General Education Course Information Sheet Please submit this sheet for each proposed course

Department & Course Number	Theater 106	
Course Title	History of American Theater and Drama	
Indicate if Seminar and/or Writing II cours	e	
1 Check the recommended GE founda	tion area(s) and subgroups(s) for this course	
Foundations of the Arts an	d Humanities	
 Literary and Cultural Ana 	llysis	Х
 Philosophic and Linguisti 	c Analysis	
• Visual and Performance A	Arts Analysis and Practice	Х
Foundations of Society and	Culture	
Historical Analysis		
Social Analysis		
Foundations of Scientific I	nquiry	
• Physical Science		
<i>With Laboratory or De more)</i>	monstration Component must be 5 units (or	
• Life Science		
With Laboratory or De more)	monstration Component must be 5 units (or	

2. Briefly describe the rationale for assignment to foundation area(s) and subgroup(s) chosen.

Theater 106 is a survey of the great American plays of the 20th century. Plays are examined both as great contributions to 20th century canonical literature, as well as seminal theatrical pieces that explore significant ideas and historical changes in American society while exemplifying acting and production practices of their respective eras. In so doing, the course becomes a cultural and social analysis of America in the last century – from the American dream of owning a home, to the societal implications of wars such as World Wars I and II and the Vietnam conflict. The course integrates social analysis as we investigate shifting perspectives of the nuclear family, the fragmentation of society, as well as the inclusion of female, African-American, gay, and other minority voices. By tracing the evolution of dramatic genres and the impact of technology on production techniques as depicted in footage of many different live performances, the course also shows how American drama owes much to cultures and literary forms from around the world.

3. "List faculty member(s) who will serve as instructor (give academic rank): Gary Gardner, Professor

Do you intend to use graduate student instructors (TAs) in this course?	Yes	Х	No	

If yes, please indicate the number of TAs 2

4. Indicate when do you anticipate teaching this course over the next three years:

2012-2013	Fall Enrollment	 nter ollment	 Spring Enrollment	X 100
2013-2014	Fall Enrollment	 nter ollment	 Spring Enrollment	X 100
2014-2015	Fall Enrollment	 nter ollment	 Spring Enrollment	X 100

5. GE Course Units

Is this an <i>existing</i> course that has been modified for inclusion in the new GE? Yes		Yes	No	Х
If yes, provide a brief explanation of what has changed.				
Present Number of Units: _5	Proposed Number of U	Jnits:	5	

6. Please present concise arguments for the GE principles applicable to this course.

General Knowledge	A nation's soul is reflected in its arts. America led the world in the art of theater for most of the 20 th century. This course is an examination of the progression of the great American playwrights—from Eugene O'Neill through Tennessee Williams and Arthur Miller to still-living and contemporary playwrights like Edward Albee and Sarah Ruhl. The ideas presented on stage will inevitably expand students' knowledge of American society and culture throughout the 20 th century. Broad topics—such as race, class, sexual orientation, war, religion, and the family—are examined through selected canonical works to present a broad, diverse perspective of 20 th century American life.
Integrative Learning	The topics of the plays in the course require understanding of a wide range of disciplines: literary theory (including principles of Aristotelian drama), literary criticism, theater history, gender studies, psychology, sociology, racial history, and seminal historical events of the 20 th century. As students examine these plays, they will employ a variety of methodologies to approach the material, including literary analysis and an understanding of both performance fundamentals and technical/theatrical aspects of the work. Students must also attend a minimum of one live presentation of an American play not included in the syllabus, thereby inviting them to participate more actively in an ongoing national conversation in the context of live performance.
Ethical Implications	The course touches on religious theater, protest theater, the rise of 1960s counterculture, feminist theater, gay theater, and theater from racial minorities, as we try to define what makes an American play hold true to its American identity, if such an identity even exists in the first place. The plays challenge readers' and viewers' ethical mores and assumptions, while spawning vigorous class discussions and debate about the various issues they raise.
Cultural Diversity	The idea of an 'American' identity and its fragmentary implications as explored in these plays invite relevant questions about our nation today: Is there an overall America as we start into the 21 st century? Or is there a gay America, a black America, a female America, etc.? Are these plays for segmented audiences, or is there a wider cultural diversity emerging as we trace the progression of these plays and their characters' search for the American Dream?
Critical Thinking	This class's focus has been on studying plays that reflect the search for the American Dream, the expanding economic philosophies of our country, as well as trends in socio-sexual and patriotic differences. Students are required to take the analytical skills used in their assigned readings, filter them through their knowledge gained of various critical interpretations and relevant contextual events, and apply them to a work of their choice in their final research paper. They are asked to synthesize what they have learned and come up their own point of view of what values they bring to their reading/seeing of plays.

□ Rhetorical Effectiveness	This course is writing-intensive, and requires upper division writing and verbal skills. Students have to interpret and analyze the ideas and themes intended by these playwrights, and then provide commentary of their own on whether the playwright achieved these intentions. In-class presentations are also required on a group project and on individual research papers. The goal of those presentations is to convince and educate their classmates, and to force the students to be able to discuss their thoughts not only in writing but also verbally.
□ Problem-solving	

□ Library & Information Literacy

Aside from the final exam, the 10-page research paper is the most heavily weighted of all the assignments. Students must identify and utilize several outside sources and use proper citation in their papers.

(A) STUDENT CONTACT PER WEEK (if not applicable write N/A)				
1.	Lecture:	4	(hours)	
2.	Discussion Section:	1	(hours)	
3.	Labs:		(hours)	
4.	Experiential (service learning, internships, other):		(hours)	
5.	Field Trips:		(hours)	
(A) TOTAL Student Contact Per Week 5 (HOURS)				
(B) O	JT-OF-CLASS HOURS PER WEEK (if not applicable wri	te N/A)		
1.	General Review & Preparation:		(hours)	
2.	Reading	6	(hours)	
3.	Group Projects:	1	(hours)	
4.	Preparation for Quizzes & Exams:	1	(hours)	
5.	Information Literacy Exercises:		(hours)	
6.	Written Assignments:	4	(hours)	
7.	Research Activity:	1	(hours)	
(B) T(OTAL Out-of-class time per week	13	(HOURS)	
GRAN	GRAND TOTAL (A) + (B) must equal at least 15 hours/week		(HOURS)	

THEATER 106 – History of American Theater and Drama (5 units) Professor Gary Gardner UCLA Department of Theater Office: 1347 Macgowan Hall Email: ggardner@tft.ucla.edu

Course Description:

A nation's soul is reflected in its arts. America led the world in the art of theater for most of the 20th century. Theater 106 is a survey of many of those great American plays.

Plays in this course are examined both as contributions to 20th century canonical literature, as well as seminal theatrical pieces that explore significant ideas and historical changes in American society, while exemplifying the acting and production practices of their respective eras. In so doing, the course becomes a cultural and social analysis of America in the last century – from the American dream of owning a home, to the societal implications of wars such as World Wars I and II and the Vietnam conflict. The course integrates social analysis as we investigate shifting perspectives of the nuclear family, the fragmentation of society, as well as the inclusion of female, African-American, gay, and other marginalized voices. Does the American dream apply to both genders, all ethnicities and various political leanings?

By examining the most renowned texts of each decade, we trace the evolution of the American Dream and how the changes in it reflect the changes in American society. By tracing the evolution of dramatic genres and the impact of technology on production techniques as depicted in footage of many different live performances, the course also shows how American drama owes much to cultures and literary forms from around the world.

The idea of an 'American' identity and its fragmentary implications, as explored in these plays, invite relevant questions about our nation today. Our focus in this class will be to look at plays that reflect the search for the American Dream, the expanding business principals of our country, and the trends in socio-sexual and patriotic differences. Ultimately, the notion of a singular American Dream is examined as a much more fractured and variable concept depending on the era, the author, and the social group from which he or she hails. Students are expected to consider these diverse viewpoints, and synthesize them to determine their own perspective of what values they bring to their reading/seeing of plays.

Course Objectives

- 1. To learn the production history and content of great American plays of the 20th century and the socio-economic times in which they were written.
- 2. To build skills for understanding and analyzing the contributions of theater artists to American culture over the last 100 years.

- 3. To learn how to carefully read plays and critical articles about those plays. Learn the analytical skills necessary to determine what a play says on the surface and in subtext.
- 4. To learn how these plays were shaped in their original productions and subsequent productions by contemporary issues of race, gender, ethnicity, economics, and historical events.
- 5. To foster students' capacity to think critically and conceptually about their research paper and group projects; teaching them to draw parallels between works and consider the perspectives of those who have contributed to the academic analyses of these plays.
- 6. To learn how to present ideas clearly and persuasively in an oral report; to collaborate in a group project; and to write a well-researched paper.
- 7. To apply lessons learned about American theater history and themes, and their contemporary instantiations, by attending one live performance of an American play not covered in the syllabus.

Readings

The following plays are required reading:

- 1. Desire Under the Elms by Eugene O'Neill
- 2. You Can't Take It With You by George S. Kaufman and Moss Hart
- 3. *All My Sons* by Arthur Miller
- 4. Cat on a Hot Tin Roof by Tennessee Williams
- 5. Fifth of July by Lanford Wilson
- 6. Sticks and Bones by David Rabe
- 7. Buried Child by Sam Shepard
- 8. The American Dream by Edward Albee
- 9. Death of a Salesman by Arthur Miller
- 10. A Streetcar Named Desire by Tennessee Williams
- 11. Loman Family Picnic by Donald Margulies
- 12. Belle Reprieve by Split Britches Collective
- 13. A Raisin in the Sun by Lorraine Hansberry
- 14. Ma Rainey's Black Bottom by August Wilson
- 15. Torch Song Trilogy by Harvey Fierstein
- 16. Love! Valour! Compassion! by Terrence McNally

17. *The Heidi Chronicles* by Wendy Wasserstein18. *In the Next Room (or The Vibrator Play)* by Sarah Ruhl

In addition to these required readings, you will read from a selection of plays for your research paper.

Plays are available for purchase at UCLA Bookstore—either on campus or online. They are also available at stores and from online booksellers such as Amazon.com.

Assignments

Two page papers: In these short response papers, you will be asked to critically respond to a prompt. These papers are intended to be response papers, and therefore do not require outside sources. For example: *In three paragraphs tell me what the playwright's intentions were, given the time the play was written and the audience for which it was written. Explain how well you feel the playwright achieved those goals. Do you think those goals still hold resonance with you today?*

Final Exam: This cumulative exam is comprised mostly of short answers, multiple choice questions, and a choice of several essays.

Research Paper: You will be required to write a ten-page research paper that expands your knowledge of one particular playwright or genre of plays. You may choose one topic from the list below, or other topic of your choosing. You must get permission from me if you would like to write on a different topic.

The paper must quote at least five different sources, and you may not use Wikipedia. While I prefer a typical research paper structure, some of the best papers have been written in the style of the subject they were covering (e.g., a complete paper on Sondheim's *Finishing the Hat* written in verse).

Optional paper topics:

- 1. Timebends (an autobiography) by Arthur Miller.
- 2. *Finishing the Hat* (song-by-song investigation of how dialogue becomes lyric in musical) by Stephen Sondheim.
- 3. Three plays by Tennessee Williams: *The Glass Menagerie, Summer and Smoke, and Sweet Bird of Youth.* Can you trace the progression of Williams' actual mother and/or sister?
- 4. Three plays by August Wilson: *The Piano Lesson, Joe Turner's Come and Gone,* and *Radio/Golf.* What makes an African-American play an African-American play? What if the writer and the original director were biracial?

5. Five plays by women: *The Children's Hour* by Lillian Hellman, *Harvey* by Mary Chase, *The Sign in Sidney Brustein's Window* by Lorraine Hansberry, *How I Learned to Drive* by Paula Vogel, and *Intimate Apparel* by Lynn Nottage. Is there such a thing as a woman's play, or are they just good plays written by the female gender, some dealing with primarily women's issues?

Group Report: You will be assigned group reports as we discuss plays about the Vietnam conflict and "gay" plays—pre-and post-AIDS. The goal of this exercise is to bring diverse groups of students from various majors together to look at plays from different points of view. Theater majors might offer their production expertise, history majors their knowledge of world events, psychology majors their learning about the human psyche, etc. Each group must give an in-class presentation and answer on-the-spot questions by their classmates. The groups submit a paper to accompany their presentation.

Live Performance: Students must also attend a minimum of one live presentation of an American play not included in the syllabus. Use this opportunity to participate more actively in an ongoing national conversation in the context of live performance.

Grade Breakdown

There are seven graded assignments:

(4) Two-page Papers - 5% each / 20% total(1) SUPER Quiz - 35%

(1) Research Paper -30%

(1) Group Report -15%

Policy on late assignments: Short papers are due the day the discussion of that play is scheduled and will not be accepted after that. Students should consult with me if they need an extension on any of the other assignments.

Policies

UCLA's policies on academic integrity and student conduct may be found at

http://www.deanofstudents.ucla.edu/integrity.html http://www.deanofstudents.ucla.edu/conduct.html

If you have a confirmed or suspected disability, please tell the instructor and/or contact The Office of Student Disabilities in Murphy Hall for accommodations.

Students are expected to attend class. You will be allowed two absences only, doctorexcused or not. Beyond those two, you will be docked one grading notch per absence e.g., from an A to an A-.

SCHEDULE

Week One

April 2 and 4 The Actor

Screenings: This week we will watch a variety of videos to examine the question, What is the difference between a play and a star vehicle? Is a one-person play still a play?

Videos shown include *Elaine Stritch At Liberty*, James Earl Jones – *A Life in the Theater*, Julie Harris - *The Belle of Amherst*, and Lily Tomlin – *The Search for Signs of Intelligent Life in the Universe*.

Week Two

April 9

Reading: Discussion:	<i>Desire Under the Elms</i> by Eugene O'Neill The American Dream as land ownership. How is this version of the American Dream exclusionary?
Reading: Discussion:	<i>You Can't Take It With You</i> by George S. Kaufman and Moss Hart Is the American Dream based on financial success and security or on familial love?
Assignment:	Two-page paper due
<u>April 11</u>	
Reading:	All My Sons by Arthur Miller
Discussion:	How does the quest for the American Dream affect the individual who seeks it? Building on last week's discussion, what happens when our dreams for our family conflict with our responsibilities to society at large?
Reading:	Cat on a Hot Tin Roof by Tennessee Williams
Discussion:	Can the same American Dream be passed on from generation to generation?
Assignment:	Two-page paper due

April 16	
Reading:	The Female Brando: The Legend of Kim Stanley
Screening:	The Goddess by Paddy Chayefsky
Discussion:	Does the American Dream, once achieved, bring happiness? Does playwriting from the 1940s to the 1960s demand method acting as taught by Strasberg, Hagen, and others?
<u>April 18</u>	Vietnam from Various Perspectives
Торіс:	The Vietnam Conflict divided American more than any war previously. Coming at a time of social change (Civil Rights movement, sexual revolution), how did the theater respond?
Reading:	<i>Fifth of July</i> by Lanford Wilson (Groups: surnames A – H)
Discussion:	Once we gain our independence, what do we do with it?
Reading:	Sticks and Bones by David Rabe (Groups: surnames I – O)
Discussion:	How long can the status quo (parents) ignore the moral choices of the young radical (son)?
Week Four	
<u>April 23</u>	Vietnam from Various Perspectives (con't)
Reading:	<i>Buried Child</i> by Sam Shepard (Groups: surnames $P - Z$)
Discussion:	Can America heal itself after Vietnam? How is it forever changed?

Assignment: Group reports to familiarize class with Vietnam plays.

<u>April 25</u> Vietnam from Various Perspectives (con't)

Reading: The American Dream by Edward Albee

Discussion:	With absurdism sweeping Europe post-WWII, why did it take until the 1960s for America to make stylistic changes in playwriting? How do Grandma, Mommy and Daddy, and the Young Man represent three different viewpoints on achieving the American Dream?
Assignment:	Two-page paper due
Week Five	
April 30	
Topic:	"America's Greatest Living Actress" Geraldine Page
Screening:	The Trip to Bountiful by Horton Foote
	Continuing our study of method actresses let's also look at "regional" playwrights. Horton Foote (<i>Tender Mercies</i> and <i>To Kill A Mockingbird</i> adaptations) writes only about a small town in Texas. Can an individual story have universal implications? Why the nostalgia for an America that exists no more?
May 2	Two Great American Plays and Two Modern Deconstructions of Those Plays
Topic:	New techniques in American playwriting borrow from two classics to say completely different things.
Reading:	Death of a Salesman by Arthur Miller (if you haven't read before) A Streetcar Named Desire by Tennessee Williams (if you haven't read before)
	Loman Family Picnic by Donald Margulies
Discussion:	Are Herbie's sons as affected by their father's work ethic as Willy Loman's boys in this off-Broadway breaking of theatrical tradition?
Reading:	Belle Reprieve by Split Britches Collective
Discussion:	If <i>Streetcar</i> 's Blanche were a man in drag and Stanley was a closeted homosexual, how does the retelling of Tennessee Williams' result in a gay manifesto?

Week Six

<u>May 7</u>	Successful Gay Plays
	Throughout the 20 th Century plays about homosexuality had been written and performed but in the 70s through 80s they achieved national recognition because they made money at the box office.
Reading:	Torch Song Trilogy by Harvey Fierstein.
Discussion:	Written before the onslaught of AIDS, is this a campy comedy or the search for the American Dream by a representative of "The Other"?
Reading:	Love! Valour! Compassion! by Terrence McNally
Discussion:	How has the concept of family changed since <i>You Can't Take It With You</i> to a group of gay friends on Fire Island?
<u>May 9</u>	The "Book" Musical and The Sung-through Modern Musical
Listening:	Recording of the musical Carousel by Rodgers and Hammerstein
Listening:	Recording of the musical Next to Normal by Brian Yorkey and Tom Kitt
Discussion:	Is the American Dream a sentimental search for family or the explosion of psychological dementia that rips a family apart?
Week Seven	

May 14The African-American DreamReading:A Raisin in the Sun by Lorraine Hansberry and Ma Rainey's Black Bottom
by August WilsonDiscussion:Written 30 years apart, one play depicts the African-American dream of
inclusion, while the other dramatizes the African-American dream as
unique from its white counterpart.May 16The Feminist Movement

Reading: The Heidi Chronicles by Wendy Wasserstein

- Discussion: A look at the disappointment when the dreams promised to a brilliant woman do not come true. Is the American Dream male-centric?
- Assignment: Two-page paper due

Week Eight

<u>May 21</u>	The Feminist Movement (con't)	
Reading:	In the Next Room (or The Vibrator Play) by Sarah Ruhl.	
Discussion:	Though set in the 1880s, this very modern play examines if a woman actually needs a man to achieve fulfillment.	

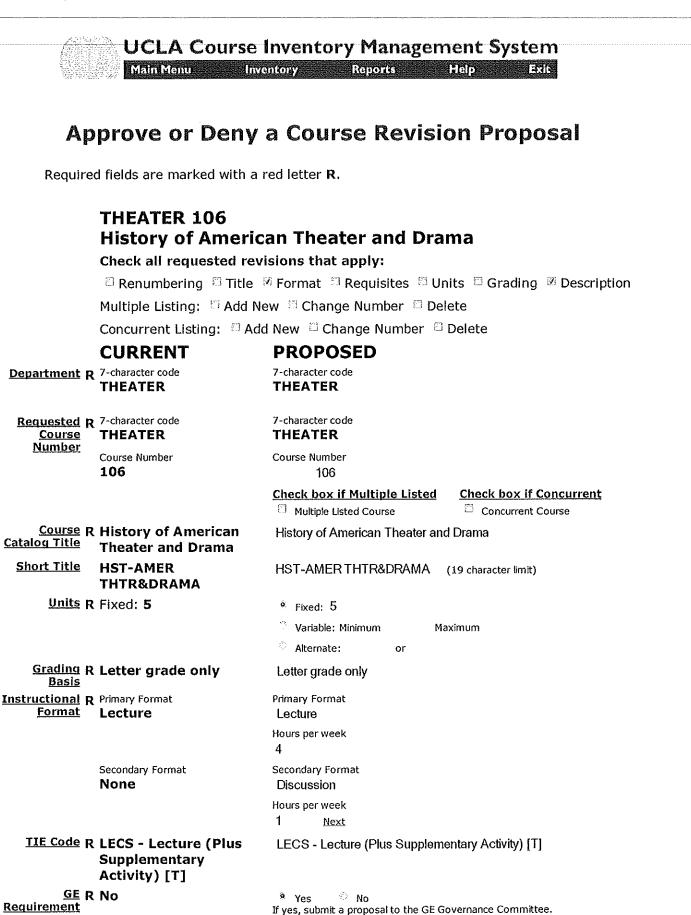
May 23 Discussion on final projects and catch-up

Week Nine

<u>May 29</u>	Holiday – No Class
<u>May 30</u>	In-class reports on research papers

Week Ten

- June 4 In-class reports on research papers (con't)
- June 6 In-class final exam



Danuicites	Include enforcement level (enforcement, warning, none).
Requisites	None
Course R Lecture, three hours. Survey of key works of American dramatic	Lecture, four hours, discussion 1 hour when
literature and landmarks of	scheduled. Survey of key works of American dramatic literature and landmarks of
American theater history. Letter grading.	American theater history. Letter grading.
5	
	915 characters remaining
Justification R	Justify the need and state the objectives for this course revision. Identify effects on other courses in your department or on courses or curriculum in other
	departments. List departments and chairs consulted and summarize responses.
	This revision is to add this course to the
	GE offer to broaden availability for and increase attractivity of important Theater
	History courses to all students at UCLA. A
	547 characters remaining
<u>Syllabus</u>	A syllabus and/or reading list is required for new courses. File <u>Theater 106 Syllabus.pdf</u> has been uploaded. bytes received.
	Upload syllabus file.
	Read the <u>upload instructions</u> for help.
Supplemental	
<u>Information</u>	
Effective R Fall 2005	Summer 1 2013
Date	No
Contact	Name INGA JOHNSTON
	E-mail
Routing Help	ijohnston@tft.ucla.edu
BAUTTNIA ATATUA	
ROUTING STATUS	
Role: TFT FEC Coordinator - Medina, Michele	(mmedina@tft.ucla.edu) - 57891, 65344
Status: Pending Action	
Role: Department/School Coordinator - Lee,	Annette Frances (annette@tft.ucla.edu) - 46676
Status: Approved on 12/6/2012 1:26:59 PM	
Changes: TIE Code, Syllabus	
Vilangosi	

Comments: No changes.

Role: Registrar's Office - Hennig, Leann Jean (hennig@registrar.ucla.edu) - 56704

Status: Returned for Additional Info on 12/6/2012 1:15:23 PM

Changes: TIE Code

Comments: Send back to Theater to include the syllabus.

Role: FEC School Coordinator - Medina, Michele (mmedina@tft.ucla.edu) - 57891, 65344

Status: Approved on 11/28/2012 12:52:31 PM

Changes: TIE Code

Comments: This course action was approved by TFT FEC Members today, 11/28/12. Thank you, FEC Coordinator, Michele Medina

https://web.registrar.ucla.edu/cims/courses/coursenewmodify.asp?C...

Role: Department/School Coordinator - Lee, Annette Frances (annette@tft.ucla.edu) - 46676

Status: Approved on 11/28/2012 12:01:17 PM

Changes: TIE Code

Comments: No Comments

Role: Initiator/Submitter - Johnston, Inga (ijohnston@tft.ucia.edu) - 62458

Status: Submitted on 11/14/2012 12:17:00 PM

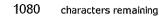
Comments: Initiated a Course Revision Proposal

REVIEWER'S ACTION

For help with any element, click on its label link.

Approved
 Re-routed
 Denied
 Action Required: If you are a staff member acting as designee for a chair or faculty coordinator, note the name and role of the person you are representing in the comment box.

Comment



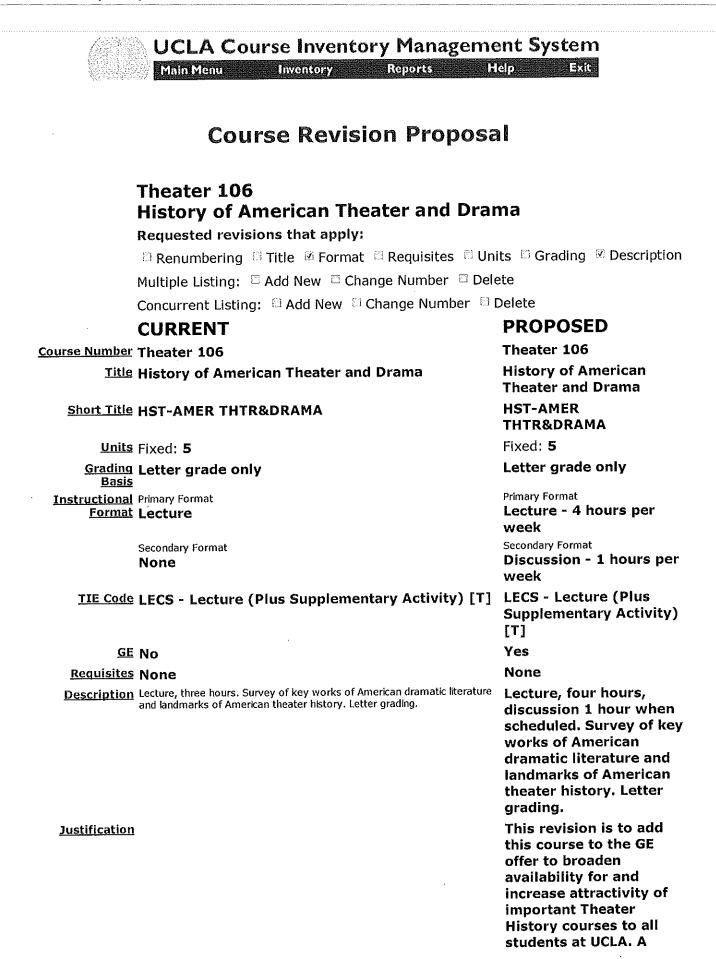


Back to Course List

Main Menu

Main Menu Inventory Reports Help Exit Registrar's Office MyUCLA SRWeb

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discussion section component has been added to accommodate increase enrollment. The course description has been altered to reflect the 4 hours of lecture instead of the 3 hours it is listed with currently. The change to a GE course as well as the anticipated increased enrollment cap will assist the University with its mission to increase the student population.

File <u>Theater 106 Syllabus.pdf</u> was previously uploaded. You may view the file by clicking on the file name.

Summer 1 2013

Theater Name INGA JOHNSTON E-mail ijohnston@tft.ucla.edu

<u>Syllabus</u>

Supplemental Information Effective Fall 2005 Date Department Theater Contact

Routing Help

ROUTING STATUS

Role: Registrar's Scheduling Office

Status: Pending Action

Role: TFT FEC Coordinator - Medina, Michele (mmedina@tft.ucla.edu) - 57891, 65344

Status: Approved on 12/7/2012 1:12:55 PM

Changes: TIE Code

Comments: Theater Course Action 106 History of American Theater and Drama ? Requests for GE Course Approval presented by Michael Hackett was approved by TFT FEC Committee on Wednesday, 11/28/12 - TFT FEC Coordinator, Michele Medina

Role: Department/School Coordinator - Lee, Annette Frances (annette@tft.ucla.edu) - 46676

Status: Approved on 12/6/2012 1:26:59 PM

Changes: TIE Code, Syllabus

Comments: No changes.

Role: Registrar's Office - Hennig, Leann Jean (Ihennig@registrar.ucla.edu) - 56704

Status: Returned for Additional Info on 12/6/2012 1:15:23 PM

Changes: TIE Code

Comments: Send back to Theater to include the syllabus.

Role:	FEC School Coordinator - Medina, Michele (mmedina@tft.ucla.edu) - 57891, 65344
Status:	Approved on 11/28/2012 12:52:31 PM
Changes:	TIE Code
Comments:	This course action was approved by TFT FEC Members today, 11/28/12. Thank you, FEC Coordinator, Michele Medina
Role:	Department/School Coordinator - Lee, Annette Frances (annette@tft.ucla.edu) - 46676
Status:	Approved on 11/28/2012 12:01:17 PM
Changes:	TIE Code
Comments:	No Comments
Role:	Initiator/Submitter - Johnston, Inga (ijohnston@tft.ucla.edu) - 62458
Status:	Submitted on 11/14/2012 12:17:00 PM
Comments:	Initiated a Course Revision Proposal

Back to Course List

<u>Main Menu</u> Inventory Reports Help Exit Registrar's Office MyUCLA SRWeb

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