

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA ASHEVILLE
FACULTY SENATE

Senate Document Number SD4523S
Date of Senate Approval 04/27/2023

Statement of Faculty Senate Action:

APC Document 33 (DRAM): **Delete DRAM 145, Play Reading;
Add DRAM 150, Theatre-making in the 21st Century**

Effective Date: Fall 2023

- Delete:** On page 120, entry for **DRAM 145, Play Reading:**
145 Play Reading (2)

Reading and in-depth discussion of dramatic literature from a variety of periods and genres. May be repeated as topics vary for a total of 8 hours of credit. Fall and Spring.

Impact: DRAM 150 will replace DRAM 145 in the requirements for the major, so there will be no change in the credit hours required to complete a Drama major. DRAM 145 historically attracts a mix of Drama majors and non-majors. We believe DRAM 150 will continue to interest majors and non-majors, and also serve as a recruitment tool for potential majors, minors or students from compatible majors, such as Music, Mass Communication, New Media, or English who are interested in collaborative opportunities with our department.

Rationale: This course no longer meets the needs of the Drama department and its credit hours can be used to shape the major curriculum requirements in a more beneficial way with the creation of DRAM 150. Reading of plays will take place in many of our courses including where most theatre departments in the U.S. place it, theatre history courses.

- Add:** On page 121, new course, **DRAM 150, Theatre-making in the 21st Century (2)**
150 Theatre-making in the 21st Century (2)

Explores theatre as a collaborative and dynamic art form made by designers, directors, performers, playwrights, and technicians intent upon connecting with live audiences through story, text, movement, imagery and sound. Students will investigate the many forms theatre can take, interrogate the meaning theatre has in our current society, and examine how theatre is made within specific contexts. Current hot topics, big questions, popular trends and/or latest innovations within the field of theatre will be explored. Students will be expected to attend, view, and discuss theatrical productions. They will generate their own ideas about the value of theatre-making here and now and articulate their future aspirations as theatre-makers and/or audiences. Designed for majors and non-majors, this course is aimed at anyone curious about live storytelling. Fall and Spring.

Impact: This course will replace DRAM 145, Play Reading, to fulfill a Drama major requirement. This will be an overview course to introduce students (both majors and non-majors) to the foundational principles of theatre and our departmental values of a holistic theatre education within a liberal arts context aligned with the university core values of diversity and inclusion, sustainability and innovation.

Student learning outcomes include:

1. Explore the foundational principles and components of theatre and theatre-making and investigate the many forms theatre can take.
2. Interrogate the meaning live theatre has in our current digital, globalized society and examine how theatre is made within specific geographical, cultural and sociopolitical contexts.
3. Explore the interdisciplinary nature of theatre and the ways theatre-makers collaborate with and are influenced by other artists, researchers, and professionals outside their field.
4. Generate their own ideas about the value of theatre-making here and now.
5. Articulate their future aspirations as theatre-makers and/or audiences.

The anticipated class size is sixteen students. The course will be a two-credit course that meets 2 hours per week. Contact hours for instructors will be 100 minutes per week. The instructional format will be mainly lecture/discussion. Depending on the instructor's area of expertise, some experiential learning may be done within the specialized spaces in the theatre, such as the stage, costume shop, scene shop, lighting grid, and/or other spaces. The course will be offered every Fall and Spring, just as DRAM 145 was.

Minimal resources will be needed to fulfill this change as it replaces DRAM 145, Play Reading in the Drama major core. The required hours for the major will remain the same. All current faculty members can teach the course so no new lines will be required to meet the needs of this curriculum change. No change to staffing and LAC load will be required.

The course will be equated to DRA 111, Theatre Appreciation, from the North Carolina Community Colleges, and will be part of the Common Numbering System.

Rationale: This course fulfills our department's curricular need for an introduction to theatre course. We feel it's important to create an intentional bridge between the students' previous experiences of theatre and our department's holistic approach to undergraduate theatre education. We intend to introduce students to theatre as both an academic discipline of study and a living and evolving practical art form. We hope this course can help to better align students' expectations with what our program, university and local community has to offer and encourage students to actively seek out the experiences they wish to have while at UNC Asheville. This new course also allows us to integrate the experience of live theatrical productions with more traditional academic coursework. The course content may be built around the TheatreUNCA mainstage production season, local community shows or filmed professional productions. This will also give our department a course to use for the UNC Common Numbering System. We are currently one of the only schools in the UNC System without an Introduction to Theatre or Theatre Appreciation course.