

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA ASHEVILLE
FACULTY SENATE

Senate Document Number 3620S
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Statement of Faculty Senate Action:

APC Document 33 (DRAM):

Add new course: DRAM 492, Senior Seminar

Effective Date: Fall 2020

1. **Add:** On page 117, new course, **DRAM 492, Senior Seminar:**

492 Senior Seminar (1)

Seminar serving as a bridge from educational to professional theatre, graduate study and other job opportunities. With a focus on integrative learning, topics will include a combination of the following: career preparedness, industry standards and awareness, how theatre training translates to other professions, financial literacy, work/life balance, grant writing, arts policy, and advocacy. The major course components include: a) weekly topical modules or guest speakers 2) the creation of a digital portfolio 3) oral presentation of digital portfolio, and 4) a written reflection on the value of the liberal arts as it relates to future plans. Prerequisite: Senior standing in Drama. Spring.

Impact: This course will be a new requirement for all Drama majors, except those pursuing K-12 Theatre Arts Licensure. Student learning objectives include a focus on integrative learning through the development of a digital portfolio and weekly topical lectures/discussions on career preparedness, industry standards and awareness, how theatre training translates to other professions, financial literacy, work/life balance, grant writing, arts policy, and advocacy. The anticipated class size is 7-10 students. The course will meet once a week for 50 minutes. The instructional format will be lecture, seminar, and independent digital portfolio development. The course will meet in a designated Drama classroom (Whitesides 110), which would alleviate the need for additional classroom space. No additional materials will be needed. Any full-time faculty member in the department will be able to teach the course. We currently offer DRAM 145, Play Reading, as a 2-credit course so whoever teaches Play Reading in the Spring will also teach the new 1-credit Senior Seminar course. The creation of this new course requires some additional time from the full-time faculty who will draw from their individual areas of expertise to collaborate on the development of the weekly topical modules. Current faculty levels are lower than usual as the department is missing some faculty members due to retirement and loss of tenure track lines, but some of this work, such as offering resume and interview workshops, is already being done informally by faculty so including it in our formal curriculum will make it more accessible to all our majors. The primary course assignment of creating and presenting a digital portfolio would be mostly self-directed. Structuring the course in this manner will help alleviate some course preparation time.

Rationale: The idea behind this course is tied to both our new Assessment Plan as well as preparing students for life after graduation. It will give our students the opportunity to reflect on their learning and articulate that learning to an external audience. As stated in our Assessment Plan, we anticipate this course will allow students to demonstrate a sense of self as an artist, practitioner, and/or scholar through critical reflection that builds upon prior experiences and responds to new and challenging contexts. The major course components will include: a) weekly topical modules or guest speakers 2) the creation of a digital portfolio 3) oral presentation of digital portfolio 4) a written reflection on the value of the liberal arts as it relates to future plans. This course will strengthen the students' overall practicum experience by providing an opportunity for intentional reflection and synthesis of previous production and capstone experiences. This will replace the DRAM 204 Production Lab: Continued Practice (1 credit) as a requirement for Drama majors.