge does the department expect students completing its Core courses to have acquired?)

a. To serve the University as a Fine Arts Core requirement:

i. Description of University Arts Core: (<http://www.bc.edu/sites/core/requirements/arts.html>)

"The need to make, experience, and comprehend art has been one of the essential, defining human activities since history began. The arts are thus integral to human experience and expression, the development of critical interpretive skills, an understanding of creative processes, and the fostering of imagination and empathy. The critically engaged practice of the arts, arrived at through rigorous training, uniquely nurtures creativity and innovation. Anchored in experimentation and creative problem-solving, the arts challenge students to make connections across traditional disciplinary boundaries.

Three credits of coursework in art history, studio art, film, music or theater are required and will address some combination of the following:

- ii. To introduce students to the fundamentals of theatre practice, all with an eye toward providing a foundation upon which more advanced theatre classes can be built.
- iii. To build an audience for our own Theatre Department productions via Intro student attendance at our productions.
- iv. To encourage non-theatre students to take additional theatre courses here, perhaps even consider pursuing theatre as a major or minor.

2)

Learning Outcomes:

A graduating Boston College Theatre major will be able to:

analyze dramatic texts, theatrical events, and experimental forms with critical intelligence;  
articulate an understanding of the role of theater in culture and society and how each shapes the other over time;  
collaborate with others and solve problems in the planning and production of theatrical events;  
exhibit creativity and imagination in making theater—in attitude, process, and ability;  
demonstrate proficiency in one or more of the following disciplines: acting, directing, design, playwriting, stage management, and technical production.

- 3) Other than GPA, what data/evidence is used to determine whether students have achieved the stated outcomes for the Core requirement? (What evidence and analytical approaches do you use to assess which of the student learning outcomes have been achieved more or less well?)

The survey, which has been consistent from year to year, will be sent next year. [See Addendum A on page 4 for the 2018 results].

Course evaluations from this this academic year were used to as insight into students learning. Taking their comments verbatim from the forms, it demonstrates that they are achieving the learning outcomes we intended. Here are some selected comments from the course evaluations spanning all sections.

"The strengths of this course are the collaborative nature of the projects. Practicing theater in the different roles, director, acting, producing, made this class interesting."

"This course opens up your eyes to a subject matter I honestly would have never thought much about. I took this course on advisement of my cousin Aaron Tveit, who is a famous Broadway/movie actor. His brother, Jon, went to BC and said he loved his theater, and honestly I'm not disappointed. I actually loved attending class and learning."

"The course teaches a broad understanding of the history and development of the theatre while applying this to a variety of interesting plays."

"The exposure to different cultures and social norms throughout history that influenced theater over the years worked well."

"The assignment where we had to write a critique and attend a theater production-> found how much I loved it and ended going to all the theater productions during the semester."

"She taught us how theater truly touches all academic disciplines. She did not shy away from things that can be controversial topics at BC like race."

"I really liked exploring the historical, cultural, and social background behind important plays. I also really enjoyed learning about the process of writing, directing, producing, and designing plays. I also enjoyed when we watched performances because it was helpful to see the scripts we read acted out. It was great to learn about all of the aspects that go into a production, and I have a greater appreciation for theatre now than I did before."

"It can cultivate student how to appreciate the world."

"I took it for an arts core, but really enjoyed the plays we read and watched. It changed the way I watch things and analysis performances now."

"It teaches you to be creative and to think outside the box. It makes you look at art in a unique manner."

"This course covered an overview of many theatre concepts and allowed me to see how the different components work together to create productions. It was also very good at getting us to get out of our



## Addendum A

Survey results from 2018. The questions address the core objectives for the arts.  
There were 117 total responses from students for the Spring semester.

The core class they enrolled in:

Introduction to Theater:	97.2%
Elements of Dance:	2.8%

Were you exposed to the art form of Theatre and the methods with which it is created?

Definitely	92.2%	(85.6% in 2017)
Somewhat	7.1%	
Not at all	0.7%	

Are you able to discern how theatre has been used through history to both teach and entertain its audience?

Definitely	85.8%	(80.7% in 2017)
Somewhat	14.2%	
Not at all	0 %	

Do you think that you are now able to have an intelligent discussion about theater and its practice?

Definitely	61.7%	(56.6% in 2017)
Somewhat	36.2%	
Not at all	2.1%	

Have found any connection between the Theater Core course and other disciplines on campus?

Definitely	49.6%	(46.3% in 2017)
Somewhat	39.7%	
Not at all	10.6%	

Do you feel your theater study has enhanced your awareness of the human experience?

Definitely	50.4%	(44.9% in 2017)
Somewhat	40.4%	
Not at all	9.2%	

Were you introduced to new concepts and methods of artistic expression through exposure to theater and theatrical practice?

Definitely	78.0%	(77.5 in 2017)
Somewhat	19.9%	
Not at all	2.1%	

Do you feel you better understand how quality theater is produced?

Definitely	84.4%	(76.7% in 2017)
Somewhat	12.8%	
Not at all	2.8%	

